

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.”

~Proverbs 3:5

In the face of ongoing war and violence in Ukraine, and the devastating upheaval and loss of life happening there, maybe like me, you find *Divine Order* hard to take in! I read today’s Daily Word earlier in the week in my preparation for writing this message. It was easier to look back and see how I’ve been led through discernment on my own path, but I found myself struggling to see how this current moment of disruption-- of so many concurrent disruptions in the world-- could be unfolding, could be held, in Divine Order.

It helped to read Rev. Linda Martella-Whitsett message in Release and Renew, where she writes that “Divine order ... is never a preordained or imposed condition. It is a principle and a power” that invites us to adjust our thoughts and actions, to evolve spiritually. As we enter completely into our fully human, fully divine Self, we align with our Oneness with God. It’s the alignment-- being attuned-- with our divinity that helps us “catch hold of a divine idea...[and] nourish that idea with prayer, research and action steps.”

Rev Linda quotes Charles Fillmore saying, “The divine idea of order is the idea of adjustment” and she then reminds us “We find empowerment and freedom in our ability to adjust, shift, flip a switch, transform, or modify our thought and action.”

So thank you, Roger, for adjusting with me every time the title of today’s message evolved as I adjusted my thinking through prayer, research and a desire to find action steps to meet this moment in our shared history! “Cultivating order” is not always orderly work, at least it isn’t for me! It’s messy, ongoing, inner work.

Thich Nhat Hanh teaches us, “we inter-are”... the gift of my time in research and prayer this week is the reminder of how many teachers, how many paths, how many wisdom traditions point us to that same truth! And yet we forget, we close

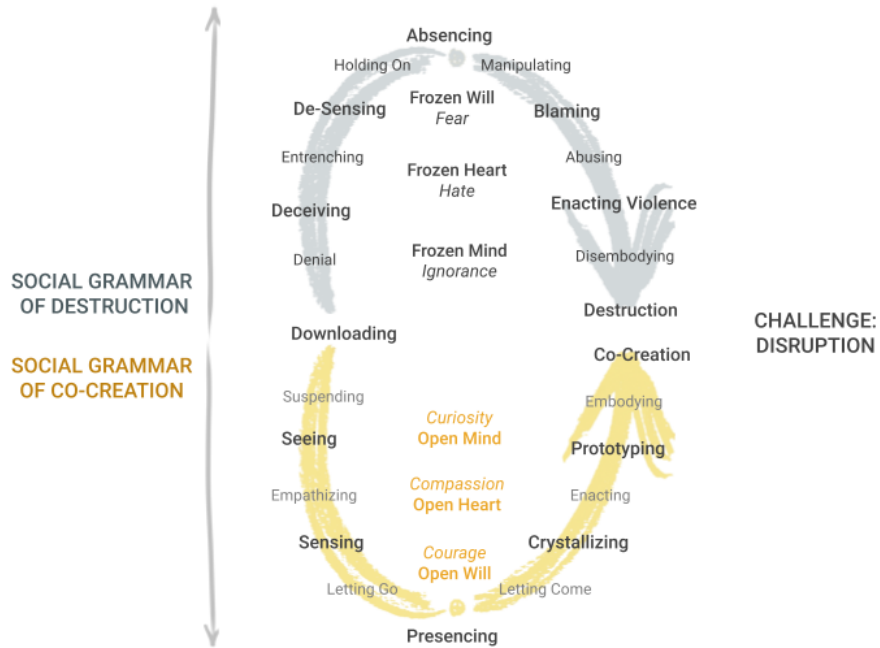
our eyes, or at the very least we narrow our vision and forget to look at each other, at the world, with our God-eyes.

I'm grateful that Roger and others acted as sounding boards this week while I continued to wrestle with my Holy Imagination that is both lit up, and deeply challenged by the essays I pointed us to last week. Because that messy inner work of cultivating order is at the heart of the adjustment, of the spiritual evolution-- of the clear vision and call to action-- that is available to us when we are fully present to our Unity, to our Oneness, to our divinity, to our shared Consciousness.

My invitation today is to enter the mess with me! Can we look closely at where our blindspots cloud our seeing? Can we notice the logs in our own eyes before we point out the splinters in our neighbor's eyes? Can we be present to each other, and to our capital S- Selves long enough to invite the divine intelligence to work with us, in us, through us? Let's look again at the slide I shared last week.

(Cue slide)

Otto Sharmer is pointed in his call to see this historic moment as a time of monumental disruption that calls us to recognize our interconnectedness. He then lists six ways that we freeze and close our minds, hearts, and wills, leading to "debilitating social and cognitive practices." And yet even without tackling the larger social issues alive in the world, ANY time we face a disruption or a challenge in our own lives we also face a choice in how *we* react.



(From [“The Power of Collective Action, part 1”](#))

The freezing and closing of the mind, heart, and will have resulted in six debilitating social and cognitive practices:

- *Deceiving: not telling the truth (disinformation and lies).*
- *De-sensing: not feeling others (stuck inside one’s own echo chamber).*
- *Absencing: disconnecting from purpose (depression, a disconnect from one’s highest future).*
- *Blaming others: an inability to recognize one’s own role through the eyes of others.*
- *Violence: direct, structural, and attentional violence.*
- *Destruction: of planet, of people, of Self*

Here is the truth of why I want to start with me, my life-- with us, our lives: because when I looked at this list, my initial thought was, “Phew, thank goodness that isn’t how **I** act! Ha! How often have I deceived myself? How have I not viewed a situation clearly, denied my responsibility for a habit gone off the rails, or for my portion of a knotted relationship? How have I stayed stuck and absent from living in my highest purpose? How have I treated my time, my body, my mind, my spirit with unkindness, the first step in violence? Where are my own blindspots? Before I help you wipe the dust from *your* eyes...I need to face, clear eyed, unflinchingly, the log in my own.

So, how have you deceived yourself? How have you not viewed a situation clearly or denied your responsibility for the knots of a habit or a relationship? How have you stayed stuck and absent from living into your highest purpose? Have you treated your time, your body, your mind, your spirit with unkindness? Where are your blind spots?

Ignorance is closing our eyes, willfully not seeing. It's refusing to know. It's freezing our mind. When we begin to see with clear eyes, with our God eyes, then we can move from our open minds into our open hearts, we move from absence to presence, to empathy. And yet empathy without agency still rests in a will that is frozen in fear. In an interview, Isabel Wilkerson used the analogy of a boulder, and while I won't do her words justice here, it's an image that has stayed with me.

Ignorance is refusing to see that my neighbor is being crushed under a boulder. With my vision narrowed, I can walk right by you, and not even see that we are one. Then, when my eyes are open, my heart pushes open as well, feeling the heartbreak of my neighbor bearing the weight of the boulder. Your pain is my pain! Yet if I stop there, what use is my empathy? And when we link our will, our agency, our action to our empathy, then we find OUR way to help lift the boulder!

And once more, as I do again and again, I come to the gift of being in community. We each need time resting in the embrace of the Beloved, hearing the voice of God within. We each need to recognize all that we are given, and then from that filled well, reach out our hands in service. So many teachers remind us of the connection between our own inner work of spiritual transformation, of spiritual evolution, and then bringing that transformation to the world. Our own mission here at Unity of Albany recognizes that! And so, may we keep our gaze on both our blind spots and on our awakening. And may we open our eyes, our hearts and our hands to *be* the eyes and hearts and hands of God. May it be so. And so it is. Amen.

*Spirit took over during the end of this talk in-person , so this written version is slightly different from what you will hear on the recording. (Thank you sweet Spirit!)