

Notes from the Music Department, Nov. 1, 2020

From John L. Bell's **The Singing Thing, A case for congregational song:**

Why do we sing?

Reason #1: Because we can.

Reason #2: To create identity.

.....“We can all sing together. Music provides us with a regular pulse or beat, ensuring that we keep in time with each other. Even should we get a note wrong or mispronounce a word, we will soon rejoin the chorus of other people’s voices. Because of the facility which singing offers, songs have for long been the means whereby people created or celebrated their identity.”

Today’s selection for the Music Meditation illustrates that philosophy. In 2010, Marc Kaplan had been commissioned to compose a piece for an All-County Choir in Jersey City, New Jersey. He had been thinking about ways to become the best version of himself when these words of Gandhi popped into his head. The melody wrote itself in five minutes. And yes, our adult choir with the help of our Universalist Unitarian congregation will sing this with its full Colin Britt harmonies when we return post-pandemic!

Be the Change

Words adapted from Gandhi

Music by Marc Kaplan and Colin Britt

Be the change you want to see in the world,
Be the change you want to see in the world,
Be the change you want to see in the world,
And change will come to you.

Be the voice you want to hear in the world,
Be the voice you want to hear in the world,
Be the voice you want to hear in the world,
And change will come to you.

Be the light you want to shine in the world,
Be the light you want to shine in the world,
Be the light you want to shine in the world,
And change will come to you.