



2010 Ecumenical Roundtable on Faith, Science and Technology

*FAITH, SCIENCE AND MINISTRY IN A
NETWORKED WORLD*

Amistad Chapel, Cleveland Ohio
April 30, 2010 1:30 PM

A worship experience with the *Oikos Ensemble*

Thoughts for Meditation

The greatest discoveries of science have always been those
that forced us to rethink our beliefs about the universe and our place in it.

~Robert L. Park, in The New York Times, 7 December 1999

~ ~ ~

Science without conscience is the soul's perdition.

~François Rabelais, Pantagruel, 1572

~ ~ ~

Encourage young Christians in science, medicine, and technology!

~Rev. Dr. Ronald Cole-Turner, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

~ ~ ~

The story of creation that science brings us (in evolutionary theory),
beginning with the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago
and including the gradual evolution of the universe we see today
— and remarkably enough, the tapestry of life on earth —
is a revelation of God every bit as sacred as what has come to us through scripture.

~ Frank Villa, Physicist

~ ~ ~

I'd been trying to do this for several years you know,
trying to get the right idea and suddenly, it came as a revelation,
a real revelation!

*~Dr. Charles Townes, UCC Nobel Laureate (Physics)
and Templeton Award (Religion)*

~ ~ ~

In this circle of earthly existence you shine so finely,
It surpasses understanding.
God hugs you.

You are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God.
—Hildegarde of Bingen



Pause . . .
Breathe in the wonder of this moment!

Nature composes some of her loveliest poems
for the microscope and the telescope.
~Theodore Roszak, *Where the Wasteland Ends*

Gathering Music

“Spiritual” by John Coltrane

Welcome

Invocation

“Contemplation” by McCoy Tyner

Invitation to the Journey

One: This is the place and now is the time. Life’s journey has led you here.

All: This is the place, now is the time, and God is still speaking.

One: Indeed, God has spoken and continues to speak in many ways.

Men: Like a whisper that awakens the imagination,

Women: Gentle as a prayer that eases pain and heartache.

One: God is still speaking.

Men: Loud and boisterous, even rollicking with hearty laughter,

Women: Lyrical, melodious and yet sometimes prophetically dissonant.

One: God is still speaking.

Men: Clearly, creatively, compassionately,

Women: Even in moments of deepest silence.

One: God is still speaking.

**All: We gather to worship the God who speaks anew to us each day –
through tiniest atom or the expansiveness of the universe.**

One: God is still speaking.

**All: We gather to worship the God who speaks anew to us each day –
intimately and infinitely – no matter where we are on life’s journey.**

Song to Sing

“Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit”

NCH #567

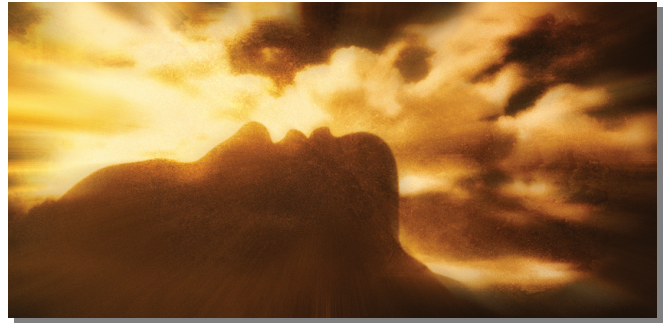
Sung to Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy* in 5/4 meter.

Verses 1 – 4... at the conclusion of each verse you are invited to sing:

Science sings creation’s story, faith explores a world of grace.

Imagine . . .
Ponder the possibilities
here and now!

The most exciting phrase to hear in science,
the one that heralds the most discoveries, is
not "Eureka!" (I found it!) but
"That's funny..."
~Isaac Asimov



Grace Note

Thoughts by Isidor Isaac Rabi, Elie Wisel and Carl Sagan
(Text appears in the end notes)

“Asking the Questions”

Prayer for Becoming

God of the cosmos, architect of aardvark and atom, zebra and zorapteran, we gaze upon our world and see your wondrous imagination brought to life in all creation. You bless us beyond measure with the bounty of earthly abundance and grace us with the simplicity of each breath. Each moment is filled with holy possibility, if we but pause to recognize the marvels you place before us.

God of sound and silence, mystery and majesty, possibility and probability — open us to your divine questions — whispered in the nooks and crannies of ordinary events, sung out with life’s moments of “aha”, or shouted in the midst of chaos and cacophony. Help us to ponder the limitless possibilities of being created in your holy image — to be your co-creators, imaginative stewards of wild blessings ...

Silent Reflection

Passing the Peace

“Amazing Grace”



Create . . .

Discover a gateway, a path of discovery!

I am among those who think
that science has great beauty.
A scientist in the laboratory is not only a technician:
but also, a child placed before natural phenomena
which impresses like a fairy tale.
~Marie Curie

Holy Wisdom/Holy Word

Proverbs 8
(A jazz interpretation)

Wisdom at the Gate

Revelation 21: 1-6

Making All Things New

Song to Sing

“Colorful Creator”

NCH #30

Free Play on the Word

The Science of Improvisation: A Story by Cliff Aerie

Jazz Reflection on the Word

“Yes, God is Real!” by Kenneth Morris

***Become . . .
Explore the adventure of grace!***

Equipped with our five senses,
we explore the universe around us
and call the adventure Science.

~Edwin Powell Hubble, *The Nature of Science*



Exploring a Holy Path

“The Creator Has a Master Plan” by Leon Thomas

Offering Our Prayers

Prayer of Jesus for Today

Our Creator in heaven and earth, holy is your name.

**May your Way be ours, your Mystery revealed,
throughout all the cosmos.**

Provide us bread for our journey this day.

**Forgive our missteps, miscalculations and mess-ups
so that we might know how to forgive others who have mistreated us.**

Be with us in the struggle of our egos;

**help us to follow your Holy, creative lure and Muse,
and free us from the bondage of human boxes and barriers.**

Let our prayer of praise ring true:

the universe in glorious majesty belongs to You — infinitely!

Amen.

Song to Sing

“Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

NCH #89

Benediction

“Improvisation on the Journey” by Cliff Aerie

Sending Song

“Hassan’s Dream” by Benny Golson



The *Oikos Ensemble* is ...

Rev. Clifford Aerie, soprano & tenor saxophones ~ Dr. Christopher Bakriges, piano
Angela Lynard, vocals ~ Glenn Holmes, bass ~ Rick Exton, drums



Oikos is the Greek New testament word translated as “dwelling place,” “house,” “abode.” At its biblical center is the sense of one who manages a household—a steward. It is also the root word for economy, ecology and ecumenical — clearly a relational concept of embracing God’s blessings of bounty, the environment, and human relationships.

As a musical ensemble, *Oikos* is an ensemble of musicians sharing what it means to be blessed by God, sensitive to the Creator’s gift of our fragile world, and our responsibility to embrace sisters and brothers in the diverse global family.



Grace Note Quotes:

Isidor Isaac Rabi

My mother made me a scientist without ever intending to. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after school, "So? Did you learn anything today?" But not my mother. "Izzy," she would say, "did you ask a good question today?" That difference - asking good questions - made me become a scientist.

Elie Wiesel

I have built my entire work on questions, not answers. There is a quest in question. Quest for truth or humanity, for what makes them eternal or for what is eternal in them. Questions do not change, answers do. At times, they change more than once in a generation. What links human beings to one another is their ability to question their destiny even though they know, they must know, that the answer itself will be recalled into question.

Carl Sagan

In science it often happens that scientists say, "You know that's a really good argument; my position is mistaken," and then they actually change their minds and you never hear that old view from them again. They really do it. It doesn't happen as often as it should, because scientists are human and change is sometimes painful. But it happens every day. I cannot recall the last time something like that happened in politics or religion.



Holy Wisdom/Holy Word

PROVERBS 8

(selected verses adapted for jazz improvisation)

Wisdom calls. Can you hear her?
Can you discern what she proclaims?
She stands before you – at the intersections of life she beckons.
At the gateway of your path, in the center of the city, at every step she cries out:

Listen to me, one and all. Hear my voice of reason... passion... truth!

*The Creator fashioned me in the beginning,
at the dawning of time...
when the depths were but a dream,
the springs waterless,
the mountains unsculpted,
when earth was formless and void.
I was there!*

*Before the horizon was cast – sun, moon, stars flung heavenward,
even as the Holy One drew a circle defining the abyss,
and fountains gushed forth,
and earth drew breath,
I was there! Here! Everywhere!*

*I was beside the Creator – co-creating:
an architect designing possibilities,
an artisan crafting perimeters,
a dancer choreographing potentiality,
a child delighting in the wonders of holy imagination,
a sage discovering wisdom to share with a global family.*

*So, my friends listen – listen to Wisdom:
happy are those who awaken each day and pursue my path,
hear Wisdom and become wise yourself,
make your vigil at the gate, wait at the intersection, kneel at the altar,
pause... imagine... create... become...*

Wisdom calls. Can you hear her?
Can you discern what she proclaims?
She stands before you – at the intersections of life she beckons.
Listen... listen... listen...