

Touchstones Theme: Grace



Parker Palmer writes, “In true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as that place where the person you least want to live with lives....” Some

may not consider such diversity as evidence of grace, but consider how we are forced to grow when we interact with people unlike our self. Often we learn things about who we are that were hidden from our awareness. Often what we learn about others cultivates our sympathy for different ways of being human. Often among such diversity, we discover abiding similarities. All of this reflects the movement of grace in our lives.

...Grace happens, if you’ll reach out and take it. Hence the mystery that makes grace amazing: while on the one hand you can’t do anything to force grace ...if you’re not open to it ...then there won’t be grace. ...As with Unitarian Universalism, grace is the affirmation that worth and dignity are inherent to who we are as human beings. Regardless of the mis-

takes we make, the tensions we might create, regardless of what society might tell us, we know we are valued.

...Mary Oliver ...asks: “Do you think there is anywhere, in any language, a word billowing enough for the pleasure that fills you as the sun reaches out....” Yes.... Grace happens. *Rev. Fredric Muir*



Join us in exploring the theme of Grace