



Unity Church of Christianity
Playing in God's Field
May 2, 2010

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I want to begin this morning by sharing with you a quote from a well-known Sufi poet who has actually become much more popular in recent days, recent years. His name is Rumi, and he shares something that I think we can all relate to. It's a very short quote, "There is a candle in your heart ready to be kindled. There is a void in your soul ready to be filled. You feel it, don't you?" End of quote.

Let's read that again. "There is a candle in your heart ready to be kindled. There is a void in your soul ready to be filled. You feel it, don't you?" Do you?

All right, so really what it is saying is that there is a spark of the divine that resides in all of us that is ready and waiting to become a blazing fire, ablaze with the life of God. And that's a part of what we're about. There is something to be kindled, to be nurtured, to build that fire, and then there is a void, also, in our soul. A sense that there is room for more of this God-self, if you will, and less of the ego-self, less of the fearful-self, the small self. So there's a wholeness that exists beyond our sense of incompleteness from which we often function, and there's a sense of wanting then to be filled - filled with the essence of God. Much like the twenty-third Psalm says, "My cup runneth over." We want to become so filled with God that we feel that sense of overflowing with God, and it's spoken of in the Psalms.

So somehow we know that also there is a process involved in our heading in that direction. And that process involves us, and it requires our cooperation. And so a lot of what we are here to be about is an awakening process. Life on earth, the opportunity to be in a 3-dimensional world, to get feedback, to have our reality continue to be reflected-- is always giving us opportunities to learn and progress; to awaken to the truth. The truth of God that we're told sets us free, free from all limitation and all fear. That's where we want to get to. It's not an easy place to go. But we want to become so full of God that there isn't room for anything else. We want to become so full of love there isn't any room for fear, because love is our true nature. And that's a process; that's a process of transformation over time. As Paul said, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." He was talking about transformation taking place in the renewing of your mind. He said, "Let this mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ," or "Christ Jesus," as he said it. And so he is saying that there is a mind that we can tap into that allows that truth to set you free, that dimension. Also, Jesus likened this state to a kingdom. "Seek ye first the kingdom," and he said this, "The kingdom of God is within you and it's at hand." So it's here, and it's now. And what that translates to is that not only the kingdom of God is within you, but God is within you. So, don't think of some outer kingdom--some outer something our mind wants to go to that you can hear about, see, touch, go visit--we're talking about a state of being that lives within you, and what it's talking about is that God is in you. God is right here now, at hand, in you. And that is what Jesus was trying to awaken to; that's what all masters and mystics have tried to, and were experiencing, and inviting you into the immersion of that experience as well. It's the idea that it's here and it's now, and therefore, we have to do what is necessary to move into awakening to what is already here, you see? But there are too many other things that are distracting us and pulling and tugging at us; too many other conditions and so forth, and so that's a process. We have to be patient with ourselves as well in it, not be harsh or hard by any means. And so, as a thinking being who has been given free will, I have to choose to align myself with this one presence, this one power, this one source, this one creative intelligence that I call God; I have to choose to align with that. And so the process of filling this void that Rumi talks about requires a willingness, and a readiness, and a desire to make that a focus of one's life.

You know, a lot comes down also to our concept of God. And there are many concepts of God, of course. There is the one of God standing off somewhere in the sky, a being issuing things, good when you've been good, bad when you've been bad - so we make him the parent in the sky. And all parents can be moody. So it's not necessarily the healthiest of concepts. But what I consider a healthy concept is that God is a universal presence. And what that means by understanding God as a presence is that there is no place where God is not; that God is what they say omnipresent. Therefore, you can go anywhere on the planet, you can go anywhere in the universe and God is there in the full magnitude, the full glory of God, the full strength.

Now the question becomes how do we access God? And sometimes we want something that's really complicated, but it's very simple. How do we access God? Basically, by turning our mind toward God. That's it. In your mind is the lever that you either turn away from or toward. You

move toward separation or you move toward oneness. You move toward truth or you move toward illusion. You move toward that to be afraid of or that to love or stand in faith of. That's the lever. And that's not always easy to control. In that universal presence--this that we're talking about as God as presence--in that presence is also the mind of God. And the mind of God contains the purest of thoughts and ideas; thoughts from on high, thoughts that vibrate with an energy and a frequency that take you to new places. We call that truth. And that truth is said to set you free; it's to move you into a whole new frequency. Now the nature of God we say is love and truth and goodness, and the goal is to know what God knows, to experience that knowingness. And God in that knowingness knows that with God all things--the unlimited is possible; all things are possible there. And we want to know that too. And we want to live in that, field of vibration; we want to play in that field, and the pulls and the tugs are many, but that's the goal.

So we want to break out of the many forms of limitation from which we live and the many things that we face. We want to demonstrate our spiritual heritage. And that's what makes our life fulfilling is to, as effectively as possible, go more deeply into expressing our spiritual heritage--how God created us to be--that which we're held to be in the mind of God. We are an idea in the mind of God, but you and I have free will in terms of bringing it into expression. But it exists, same way that in a mighty oak is the acorn, the perfect expression, the fullness of it. And that seed of God lies within us.

And so sometimes we get rather impatient with ourselves and with others even, because the demonstrations are not big enough and the demonstrations are not fast enough. Sometimes we tend to blame ourselves, make ourselves wrong when we are not able to demonstrate, when we should really be recognizing that we are in a process. We are in a process, and we may not be there yet, but we have to nurture ourselves along and know that we're moving in the right direction. That's very important. It doesn't help to get impatient with yourself and to beat up on yourself in any way as you're moving through something.

All movement of life takes place in consciousness. It takes place in thought and in awareness. So the best way to knowing God actually comes through knowing ourselves. Some would maybe have a problem with that. But the truth is, if we believe that God is in us, then a good way to know God is to know the God that is in us; the God-self, which is often spoken of. So if you think of God as being, in the analogy the sun - like the sun that's shining - and if you think of yourself as a sunbeam, the sunbeam can't separate itself from the sun; it can't. That's why Jesus said He was the light of the world and He said you are the light of the world. Don't hide that light; let it shine. And so, that's what we are to be about, and we all have the light of God and all of us are covering over it to some extent and varying degrees, but all of us have that light. He didn't say some of you are the light of the world - He basically implied all of you are the light of the world. Some get far removed from that light, yes. But nonetheless we have to realize that as difficult as it may be to see, or even to know, the truth is the light of God lives in even the

most apparent--as we would judge it--horrible, horrific person. The light of God is in there. That person has just covered and blanketed and so misconstrued all the wiring of who they are and how they are to be. And so the best way to knowing God is through knowing our God-self, our spiritual selves, our Christ-selves. As Paul said, "Christ in you, your hope of glory. Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." This is why masters and mystics and teachers all make meditation so very important. Because it's only by quieting the mind from all the outer distractions and all the flurry of activity that we're able to quiet and still the mind long enough to begin to actually experience ourselves in our connectedness to our source. And as we come to know more of ourself, the truth of who we are, we're actually at the same time experiencing more of God and coming to know God. It is a letting go and letting God. And it's really the only way to fill the void. No one can do it for us, and learning about our spiritual nature requires, of course, focus and practice; and that's an ongoing matter.

Ernest Holmes - a wonderful metaphysician, writer, author, teacher - he talked about the idea that you have a friend within you. Everyone has a friend within you. And this friend is the God within your own soul, and this is someone we should get to know. Makes sense, doesn't it? So getting to know yourself and getting to know God go hand-in-hand. They're really one in the same, because really, as you get to know the sunbeam you get to know the sun, and you get to experience that source of all light and goodness. It's kind of like the old analogy that used to be used was the fish who is trying to find water and figure out or understand water. And so the fish is in the water. The fish is a part of the water. The fish is even breathing the water, but the fish will never understand water if it sees itself as separate from it. And so, can we ever begin to understand God if we see ourselves as separate from God? So the belief that we are separate is a good part of the void. It's not the truth, but according to your beliefs so be it done unto you. And so out of that consciousness of separation we begin to experience various things that do not reflect oneness. People even say, "I'll believe it when I see it," and obviously it's, "No, I'll see it when I believe it." And there's a whole book written about that, of course. But you see things not as they are but as you are, because you carry your consciousness with you. And so if you see things negatively it's because you're a negative person. You see things as you are. So if everything is framed to be frightened of, you are, predominantly, a fearful consciousness. So you see things as you are. So just notice how you see your world, and how you judge your world, and how much you judge the people around you. You know a lot of judging of the people around just says we're a frightened being, we're insecure, we're worried about ourselves so we're always looking out and about. And it doesn't mean the person's bad or evil; it just means that's where they are. Because we see things not as they are, but as we are. So we have to make a choice as to how we will look through the mind's eye and interpret situations and conditions that come to us.

And there's the law of mind action. The law of mind action says we get to be creative participants in what's being created in our lives. It says that thoughts, ideas, and beliefs held in mind produce after their kind. It says that everything is energy. Science has told us now

everything is energy. Of course mystics and teachers have been telling us that for long before science finally came around to tell us, but I'm glad that we have gelled. But science has said, really, now that everything in the manifest realm is organized energy. So if we change the frequency of our vibration, its entire nature is redefined. So there is this law of attraction that goes on in life, and it's basically to understand that life reflects consciousness. And it's to realize that we live in a universe that's controlled by thought, thought has power, and so in the realm of thought we get to define and redefine every situation, every circumstance and condition that we encounter. So something can come to us to reflect to us a need for a change in some way. It just means that, okay; it's time to look more closely and more deeply. Something can come to us to give us, really, the opportunity to expand our faith, to move out of a prior tendency and move into a newer deepening. It forces us to discipline the direction of our energies and to see things right so as to then be able to set things right.

Now there is the story in the Old Testament about Joseph. Joseph had everything going wrong in his life and still he held fast to the frequency of seeing the world, holding to that vibration that God is good, and I trust everything is working toward good. His brothers sold him into slavery, and Potiphar threw him into prison for something he didn't do, he was innocent of. And yet you know the story, he came around to be second in command over all of Egypt and save thousands and millions of lives. But as he went through all of that, he's the model in that story biblically of holding fast to the vibration of believing in good, even in the midst of circumstances that appear very awful.

There is another story I'd like to tell you. A little bit different but it carries the same message. It's a story told about a king in Africa who had a close friend who had a habit of always remarking about every situation, "This is good! This is good!" And so one day the king and his friend were hunting, and, as he always did, the friend would prepare and load the guns. This time he somehow made a mistake and when the king fired his gun his thumb was blown off. And the friend examined the situation and remarked, as usual, "This is good! This is good!" Well, the king didn't appreciate that, (laughing) and the king roared, "No, this is not good!" and he threw his friend into jail. Well about a year later, the king was out hunting, alone this time, and he kind of wandered straight into an area that was controlled by cannibals, and they captured him. They took him back to their village. They bound the king to a stake, and they were preparing nearby a huge caldron of boiling liquid in which they were going to cook the king. The king was almost cooked. Anyway, just then as they were about to put him in, one of them noticed that his thumb was blown off, and because they were superstitious and would never eat anything that wasn't whole they untied the king and sent him away. As he returned home, the king remembered how it was that he had lost his thumb, and full of remorse he immediately went to the jail and had his friend released and told him everything that had happened. And the king said, "You were right. It was good that my thumb was blown off. I'm sorry for sending you to jail. It was bad of me to do this." The friend replied, "This is good! This is good!" And the king said, "What do you mean? How could it be good that I sent you, my dear friend, to jail for

a year?" And he answered, "If I had not been in jail, I would have been with you." (laughter)
(applause)

Now you may not believe that this happened or is a true story, but it illustrates--take the story home with you--it illustrates sometimes things are really bleak and hopeless, but they can turn around, they can turn around to our benefit, and we must never lose sight of that. And it's not easy to go there when all the conditions and circumstances are demanding our focus and attention and telling us something else. But a person can only think one thing at a time. They can't think the best and they can't think the worst at the same time, so you've got to make a choice. Where are you landing? What vibration are you in? What frequency? And so every thought is acted upon in some way in this universe, in the universe of law and mind. And thoughts are an organizing energy.

The reality is that the only thing that we have control over is ourselves, really. It's like pebbles on a pond; the frequency that we live in really ripples on out to all those who are around us. So the more that we can, again, heal ourselves in that area and rise to higher levels of pure thought and being the more we actually feel like we've gone home or are filling that void. It's like planting seeds really. Our minds are like a field in which the farmer plants seeds. And the farmer has seasons. And he has seasons where he knows that things need to be done. And there's a certain season where it's preparation time and, by golly, it's time in the spring for the farmer to prepare the soil in order to plant new seeds or he's not going to have a harvest. Period; that's just the way it is. And in our lives we have seasons. And we have seasons in which things go along nice and things go along bad, and whether we like it or not seasons come and seasons go. And the fact of the matter is it's part of our evolution, and spiraling motion it seems to be, that we are to be planting seeds, preparing our consciousness. To plant the seeds for a new harvest, always. What's the next new harvest of my life? What's the next new me that is wanting to show up? What's the next turn or step forward in my spiritual unfoldment? What seeds have I been planting? You see, we can't sit back on the accomplishments of the harvests of former seasons. There is always next season, and the next growth opportunity that comes along. Sometimes they aren't fun. So we're called to live and to learn and move things from the formless into form.

I talk about, I love my purple martins. Purple martins are birds, and they're a colony bird, and I'm a landlord. Several years back I received, as a gift, a two-story birdhouse with 12 units, 12 compartments. Well, two years ago my family bought me another birdhouse that had three levels; three stories, 18 units. Last year for Father's Day my family bought me a third birdhouse; it has four stories, 24 units. I am a landlord, and these birds are chirping around and flying around, and I have this year about 80 birds. And it's a good place to live; it's all free rent. And they chirp for me, and they sing, and they dive around, and they're a delight to watch. But the thing that I have noticed recently, the last couple weeks, is all these birds - it's a bird that does not like to sit on the ground - but so many of them are going to the ground all over the place, in

my flower beds and in my mulch and everything, because they're gathering to build nests. And you see there's a season in which they know that you have to build a nest in order to prepare for renewal and a forward movement of life. If you don't have a nest and the eggs come, basically it halts all life. So there's preparation to be done. And to watch that going on among 80 birds; I get the point God. It's all there, and it's really wonderful. Well, we can build a nest. We're here to build a nest. We're here to plant seeds. We're here to cultivate the soil, to prepare the mind for ideas that are divine in nature, ideas of what is possible, and to play in that field - it's God's field - to become attuned to that.

And so the cycle of life and goodness cannot be stopped unless we make a choice to hang on to the old in some way. A new choice always supplants what we have previously known and chosen. Choice is so powerful. And yet, at the same time it's a big responsibility knowing that, "Gosh, I play a part in creating this," and the big difference that can be made moving from appearances to truth, and in making that leap. So we are here to link our mind with the mind of God; to link our mind field with the mind field of God. And Jesus talks about fields, and He talks about it when He says most of the time the tendency is people say there are still four months and then comes the harvest. He says, "But I say, lift up your eyes. Behold, the fields are already ripe unto harvest." And what He's saying is it's not, "I'll be happy when," or "I'll be loving when." He's saying no, you need to be who you are right here and now. The fullness of God is right here and now. Any way to channel it and direct those energies is here and now. The fields are already ripe, get busy, and regardless of appearances move in that direction. That's what it's to be about. And so great advances by souls are taken, actually, when we step out of the clutches of our negativity or out of the clutches of fear and limitation and see beyond appearances and embrace a truth of a possibility that's greater than what currently we are experiencing.

I'll tell you, life is a gift; it really is. And we are eternal beings. We are always having the opportunity to do some spring cleaning. This is the season. And so it's time to get rid of whatever fears and negativity so as to prepare for renewal. It's time to build a nest, plant some new eggs. The eggs are new divine ideas. They want to be birthed into your life. All things are possible. Infuse the activity of God-thought into your thoughts. Become aware of this divine presence. Open up to the mind of God. Prepare the soil to receive these ideas that take you to a higher place, move you from dark days to the light of God moving and flowing through you into new sectors of life and living, having your energies be renewed. To move forward to new birth and experience renewal; that's what it's about. The truth is God is, and I am. Know the truth of, "God is," and a firm, "I am," and go be a light in the world. God bless you all. (applause)