



*Changeless Light
Upon Light*

PROGRAM

OPENING MUSIC

~ *Neumeria*

Samantha White

Neil Bensted

FIRST LIGHT

~ **Baha'u'llah, from the Baha'i Writings**

~ **Attributed to Zoroaster**

~ **Attributed to Akhenaten**

~ **'Abdu'l-Baha, from the Baha'i Writings**

~ **Aboriginal Dreaming**

~ **Rumi Meditations**

~ **Chant**

MUSIC

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MID-DAY LIGHT

~ **St. Francis of Assisi**

~ **St. Matthew**

~ **Hinduism: Mundaka Upanishad**

~ **from the Qur'an**

~ **From Buddhist Teachings**

~ **from Zen Buddhism**

MUSIC

~ Neumeria

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EVENING LIGHT

~ Promise of World Peace, Baha'i Writings

~ Zoroastrian Writings

~ from the Holy Passion

~ Omar Khayyam

~ Edwin Markham, Earth Is Enough

~ from the Baha'i Writings

~ Chant

MUSICAL FINALE

~ Neumeria

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OPENING MUSIC
Neumeria - *Spirit*

First Light

*So powerful is the Light of Unity that it can
illuminate the whole earth*

Baha' u' llah

From the Seven Valleys by Baha'u'llah

After passing through the Valley of Knowledge, which is the last plane of limitation, the wayfarer cometh to

The Valley of Unity

And drinketh from the cup of the Absolute, and gazeth on the Manifestations of Oneness. In this station he pierceth the veils of plurality, fleeth from the worlds of the flesh, and ascendeth into the heave of singleness. With the ear of God he heareth, with the eye of God he beholdeth the mysteries of divine creation. He steppeth into the sactuary of the Friend, and shareth as an intimate the pavilion of the Loved One. He stretcheth out the hand of Truth from the sleeve of the Absolute; he revealeth the secrets of power. He seeth in himself neither name nor fame nor rank, but findeth his own praise in praising God. He beholdeth in his own name the name of God; to him, "all songs are from the King," and every melody from Him He sitteth on the throne of "Say, all is from God," and taken his rest on the carpet of "There is no power or might but in God." He looketh on all things with the eye of oneness, and seeth the brilliant rays of the divine sun shining from the dawning-point of Essence alike on all created things, and the lights of singleness reflected over all creation.

From the Bahá'í Writings

The Heavens are a point from the pen of God's Perfection;
The World is a bud from the flower of His Beauty;
The Sun is a spark from the light of His Wisdom,
And the Sky is a bubble on the sea of His Power.
He made mirrors of the atoms of the World,
And threw the reflection from His Own Face on every atom.

Attributed to Zoroaster

Hymn to the Sun

You are the one God,
shining forth from your possible incarnations
as Aten, the Living Sun,
Revealed like a king in glory, risen in light,
now distant, now bending nearby.
You create the numberless things of this world
from yourself, who are the One alone -
cities, towns, fields, the roadway, the River;
And each eye looks back and beholds you
to learn from the day's light perfection.
O God, you are in the Sun-disk of Day,
Over-Seer of all creation
-your legacy
passed on to all who shall ever be;
For you fashioned their sight,
who perceive your universe,
that they praise with one voice
all your labours.

Attributed to Akhenaten ~ 350 BC

All humanity are the children of God: they belong to the same family, to the same original race. There can be no multiplicity of races, since all are the descendants of Adam. This signifies that racial assumption and distinction are nothing but superstition. In the estimate of God there are no English, French, Germans, Turkish or Persians. All These in the presence of God are equal; they are of one race and creation; God did not make these divisions. These distinctions have had their origin in man himself. Therefore, as they are against the plan and purpose of reality, they are false and imaginary. We are of one physical race, even as we are of one physical plan of material body - each endowed with two eyes, two ears, one head, two feet.

O ye loved ones of the Lord! This is the hour when ye must associate with all the earth's peoples in extreme kindliness and love, and be to them the signs and tokens of God's great mercy. Ye must become the very soul of the world, the living spirit in the body of the children of men. In this wondrous Age, at this time when the Ancient Beauty, the Most Great Name, bearing unnumbered gifts, hath risen above the horizon of the world, the Word of God hath infused such awesome power into the inmost essence of humankind that He hath stripped men's human qualities of all effect, and hath, with His all-conquering might, unified the peoples in a vast sea of oneness.

'Abdu'l-Baha, from the Baha'i Writings

EARTH DYING, EARTH REBORN

Once, the earth was completely dark and silent; nothing moved on its barren surface. Inside a deep cave below the Nullarbor Plain slept a beautiful woman, the Sun. The Great Father Spirit gently woke her and told her to emerge from her cave and stir the universe into life. The Sun Mother opened her eyes and darkness disappeared as her rays spread over the land; she took a breath and the atmosphere changed; the air gently vibrated as a small breeze blew.

The Sun Mother then went on a long journey; from north to south and from east to west she crossed the barren land. The earth held the seed potencies of all things, and wherever the Sun's gentle rays touched the earth, there grasses, shrubs and trees grew until the land was covered in vegetation. In each of the deep caverns in the earth, the Sun found living creatures which, like herself, had been slumbering for untold ages. She stirred the insects into life in all their forms and told them to spread through the grasses and trees, then she woke the snakes, lizards, and other reptiles, and they slithered out of their deep hold.

As the snakes moved through and along the earth they formed rivers, and they themselves became creators, like the Sun. Behind the snakes mighty rivers flowed, teeming with all kinds of fish and water life. Then she called for the animals, the marsupials, and the many other creatures to awake and make their homes on the earth.

The Sun Mother then told all the creatures that the days would from time to time change from wet to dry and from cold to hot, and so she made the seasons. One day while all the animals, insects and other creatures were watching, the Sun travelled far in the sky to the west and, as the sky shone red, she sank from view and darkness spread across the land once more. The Creatures were alarmed and huddled together in fear. Some time later, the sky began to glow on the horizon to the east and the Sun rose smiling into the sky again. . . .

There is no cause for fear. It is imagination, blocking
you as a wooden bolt holds the door. ...
Every thought has a parallel action.
Every prayer has a sound and a physical form.
The man of God is not an expert made of books.
First you were mineral, then vegetable, then man.
You will be an angel, and you will pass beyond that too.
There are a thousand forms of mind.
If the sea-water did not rise into the sky,
where would the garden get its life?

If a tree could move on foot or feather,
it would not suffer the agony of the saw nor the wounds of the blade.

You may seek a furnace, but it would burn you.
Perhaps you need only the weaker flame of a lamp.

Whoever says everything is true is a fool,
whoever says all is untrue is a liar.

They say: 'He cannot be found' ...
Something that cannot be 'found' is what I desire.

You have two 'heads'. The original, which is concealed,
the derivative, which is the visible one.
The moment you came into the world of form,
an escape ladder was put out for you. . . .
To boil water you need an intermediary-the vessel.

from the Meditations of Rumi

A Meditative Chant

MUSIC
Neumeria - *Destiny*

Mid-Day Light

Truth is One; sages call it by various names

Rig-Veda I, cixiv, 46

Lord make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they, which do hunger and thirst after righteousness;
for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers;
for they shall be called the children of God. . .
Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

St Matthew

Bright but hidden, the Self dwells in the heart.
Everything that moves, opens, and closes,
lives in the Self.
He is the source of love and may be known
through love but not through thought.
He is the goal of life. Attain the goal!

The shining Self dwells hidden in the heart.
Everything in the cosmos, great and small,
lives in the Self.
He is the Source of life,
Truth beyond the transience of the world.
He is the goal of life. Attain the goal!

Hinduism: Mundaka Upanishad 2.2. 1.2

God it is who made you from the earth as a
resting-place, and a heaven as building,
and has formed you and made excellent your forms;
and has provided you with good things!
There is God for you! - your Lord!
Then blessed be God the Lord of the worlds!
He is the living One,
there is no god but He!
then call on Him,
being sincere in your religion to Him;
praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds!

Qur'an, ch40: 66-67

The Inner Light is beyond both praise and blame,
Like unto space it knows no boundaries;
Yet it is right here with us,
Ever retaining its serenity and fullness.
It is only when you seek it that you lose it.
You cannot take hold of it nor can you get rid of it;
While you can do neither, it goes on its own way.
You remain silent and it speaks;
You speak and it is silent.
The Gate of Heaven is wide open
with not a single obstruction before it.

from Buddhist Teachings

Ryokan, a Zen master, lived the simplest kind of life
in a little hut at the foot of a mountain.
One evening a thief visited the hut to find there was
nothing in it to steal.
Ryokan returned and caught him.
“You may have come along way to visit me,” he told
the prowler, “And you should not return empty-handed.
Please take my clothes as a gift.”
The thief was bewildered.
He took the clothes and slunk away.
Ryokan sat naked watching the moon.
“Poor fellow,” he mused,
“I wish I could give him this beautiful moon.”

Zen Buddhism

MUSIC
Neumeria - Goodbye

Evening Light

The soul is a breath of living spirit

Hildegard of Bingen

The human spirit, whose essential manifestation is the mind, has created civilization and material progress. That same spirit also seeks transcendence, reaching toward the ultimate reality, the unknowable essence called God. Indeed, religions have been the links between humanity and this ultimate reality. No serious attempt to achieve world peace can ignore religion, for, as Baha'u'llah, the Founder of the Baha'i Faith, said, "Religion is the greatest of all means for the establishment of order in the world and the peaceful contentment of all that dwell therein.

Humanity's negligence and imposition of erroneous interpretations on the teachings of the Founders of religions are responsible for much confusion - confusion compounded by artificial barriers erected between faith and reason, science and religion. . . .

A paralysing contradiction has developed in human affairs. On the one hand, people of all nations proclaim not only their readiness but their longing for peace and harmony, for an end to the harrowing apprehensions tormenting daily lives. On the other, uncritical assent is given to the proposition that human beings are incorrigibly selfish and aggressive and thus incapable of erecting a social system at once progressive and peaceful, dynamic and harmonious, a system giving free play to individual creativity and initiative but based on cooperation and reciprocity.

As the need for peace becomes more urgent this fundamental contradiction, which hinders its realization, demands a reassessment of the assumptions upon which the commonly held view of mankind's historical predicament is based. Dispassionately examined, the evidence reveals that such conduct, far from expressing man's true self, represents a distortion of the human spirit. Satisfaction on this point will enable all people to set in motion constructive social forces which, because they are consistent with human nature, will encourage harmony and cooperation instead of war and conflict.

from the Promise of World Peace

Praise we the All-Wise God, who hath made and
created the years and the ages;
Praise him who in the heavens hath sown and hath
scattered the seed of the stars;
Praise him who moves between the three ages that
are, and that have been, and shall be;
Praise him who rides on death, in whose hand are all
power and honour and glory;
Praise him who made what seemeth, the image of
living, the shadow of life;
Praise him who made what is, and hath made it
eternal for ever and ever,
Who made the days and nights, and created the
darkness to follow the light,
Who made the day of life, that should rise up and
lighten the shadow of death.

Zoroastrian Writings

The Stream of Time

In the stream of time, everything is delivered –
the winnowing, the peril, means and where with all –
cusp, apex, swirl and circus – final destinations
offer themselves, every vestige charters a spot –
locks and channels –wayfaring and waylaid –
we are in for road time in this life, in the mind,
or between cities where we consume the culture
that the ages have left us as keepers – we have
the honours to do for the rest of time, and today is its gate –

The Holy Passion, p.240

Ah, Love! Could thou and I with Fate conspire
to grasp this sorry scheme of things entire,
would not we shatter it to bits – and then
re-mould it nearer to the heart's desire?

Ah, Moon of my Delight who knowest no wane,
the Moon of Heav'n is rising once again:
how oft hereafter rising shall she look
through this same Garden after me – in vain!

Omar Khayyam

We men of Earth have here the stuff
Of Paradise – we have enough!
We need no other stones to build
The stairs into the unfulfilled –
No other ivory for the doors –
No other marble for the floors –
No other cedar for the beams
And dome of man's immortal dreams.
Here on the paths of every day –
Here on the common human way
Is all the stuff the gods would take
To build a Heaven, to mould and make
New Edens, Ours the stuff sublime
To build eternity in time!

Edwin Markham, *Earth Is Enough*

Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's holy Dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifieth the human soul. Love is the cause of God's revelation unto man, the vital bond inherent, in accordance with the divine creation, in the realities of things. Love is the one means that ensureth true felicity both in this world and the next. Love is the light that guideth in darkness, the living link that uniteth God with man, that assureth the progress of every illumined soul. Love is the most great law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power the mysteries latent in the universe. Love is the spirit of life unto the adorned body of mankind, the establisher of true civilization in this mortal world, and the shedder of imperishable glory upon every high-aiming race and nation.

'Abdu'l-Baha, *from the Baha'i Writings*

Verily I say, this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One. The Call of God hath been raised, and the light of His countenance hath been lifted upon me. It behoveth everyman to blot out the trace of every idle word from the tablet of his heart, and to gaze, with an open and unbiased mind, on the signs of His Revelation, the proofs of His Mission, and the tokens of His glory.

Baha'u'llah from the Baha'i Writings

Chant

MUSICAL FINALE ***Neumeria - Open Sky***

Please join us for refreshments after the program

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