



*“Love and Compassion are the true religions to me. But to develop this, we do not need to believe in any religion.”*

*– Dalai Lama XIV*

**COMMON GROUND INTERSPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP**  
**SUNDAY CELEBRATION OF SPIRIT<sup>\*</sup>**  
**September 24, 2017**

- **Welcome**
- **Announcements**
- **Gathering Chime & Invocation**
- **Honoring Earth Tradition**
- **Affirmation**

My home is the home of peace.

My home is the home of joy and delight.

My home is the home of laughter and exultation.

Whosoever enters through the portals of this  
home, must go out with gladsome heart.

This is the home of light;

whosoever enters here must become  
illuminated.....<sup>†</sup>

- **Music for Gathering:** *Turn, Turn, Turn*
- **Joys & Concerns**
- **Music for Reflection:** *I am Free*
- **Quiet Time for Personal Reflection**
- **Inspirational Reading**
- **Discussion** (see facing page for topic)
- **Offering** with Music
- **Peace Song**
- **Prayer of Protection**

The light of God surrounds us; the love of God  
enfolds us; the power of God protects us; the  
presence of God watches over us. Wherever we  
are, God is, and all is well.

## Today's Discussion

### Music as a Reflection of Beliefs

Music has traditionally been an important part of religious / spiritual gatherings. However, it's normal for the lyrics to endorse a particular belief system. For example, the words from *Amazing Grace* "that saved a wretch like me..." reflect a particular Christian theology of the fall of mankind. As another example, some of our cosmologies are nondual (the separation of I-other is transcended)—yet we may sing songs *to God* (e.g. "Listen, listen, listen to my heart song..."). In "unity consciousness" there is no "other" to sing to! The bottom line, the words of many spiritual songs may not reflect your spirituality.

Is this a problem for you? If so, what can we do as an interspiritual / interfaith group?

### Announcements

This is our last "pre-launch" service. Formal launch (including newspaper advertising) will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Authentic Spiritual Conversations** meets every Tuesday, 7-8:30pm, Duncan Law Building (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Chinook Room, 2021 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR.

### Finances (weekly)

Rent .....	\$40.00
Salaries .....	\$0.00
Misc .....	\$ 4.68
Year-to-Last-Week:	
Income: .....	\$182.00
Expenses: .....	\$178.72

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\* We recognize in a gathering of diverse spiritual seekers, the words we have chosen will not be connecting with everyone. We invite you to inwardly translate these words and rituals to those of your path—perhaps Creative Intelligence, Ground of Being, God, Creator, Universal Mind, Spirit of Nature, or Power Greater than Yourself, or...?

† Our affirmation today is from `Abdu'l-Bahá the eldest son and successor of Bahá'u'lláh (who was the founder of the Bahá'í Faith).

## ***Mission Statement***

This Fellowship is an inclusive community dedicated to the unfolding spiritual journey of each individual by engaging our minds, our hearts, and our actions.

“It's enough to have faith in one aspect of God. You have faith in God without form. That is very good. But never get into your head that your faith alone is true and every other is false. Know for certain that God without form is real and that God with form is also real. Then hold fast to whichever faith appeals to you.”\*

—Ramakrishna

\*As quoted in *Ramakrishna and His Disciples* (1965) by Christopher Isherwood, p. 263.