



Message from the minister ... Strengthening Our Interdependent Web

Do you remember that folk tale about how every person in a community plays an important role? One cares for the children, another gathers food ... one has skills as a healer, another is a builder, a mechanic, a cook. Each person contributes some way. Then there is the woman who sits on a rock in the

garden, brushing her long golden hair and singing ... all day, every day. We are led to wonder “what is her value?”

Then the story turns, a natural disaster occurs. Regular tasks seem impossible. Day after day is spent simply trying to survive. As each community member tries to use their skills to dig their way out of the nightmare, they come up against obstacle after obstacle – and they begin to lose hope. They are stuck. One by one, they are giving up.

From within the hush of exhaustion, the silence of despair, there comes a sound. Small at first, then stronger as she gathers breath. The golden-haired woman – about whom we wondered “what is her value?” – begins to sing. Each verse is a tale about the beauty of life, the chorus a reminder of how they belong to one another, the tune a vehicle that floats around and gathers them all together.

There is no part, no person, no promising tune that does not bring value to our interdependent web. And the work of community is to bind ourselves together ... to hear one another’s voices ... to lift each other up ... and to carry one another, when the time comes. As we build strength in our small communities, we then spread out and share our gifts with others.

Strengthening our interdependent web is all of this.

It is knowing who we are, individually and collectively. It is growing, encouraging, and most especially using our gifts in service to the greater whole. It is holding space, and taking time, to discover the hidden treasures among us. And it is remembering – always – that every person in community plays an important role.

My hope for you, this spring, is that you make the time to sit in the garden ... to drink in the beauty ... to learn, or enrich, or strengthen your song ... and then to bring it forward, into the service of love.

Blessed be,
Reverend Anne Barker