

## "Einstein on Time"

Someone told me once that Einstein thought time is a variable. That is to say that time is not a constant. Are you following this? I think Einstein was right.

When I was a child, a year was a YEAR! Now a year is a week. When I was a child, a week was a whole bunch of days of limitless possibilities, so numerous that I planned ahead only as far as the afternoon. Now a week is a few meetings interspersed with frenetic activity that I have apparently convinced myself is important. Never mind enjoying the moment. Never mind stopping to smell the roses.

Yesterday, a lifetime was forever, immeasurable, like a light year. But today, swirling in a mix of tomorrows and yesterdays, a light year is comprehensible, measureable, and finite.

But let's not talk cosmic stuff. Let's not throw in big words to impress.

If Einstein was right, and I think he was, where is the throttle? How do I slow this thing down?

-- *Ken Nye*



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
OF SAN JOSE

## When I Was Your Age

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.

-- *Albert Einstein*

Men have become the tools of their tools.

-- *Henry David Thoreau*

Technological progress has merely provided us with more effecient means for going backwards.

-- *Aldous Huxley*

Humanity is acquiring all the right technology for all the wrong reasons.

-- *R. Buckminster Fuller*

**Preliminaries**     *Announce upcoming church events; get a volunteer to light the chalice, and read the opening reading.*

**Centering Practice**     *See Leader Notes.*

**Opening / Chalice Lighting**  
-- *Annie Foerster (from UU WorshipWeb)*  
Come we now out of the darkness of our unknowing and the dusk of our dreaming;  
Come we now from far places.  
Come we now into the twilight of our awakening and the reflection of our gathering.  
Come we now all together.  
We bring, unilluminated, our dark caves of doubting;  
We seek, unbedazzled, the clear light of understanding.  
May the sparks of our joining kindle our resolve, brighten our spirits, reflect our love, and unshadow our days.  
Come we now; enter the dawning.

**Check-in**     *Briefly share something that happened this week that contributes to your emotional temperature today.*

**Reading**  
-- *Ken Nye (from UU WorshipWeb)*  
*On the back cover.*

**Sitting in Silence**

**Sharing/ Deep Listening**     *Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts on the preparation for this session.*

**Discussion**     *This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.*

**Singing**  
- *Hymnal #16 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple*  
'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed. To turn, turn will be our delight, 'till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

**Extinguishing the Chalice**  
- *Ralph Gerhardt (from UU WorshipWeb)*  
We extinguish this flame, a mere wisp of matter in process, almost as insubstantial as the thought of it.  
Yet our civilization has harnessed the power of such a flame to drive and shape a new world.

So may it be with the power of our thoughts, that in truth and love they may drive and shape a new world.