

“Liberty and Justice for All“

How I learned to participate...

In most of our world today we are experiencing difficulty understanding and living out these words of sentiment, “an attitude, thought, or judgment prompted by feeling.” In these United States of America we repeat these words together each time we pledge allegiance to the flag of our country. Another well-known phrase is "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" from the United States Declaration of Independence. The phrase gives three examples of the "unalienable rights" which the Declaration says have been given to all human beings by their Creator, and which governments are created to protect. (Wikipedia) Many governments today have the same or similar sentiments for the way everyone in the world should be treated, so this is a topic that we should adopt, understand and practice by doing our best to make it a reality.

Liberty, “the quality or state of being free”

Justice, “conformity to truth, fact, or reason”

For all as noted in the basic life principles of the universe - change, diversity, and equality

IN BOTH FAITH and SCIENCE:

Both faith and science give total and full support to these “unalienable rights” given to all by their “creator” and/or “first cause”:

In the beginning - God	AND/OR	In the beginning - Singularity
Formless and desolate	AND/OR	Period of darkness
Then God, “Let There Be.....”	AND/OR	Big Bang - the universe began
The Six days of creation	AND/OR	Evolution (13.8 billion years, so far)
Or could it be BOTH/AND? or EITHER/OR?		

Here is an introductory Preamble from the prophet Isaiah about liberty and justice for all:

The Lord Will Anoint His Servant with His Spirit

Isaiah 61

(From God’s Word Translation)

LIBERTY

1

The Spirit of the Almighty Lord is with me because the Lord has anointed me to deliver good news to humble people. He has sent me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to announce that captives will be set free and prisoners will be released.

2

He has sent me to announce the year of the Lord’s good will and the day of our God’s vengeance, to comfort all those who grieve.

3

He has sent me to provide for all those who grieve in Zion, to give them crowns instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of tears of grief, and clothes of praise instead of a spirit of weakness.

They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, the Plantings of the Lord, so that he might display his glory.

4

They will rebuild the ancient ruins. They will restore the places destroyed long ago. They will renew the ruined cities, the places destroyed generations ago.

5

Foreigners will come forward and become shepherds for your flocks, and children of foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

6

You will be called the priests of the Lord. You will be called the servants of our God. You will consume the wealth of the nations. You will boast in their splendor.

7

You will receive a double measure of wealth instead of your shame. You will sing about your wealth instead of being disgraced. That is why you will have a double measure of wealth in your land. You will have everlasting joy.

JUSTICE:

8

I, the Lord, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will faithfully reward my people's work. I will make an everlasting promise to them.

9

Then their offspring will be known among the nations and their descendants among the people. Everyone who sees them will recognize that they are the descendants whom the Lord has blessed.

FOR ALL:

10

I will find joy in the Lord. I will delight in my God. He has dressed me in the clothes of salvation. He has wrapped me in the robe of righteousness like a bridegroom with a priest's turban, like a bride with her jewels.

11

Like the ground that brings forth its crops and like a garden that makes the seed in it grow, so the Almighty Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up in front of all nations.

DISCOVERING LIBERTY:

Preamble:

Begins with God's Spirit of Love -

Isaiah 61:1-7

The Spirit of the Almighty Lord is with me because the Lord has anointed me to deliver good news to humble people. He has sent me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to announce that captives will be set free and prisoners will be released.

He has sent me to announce the year of the Lord's good will and the day of our God's vengeance, to comfort all those who grieve.

He has sent me to provide for all those who grieve in Zion, to give them crowns instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of tears of grief, and clothes of praise instead of a spirit of weakness.

They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, the Plantings of the Lord, so that he might display his glory. They will rebuild the ancient ruins. They will restore the places destroyed long ago. They will renew the ruined cities, the places destroyed generations ago.

Foreigners will come forward and become shepherds for your flocks, and children of foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

You will be called the priests of the Lord. You will be called the servants of our God. You will consume the wealth of the nations. You will boast in their splendor.

You will receive a double measure of wealth instead of your shame. You will sing about your wealth instead of being disgraced. That is why you will have a double measure of wealth in your land. You will have everlasting joy.

A Song:

I begin with this song because it expresses the wonder of our universe and the love of liberty we desire in this country.

George Beverly Shea (February 1, 1909 – April 16, 2013) was a Canadian-born American gospel singer and hymn composer. Shea was often described as "America's beloved gospel singer" and was considered "the first international singing 'star' of the gospel world," as a consequence of his solos at Billy Graham Crusades and his exposure on radio, records and television. Because of the attendance at Graham's Crusades, Shea has sung live before more people than anyone else in history. [Wikipedia]

There's the wonder of sunset at evening,
The wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God loves me.

Refrain:

O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.
O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.

There's the wonder of springtime and harvest,
The sky, the stars, and the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is a wonder that's just begun.

Living In The Fullness of Liberty:

About 13.8 billion years ago the opportunity for liberty and freedom came into being at the creation of the universe. Much later, about 200,000 years ago, when the human species appeared, we were gifted with *consciousness*, "governed by or conforming to the dictates of *conscience*," defined as, "the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good." We all share this special gift to help enhance our lives, including all life around us, toward the fullness and liberty of all life on earth.

This gift and responsibility has been made clear in many creation stories of a variety of cultures, especially in the two creation stories at the beginning of the Bible. From the beginning of Science around the Middle Ages and especially after The Enlightenment about four or more centuries ago, we have recognized our partnership with our earth and, more recently, within the whole of the universe as space travel became possible to us and will continue in the near future.

Liberty, “the quality or state of being free,” must be made available to all and, as we humans are gifted with consciousness, should be vigilant by opening and sharing the gift of freedom to fulfill our destiny. In many ways we have been designated as leaders, utilizing our conscientious awareness and ability, to foster this freedom in body, mind and spirit; “to whom much is given much will be required.” (Luke 12:48) For years I taught others about leadership and “Living Well” by practicing leadership most of my life. I continue to offer these qualities in my online course notes to urge and encourage everyone about this opportunity and privilege: [<http://www.janddhealth.com/living-well>]

OBTAINING JUSTICE:

Justice, “conformity to truth, fact, or reason”

Without conforming to truth, fact, or reason there can be no acquisition of justice!

Preamble:

Begins with the knowledge that God loves justice -

Isaiah 61:8-9

I, the Lord, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will faithfully reward my people’s work. I will make an everlasting promise to them. Then their offspring will be known among the nations and their descendants among the people.

Everyone who sees them will recognize that they are the descendants whom the Lord has blessed.

A Song:

I included this song by Lennon because it depicts the imagination that many believe or think has anything to do with obtaining justice. Our world may become one only when all of us makes that dream come true by our behavior in living well.

John Winston Ono Lennon, MBE (born **John Winston Lennon**; 9 October 1940 – 8 December 1980) was an English singer, songwriter, musician, and peace activist who co-founded the Beatles, the most commercially successful band in the history of popular music. He and fellow member Paul McCartney formed a much-celebrated songwriting partnership. Along with George Harrison and Ringo Starr, the group would ascend to world-wide fame during the 1960s.

Imagine by John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for

And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Living in the Fullness of Justice:

Justice begins with a recognition of what justice is and represents, “conformity to truth, fact, or reason,” and to relinquish everything that is not rightfully a part of justice. Justice is hardly only a matter of our personal opinions, formed by imagination, inspiration or revelation, but also must conform to truth, fact, or reason for continuing success. This song that John Lennon wrote points out what may not be included in our sense or vision of justice - no heaven (reward), no hell (no punishment), no countries (loyalties), nothing to kill or die (lose your life) for, no religion (system of control), no possessions (wealth), no need for greed or hunger. Sadly today we seem to have grown distant to “conformity to truth, fact, or reason,” and have been drawn toward “beliefs,” (something that is accepted, considered to be true, or held as an opinion) and have become rather opinionated in our thinking and practices that are opposed to justice. Having attitudes and thoughts which draw us away from fact and reason that are required for knowledge and understanding inhibits our development in life and living well. Here is an example of an educational center for global justice:

The Science & Justice Research Center at the University of California, Santa Cruz is a globally unique endeavor that innovates experimental spaces, engages in co-laborative research practices, and fosters emerging alliances between seemingly disparate sectors, disciplines and communities. Biomedical innovation, species extinction, toxic ecologies, healthcare reform, and many other contemporary matters of concern provoke questions that traverse multiple intellectual, institutional and ethico-political worlds. Science & Justice generates modes of inquiry and empirically rigorous research that address these enormous challenges and support livable worlds. The Center is home to the Science and Justice Working Group, graduate training programs and sponsored research projects. The initiative builds on the UCSC campus’ historic commitments to socioecological justice and strengths in science studies and interdisciplinary research.

Over the past decade, we have developed four key strategies for creating and building new spaces, visions, and practices for science & justice:

- Forging Experimental Spaces

What happens when soil scientists, poets, and farm workers come together in a room, called together by a weighty problem, even when they disagree about its very definition?

- Improvising Co-laborative Practices

How might research practices change in the process of their disagreements, knowledge exchanges and co-laboring?

- Cultivating Emergent Alliances

What if scholars in fields as disparate as physics and public health engage in alliance building efforts with artists and community activists?

- Building Civic Spaces

How should diverse communities, scholars, and policy makers engage in debate and create accountable, transparent institutions?

[<https://scijust.ucsc.edu/about-sjrc/>]

Science, “the state of knowing: knowledge as distinguished from ignorance or misunderstanding,” has been with us since our human species evolved on the scene of earth. The major difference of late, especially after the 1700’s, has been the development of a growing number of tools in all the fields of present day science. The earliest example was when, in 1608 the telescope was first invented along with, especially in recent centuries, the multiplicity of magnificent discoveries and inventions in almost every modern discipline of science. The growing interdependence of earlier philosophies and religion using imagination, inspiration, and revelation, are joining with today’s science with observation, hypothesis, and theory to amplify and bring full credibility to this 21st century.

Major Changes in Understanding Justice over time:

Here are a few of the major changes as examples:

- God’s call to Abraham and establishing The Covenant with **all** people: Genesis 12:1-5
- Moses delivers the 10 Tablets: Exodus 20:1-21
- Israel leaves God’s leadership and chooses a king: 1 Samuel 8:1-22
- Israel moves Table of Shew Bread into the First Temple: 1 Chronicles 29:1-9
- Israel taken into captivity 3 times (430 years in Egypt; 70 years in Babylon; 1900 years among the nations.)
- Comments from Major Prophets:
 - Samuel 1 Samuel 15:22-23
 - Isaiah (Sacrifices) - Isaiah 1:11-13 (Sins) - Isaiah 1:18-20
 - Jeremiah Jeremiah 7:22-23
 - Jesus (continues The Covenant) fulfilling the Hebrew Scriptures: Matthew 5:17-20
- The Life of Jesus of Nazareth (1-33)
- Destruction of the Second Temple: [<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/jewishtemple.htm>]
- The evolution of the first 3 centuries of The Common Era:
 - A brief summary of the difficult three centuries to understand. [gathered from Wikipedia]
 1. The life and times of Jesus - The destruction of the 2nd Temple and the diaspora of the Jews - The

beginning of Christian scriptures.

2 & 3. The evolution of the New Testament - While it is true that the New Testament was not fully formed at the Council of Nicea, 325 CE, they did lay the foundations for creating the New Testament by defining what it meant to be truly Christian - The first council that accepted the present canon of the New Testament may have been the Synod of Hippo Regius in North Africa (393 CE).

- Founding of the Holy Roman Catholic Church: [gathered from Wikipedia]

The First Council of Nicaea was a council of Christian bishops convened in the Bithynian city of Nicaea by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in CE 325. Constantine I organized the council along the lines of the Roman Senate and presided over it, but did not cast any official vote.

- The Life of Muhammad- “Islamic Golden Age from 786 to 1258”

- Major split between the HRCC and Orthodox Church: [gathered from Wikipedia]

This schism happened gradually over centuries and became official in the year 1054. It had political and religious causes. The political cause was the splitting of the Roman Empire. In the 400s AD, the Roman Empire split into a western empire (capital at Rome) and an eastern empire (capital at Constantinople).

- The Renaissance - (1300-1700)
- Gutenberg’s Printing Press - (1440-1450)
- Judgement of Galileo (1564-1642) and the beginning development of science
- The Reformation - (1517-1648)
- The Enlightenment (1685-1815)
- The American Revolution - (1775-1783)
- Constitution of United States of America 1789 (rev. 1992)
- Tearing Down the Berlin Wall - (1989)
- World War I - The Great War - (1914-1918)
- World War II - “one of the few wars that literally involved most of the world”

Justice, “conformity to truth, fact, or reason,” can bring us positive atmospheres based on truth, “the body of real things, events,” and facts, “something that has actual existence,” and reason, “a statement offered in explanation or justification.” To believe, “to hold an opinion,” so believing is a rather weak stance when we live in a world of truth, fact, or reason. Beliefs can only be temporary, so once science provided us with reliable tools to establish truth and fact for reality, we developed a whole new platform for reason, “a statement offered in explanation or justification.” As one considers the above sequences of events in human history we begin to see the growing development for moving away from believing. Today, once we begin to believe anything, we have the resources available to make sure that our belief is not just an opinion but one that matures into today’s Justice by conforming to truth, fact, and reasons.

Justice is hard to establish when we place believing before a reliance on conformity to truth, fact, or reason! The use of common sense, “sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts,” is absent from too many today. Perception, “physical sensation interpreted in the light of experience,” and having experience, “the fact or state of having been affected by or gained knowledge through direct observation or participation,” is also important. When we recognize that justice, like everything in this universe, is engaged in change, diversity, and equality along with truth, fact, and reason, we all need to become partners in our common evolution of living and working together progressively.

Continuity, “uninterrupted connection, succession, or union,” is the overall goal of liberty and justice that can move everything forward toward living well. Birth, life, and death are the basic stages of all aspects of the universe. Over the course of human history there has been a constant flow of the themes of love, justice, and continuity. Here is one of those leaders who have encouraged us to bend toward justice:

Martin Luther King, Jr. has quoted from scripture several times, from Amos 5:24 (GW), “But let justice flow like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” He has also said;

- Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
- Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
- Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.

The Continuity of other leaders have given their support for liberty and justice:

Mahatma Gandhi:

- Where there is love there is life.
- The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attitude of the strong.
- You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Buddha:

- Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life.
- What we think, we become.
- We are shaped by our thought; we become what we think. When the mind is pure, joy follows like the shadow that never leaves.

Dalai Lama:

- Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.
- In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision.
- If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

The secret to a good life and a great world is largely due to our own continuity in living with and within justice! Justice is the key to liberty. It is justice that enables the possibility for ALL! Including ourselves!

LIBERTY [**L**everaging **I**nterdependence **B**etween **E**veryone & **R**espect **T**oward **Y**ourself]

FOR ALL-[Everyone]:

FOR, “in honor of,” **ALL**, “the whole amount, quantity, or extent.”

As we noted at the start: Both faith and science give total and full support to these “unalienable rights” given to **all** by their “creator” and/or “first cause”:

In the beginning - God	AND/OR	In the beginning - Singularity
Formless and desolate	AND/OR	Period of darkness
Then God, “Let There Be.....”	AND/OR	Big Bang - the universe began
The Six days of creation	AND/OR	Evolution (13.8 billion years, so far)
Or could it be BOTH/AND? or EITHER/OR?		

RELIGION:

Five Creation Stories from around the World:

“Where did we come from and how did we get here? The answer to life’s most fundamental question may remain unknown, but that doesn’t stop a variety of narratives from telling of the world’s beginning and how man came to be.”

He The Creator:

Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faiths share a common creation story. In the Book of Genesis, God says “let there be light” and in six days he creates the sun, moon, land and sky and all living creatures. He tells all to “be fruitful and multiply.”

A Balanced Beginning:

In one Chinese creation story, first there was a cosmic egg made up of two balanced opposites: yin and yang. The egg held P’an Ku, the divine embryo. P’an Ku grew until the egg could not hold him, causing the shell to burst. So P’an Ku went to work right away making the world, with a hammer in hand. He dug out valleys, made way for rivers, and piled up mountains. But the earth was not complete until passed away.

The Sacrifice:

The earliest Vedic text in the Hindu religion, the Rig Veda, tells the tale of Purusha. He who had a thousand heads, eyes, and feet could envelop the earth with his fingers. The gods sacrificed Purusha and his body turned to butter, transforming into animals, elements, the three gods Agni, Vayu, and Indra, and even the four castes of Hindu society. Later on, a different interpretation developed that spoke of the trinity of creation. Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver, and Shiva the destroyer makes a universal cycle of the world’s beginning and end.

Water of Life:

The ancient Egyptians had numerous creation myths that all begin with the chaotic waters of Nun. Atum, while considered genderless, appeared as the first god or goddess. It is said he created himself from his thoughts and will. From the dark waters of Nun emerged a hill for Atum to stand upon. This is where he made Shu, the god of air and Tefnut, the goddess of moisture. Shu and Tefnut created Geb, the earth, and Nut, the sky. And from Ged and Nut came even more gods and goddesses. While the world's order formed over time, Shu and Tefnut got lost in darkness. Atum sent his all-seeing eye to search for them and upon their return, he wept tears of joy. The tears struck the earth and turned into the first men.

Three Tries:

A Mayan creation story tells the tale of Tepeu, the maker and Gucumatz, the feathered spirit. After the two built the world with their thoughts, they decided they needed beings to look after their earth and to praise them for their creation. First, they made animals from birds and snakes to deer and panthers, but realized these creatures could not communicate their admiration. They had to produce another kind of being that was capable of worshipping them. ...

All around the world, creation myths help us make sense of man's origin. While many variations exist, these stories have built the foundation of the world's largest religions and cultures. There may not be a universal understanding but these legends, true or false, are the real roots of society today.

Stories from: [<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/the-story-of-god-with-morgan-freeman/articles/creation-myths-from-around-the-world/>]

Understanding God and the Universe Today:

Here are some quotes from chapter 9 in Bishop John Shelby Spong's newest book about God:

Chapter 9: Our Definition of God: Evolving, Never Fixed

To accomplish the intended reimagining is to force human language to expand to the point that language itself becomes symbolic, pointing to truth while no longer pretending to be a vessel that is able to contain truth. ...

Radical insecurity must now come to be seen as a virtue, which we must learn to embrace as central to our religion. ...

A human being, I am quite convinced, has the ability to experience God, but no human being has the frame of reference that would enable that person to describe to another human being what it is like to be God. ...

During each of our historic phases we Christians made excessive claims for every one of these forms. We had delusions of infallibility for our leader and inerrancy for our sacred story. We made dogmatic claims that sought to transform what were partial truths at best into ultimate truths that we pretended constituted the "one true faith" practiced by the "one true church." ...

Christianity has no ultimate stated certainty; it is an ever-evolving faith system, into which we are privileged to walk if we are to live into the future. I believe that we as a church will endure ...

Christianity at its infancy, like all religions, was childlike, based on a protective deity. In many ways, early Christianity was a religion ...

Now all people, not just Jesus, could be God-filled. There was no longer anything unique about a God-filled humanity. Maturity had begun to set in. This set the stage for our next step. Discovering a humanity that was the medium through which "the Holy" could be seen and experienced as present became a new possibility.

(John Shelby Spong, *Unbelievable, Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor The Reformation Can Produce A Living Faith Today* - HarperCollins Publishers Inc. 195 Broadway New York, NY 10007)

Here is a recent meditation presented about Creation on February 21, 2018 from meditations by Richard Rohr, founder of (CAC) the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Universe Story

The New Story of the universe is a biospiritual story as well as a galactic story and an Earth story. ... Each particular being in the universe is needed by the entire universe. With this understanding of our profound kinship with all life, we can establish the basis for a flourishing Earth community. —Thomas Berry (1914-2009) [1]

Judy Cannato (1949-2011)—an author, spiritual director, and visionary of a “new cosmology”—writes:

Thomas Berry has said that our generation is one that is in-between stories. We are caught between the story that religion tells and the story that science tells. ... During the last several decades, a new story has indeed emerged, a new cosmology that brings matters of science and matters of faith into a space where they no longer need collide, but can complement each other and render a fuller picture of what is true. [If it's true, it's true *everywhere and all the time.*] Ironically, in modern times it is science that has told us the story of how all life is connected in a fundamental way—a story that the world's mystics have been telling for centuries. ... [2]

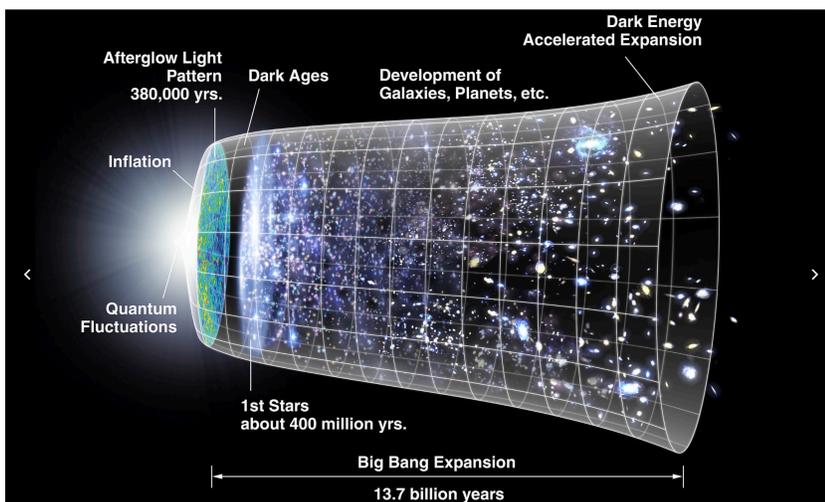
In their book, *Journey of the Universe*, philosopher Brian Swimme and historian Mary Evelyn Tucker write:

With our empirical observations expanded by modern science, we are now realizing that our universe is a single immense energy event that began as a tiny speck that has unfolded over time to become galaxies and stars, palms and pelicans, the music of Bach, and each of us alive today. The ... universe is not simply a place but a story—a story in which we are immersed, to which we belong, and out of which we arose.

This story has the power to awaken us more deeply to who we are. For just as the Milky Way is the universe in the form of a galaxy, and an orchid is the universe in the form of a flower, we are the universe in the form of a human. And every time we are drawn to look up into the night sky and reflect on the awesome beauty of the universe, we are actually the universe reflecting on itself. ...

With the emergence of humans, we have arrived at an evolutionary breakthrough for being able to develop compassion, not just for our offspring, but for all beings of every order of existence. ...

Our human destiny is to become the heart of the universe that embraces the whole of the Earth community. We are just a speck in the universe, but we are beings with the capacity to feel



This graphic shows a timeline of the universe based on the Big Bang theory and inflation models. Credit: NASA/WMAP

comprehensive compassion in the midst of an ocean of intimacy. That is the direction of our becoming more fully human. [3]

[1] Thomas Berry, *Evening Thoughts: Reflecting on Earth as Sacred Community*, ed. Mary Evelyn Tucker (Sierra Club Books: 2006), 57-58, 62.

[2] Judy Cannato, *Field of Compassion: How the New Cosmology Is Transforming Spiritual Life* (Sorin Books: 2010), 16.

[3] Brian Thomas Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker, *Journey of the Universe* (Yale University Press: 2011), 1-2, 115.

SCIENCE:

With the advent of science that began in the Middle Ages we now have tools, like telescopes, that enable us to actually picture the whole of the universe as we can see it today.

“One of the big missions scientists are anticipating is the James Webb Space Telescope, which will be the successor of Hubble. In fact, “it is designed specifically to build on Hubble’s legacy,” said Jon Morse, NASA’s Astrophysics Division director.” [<https://www.space.com/6716-major-space-telescopes.html>]

One For All - All For One:

Interdependence is the theme of both faith and science. Within religion and philosophy humanity has used its of imagination, inspiration, and revelation to construct, explain and contemplate our lives. Using the disciplines of science, observation, hypothesis, and theory, science has also broadened our focus on the main principles of the universe, change, diversity and equality. There also is a unifying consistency in the “progressive revelation of scripture” and in the “evolutionary process” of the world and the universe. Understanding that neither matter nor energy can be created or destroyed, as contained in Einstein’s mathematical formula, it exemplifies the “one for all / all for one” concept.

Perhaps our biggest problem in the declaration of “liberty and justice for all” is that humans do not seem to grasp what JUSTICE and what ALL means. We may consider humans as the “highest” among all species without completely understanding that it does not exempt us from interdependence with one another and our participation within the whole of the world and the universe. Equality, “the quality or state of being equal” - (equal, “of the same measure, quantity, amount, or number as another,”) absolutely applies to the whole universe as we share the same elements. When it comes to change and diversity as humans, we are equal without any superiority! Our share and awareness of unity, “a condition of harmony,” is not at all akin to uniformity, “the quality or state of being uniform” - “consistent in conduct or opinion,” only our interdependence shares in change, diversity and equality. The statement “one for all / all for one” is the simplest way to state our interdependence with the whole of the universe.

We are all “children” of God and/or the Singularity - neither of which has anything to do with superiority! Both God and the Singularity are the religious or scientific Source from which we came into being, “the quality or state of having existence.” We are the ones who have defined, especially “God,” as a superior “being.” In our religious language we have identified God as omnipresent, “the quality or state of being always present,” omnipotent, “having virtually unlimited authority or influence,” and omniscient, “having infinite awareness, understanding, and insight,” but it does not imply that God is like us at all as a “being”. I personally know of no

words or picture that claims God is a person like a human. The stories about our creation speak of our being made “in the image of God” but never exactly like God with regards to our own humanness. Science, when speaking of the Singularity, makes no claim for its identity except that it appears to be the Source of all that exists in the universe.

NOTE BENE: (note well!):

I consider it rather important that we begin to notice that today’s science is not in competition with religion nor is science trying to contradict or destroy our faith. In fact, the opposite is true. Cosmology, “the science of the origin and development of the universe,” is no different than many of the scriptures, especially those in the Bible, that speak of the origin and development of the heavens and earth. The primary difference from these earlier sources is that they were based on stories developed through imagination, inspiration, and revelation. Today’s science is based on knowledge from observation, hypothesis and theory in similarity to justice [Justice, “conformity to truth, fact, or reason”]. Cosmology uses the same prowess as justice for determining truth, fact, and reason. Our earlier history did not possess or offer us these tools but, now that we have evolved in our learning, knowledge and understanding, we must use them to build our learning, knowledge and understanding as we move forward in time. There should be no noticeable conflict between faith and science today when each dwell in the justice of truth, fact, and reason without holding on to beliefs, “something that is accepted, considered to be true, or held as an opinion.”

Our Faith Today:

Our faith today should be active, vibrant and stronger than ever before because of the opportunity of liberty with the credibility and availability of justice for all! The more we conform to truth and confirm the facts we have every reason to bring the vision of equality to all people, everywhere and in all future time.

Are “beliefs” valuable today?

By definition, beliefs, “something that is accepted, considered to be true, or held as an opinion,” have their place as much now as they ever did for us. Beliefs are important because they are the “seed-bed” of new ideas as much today as they were in the past. Beliefs must be accepted to express our opinions or we probably would miss the worth of imagination, inspiration, and even revelations that generate new thoughts. Beliefs were all that we had, before the advent of science, for knowledge and understanding about life and all that we observed in the world. Once the advent of science began, around the Middle Ages, we were gifted with some beginning tools that would enable us to certify and confirm our beliefs. One of the primary tools was the invention of the telescope “The earliest known telescope appeared in 1608 in the Netherlands when an eyeglass maker named Hans Lippershey tried to obtain a patent on one. It was Galileo who improved on this design the following year and applied it to astronomy and help change our view of the universe.” [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_telescope] Today beliefs are only a beginning of thoughts that are made actual by our modern tools and methods for verification.

This major change, from Geocentrism to Heliocentrism (earth centric to sun centric), was a major challenge to the established Church. “In 1616 the Church sent Galileo formal warning that they considered his theory a denial of Christian doctrine. ... The Church then accused Galileo of heresy, tried him before the Inquisition, and forced him to renounce his views and submit to the Church.” [<http://www.sparknotes.com/biography/galileo/summary/>] This was a major conflict that began the decline of beliefs in favoring the three steps toward a

certification of science using observation, hypothesis, and theory as the definition for Justice, “conformity to truth, fact, or reason.” Later, The Enlightenment (“There is little consensus on the precise beginning of the **Age of Enlightenment**, though the beginning of the 18th century (1701) or the middle of the 17th century (1650) are often used as epochs”.) became the beginning of our aspirations to Liberty and Justice for All.

THE IMPORTANCE OF **FOR ALL**:

All, “the whole amount, quantity, or extent of,” today is essential and applied to everything, persons, places, and things. This also clearly refers to the UNI-VERSE - One For All - All For One.

Universe, “the whole body of things and phenomena observed or postulated.”

Cosmos, “a complex orderly self-inclusive system.”

No matter how you look at it or think about it - it is: One For All - All For One.

There is no way to conceive of LIFE [Living Into Future Expression] without these three words: Liberty, Justice, and for ALL!

In Closing:

Liberty, “the quality or state of being free”

Justice, “conformity to truth, fact, or reason”

For All – meaning for everybody no matter their race, religion or sex - as noted in the basic life principles of the universe - change, diversity, and equality

It seems to me that justice is the key for our having the ability for liberty at all! It is only in these last several centuries that we have grown into an ability to have and practice justice in conformity to the truth, certify and verify facts, for reasonable learning, knowledge, and understanding that gives benefit to all. May “liberty and justice for all” be our interdependent focus toward that progress in this 21st century.

Gerard A. Pisani Jr.