

Troop 343, BSA, Hauppauge, NY

“Scouts Own”

Interfaith Worship Service

Walden Pond, Concord, MA

May 24, 1998

*If it is your custom to remove your hat in your place of worship,
please do so. If it is your custom to leave your head covered,
please feel free to leave your hat on.*

Call to Worship:

[Leader]

The Lord is in His holy temple,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.
Today we gather in a place held special by those who love
the out-of-doors.,
To whom the beauty of nature and the cycles of the earth
are to be observed and admired.
Join with reverence those that came before you
And give thanks to the Lord for all that is wonderful in
your life.

Opening Hymn: God Bless America

[Everyone]

God bless America,
Land that I love
Stand beside her,
And guide her,
Through the night with a light from above.

From the mountains,
To the prairies,
O the oceans,
White with foam,
God bless America,
My home sweet home.
God bless America,
My home sweet home.

Closing Hymn: My Country 'Tis of Thee

[Everyone]

My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of Liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims pride,
From every mountainside.
Let freedom ring.

Our fathers' God to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright,
With freedoms holy light;
Protect us by thy might;
Great God our King.

Benediction:

[Leader]

May the silence of the hills,
The joy of the wind,
The music of the birds,
The fire of the sun,
The strength of the trees,
And the faith of youth,
In all of which is God,
Be in your hearts now and evermore.
Amen.

Responsive Reading:
My Creed of the Out-of-Doors:
[In turn]

I believe in the wonder of the out-of-doors, In the inspiration of
the stars, And in the allurements of life in the open.

I believe in the strength of the hills, In the silence of the night,
And in the music of the birds in the trees.

I believe also that my body was made for action,
That my mind was made for thinking,
And that my heart was made for love
In unison with the life of nature.

I believe that to laugh and to sing,
To swim and to walk, to study and play,
To eat and be happy, to be kind and free,
To grow strong and good is my God-given right.

I believe, too, that to be happy I must be good,
That to be worthy I must be kind,
That to be loved, I must think love.

I believe that God is as near as man,
That I can hear Him in the brooks and the pines,
And that happiness and lasting peace are mine,
As I live in the atmosphere of kindness,
So near me in the life of the open road.

Rudolph Carl Stroll

Meditation for the Day

[Everyone]

God be praised, now and forever,
For giving us minds to understand Your teachings.

God be praised, now and forever,
For hands that lift up those that fall.

God be praised, now and forever,
For ears that hear the cry of those that need help.

God be praised, now and forever,
For hearts that care about the needs of others.

God be praised, now and forever,
For eyes that see the beauty of earth and sky.

God be praised, now and forever,
For the new day and this new journey.

We praise God for all that is good, true and beautiful in
our lives.

Silent Meditation:

*Please take this time to add your own personal prayers to this
service.*

Worship Message: One at a Time

[Leader]

A friend of mine was walking down a deserted Mexican beach at sunset. As he walked along, he began to see another man in the distance. As he drew nearer, he noticed that the local native kept leaning down, picking something up, and throwing it out into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things out into the ocean.

As my friend approached even closer, he noticed that the man was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time, was throwing them back into the water.

My friend was puzzled. He approached the man and said, "Good evening, friend. I was wondering what you are doing."

"I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it is low tide right now and all of these starfish have been washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back into the sea, they'll die up here from lack of oxygen."

"I understand," my friend replied, "but there must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You cannot possibly get to all of them. There are simply too many. And don't you realize this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast? Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?"

The local native smiled, bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and, as he threw it back into the sea, he replied, "Well, it made a difference to that one!"

Offering: For the World Brotherhood of Scouting

It is customary to take an offering for the World Brotherhood of Scouting. It emphasizes the international nature of Scouting. The funds received from this offering are earmarked to support the many aspects of Scouting in countries less fortunate than our own.

A Native American Prayer:

[Everyone]

O, Great Spirit,
Whose voice I hear in the winds,
And those whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear me!

I am small and weak and I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the
red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and my
ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so I may understand the things you have
taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and
rock.

I seek strength not to be greater than my brother, but to
fight my greatest enemy – my self.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands
and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may
come to you without shame.

Source: St. Ignatius Mission, Montana