

Saturday Evening Vespers

September 27, 2020, 6:00 PM

Emsworth UP Church Lawn

Awaking

As we greet with wonder and uncertainty the coming and the happenings of this new day: **How can we keep from singing?**

As we see holiness in ordinary places where people in all their depth and mystery work and play, laugh and cry; where life is cherished, sustained and handed on: **How can we keep from singing?**

As we oppose all that denies life in its fullness and variety, in our lives, our communities, our world: **How can we keep from singing?**

As we weep over injustice rejoice in goodness love outrageously: **How can we keep from singing?**

As we affirm our hope for tomorrow and our faith in the indefinable: **How can we keep from singing?**

Seeking:

God, the promise of life in little bodies and tiny seeds, **We seek eyes that wonder at the mystery of the earth.**

God, the promise of life in the fragile wings of a butterfly, **We seek to know our part in the intricate pattern of being.**

God, the promise of life in a child's trusting hands, **We seek to make the way of wholeness and peace.**

God, the promise of life in friendship and companionship, **We seek to understand the miracle of every shared meal.**

Silence

Prayer of Lament

Ezekiel 18:1–4 (ESV) — 1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? 3 As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Behold, all souls are mine; the

**From Wild Goose Resource Group, “Big Book of Resources”*

soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

Ezekiel 18:25–32 (ESV) — 25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? **26** When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. **27** Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. **28** Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. **29** Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? **30** “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. **31** Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? **32** For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Meditation on the Word

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Response & Blessing

Love, tangible and expressive, **Transform us.**

Joy, holy and earthy, **Uplift us.**

Peace, of heart, home and community, **Be within us, always.**

May we never lose sight of the possibility of transformation and be continually surprised by people who believe in one another.

Amen.