

Rainbow Promises Reflection
Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Society
Madison, CT

Rev. Jeanne Lloyd
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Our religion comes from a long history of understanding: that within each person exists a spark of the divine. It is the promise that our first principle offers each and every one of us, that we are each worthy of dignity and respect because of the spark within you, within me, within us.

That spark, that light, illuminates the earth. But light is not simply light. It is comprised of different colors as seen in a rainbow. Each color illuminates our world separately and together.

Aristotle believed that light awakens color. Isaac Newton believed that light is color.¹ John O'Donahue says,

“Colour is the language of light; it adorns the earth with beauty. Through colour . . . light brings its passion, kindness and imagination to all things: pink to granite, green to leaves, blue to ocean, yellow to dawn. Light is not simply a functional brightness that clears space for visibility . . . it is never merely a medium . . .”²

“The presence and experience of [light and] colour is at the very heart of human life.”³ “It is no accident that we abandon the world when the colours vanish and . . . darkness . . . arrives . . . We . . . return to the world when the colours return [with daylight] . . .”⁴ “Daylight is . . . a light woven seamlessly from a whole series of colours [and we notice this when we see a] rainbow, an apparition that is [hard to hold on to] . . .”⁵

“[Even so, each] rainbow is a revelation⁶ . . . [each rainbow is a promise that reveals the light within each of us.]”⁷ “[Each] . . . colour [exists only] through the interplay of other . . . colours . .

¹ O'Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

² O'Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

³ O'Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

⁴ O'Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

⁵ O'Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

⁶ O'Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

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. No colour stands alone . . . Colour is . . . a togetherness [rooted in each color’s own individuality and qualities] . . .”⁸

“[Within the spark of divine that resides within each of us] there is . . . wondrous elegance, . . . imagination, resilience and strength].”⁹ It is through the diversity of the divine sparks of color within us and between us that together we can offer the world the promise of wholeness and peace. We draw upon the spark of divine with each of us to make these rainbow promises¹⁰ :

- *To respect all people, to respect the light within each of them, no matter their gender or color or ability or other label*
- *To offer fair and kind treatment to all*
- *To accept and learn about ourselves, others and mystery*
- *To grow by exploring what is right and true in life*
- *To believe in our ideals and act on them*
- *To insist on a peaceful, fair and free world*
- *To value our home earth that we share with all living things*

L.R. Knost says, “Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you[, that is me, that is us].”

So may it be.

⁷ O’Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

⁸ O’Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

⁹ O’Donahue, John. Beauty, The Invisible Embrace, Chapter 4, The Colour of Beauty (New York, Harper Perennial, 2005) 82-112.

¹⁰ SUUS Children’s Rainbow Promises