

## Notes from the Music Department

About the titles for our Prelude and Postlude.... Both John Leavitt and Edward Eicker are liturgical composers. Their musical works (and income possibilities) are primarily aimed at a Christian market and therefore have titles that reflect that reality. However, a musical piece when separated from these titles is "absolute music" - music that doesn't have an actual agenda. Any title would arguably be workable. I am imagining what an Old Testament psalmist might have thought if he or she had been able to hear Eicker's very up-beat gospel/swing version of Psalm 146, "I Will Praise the Lord while I Live." Would that psalmist's title perhaps have been "Well, All Right!?" "Blasphemy"?

Our Music Meditation today originally appeared as the theme song for the early 1980's TV mini-series' adaptation of John Steinbeck's masterpiece, "East of Eden." It seemed especially appropriate now at the very beginnings of the sunshine seasons.

### An American Hymn

I have seen a summer day that slowly opens like a rose  
Along a quiet road that wanders by,  
And I have smiled and wondered where it goes.

I have stumbled through the night, alone as any one can be,  
Then found a silent canyon full of stars  
And in my heart I heard them telling me, I was home.

The gentle winds, the rains that fall,  
The tallest trees, I'm part of it all.

I've seen the silver mountaintops and golden prairies on my way.  
Now ev'rywhere I go across the land,  
I stand so proudly in the sun and say "I am home."

I've dreamed of Eden all my life, I find it more and more each day.  
Now ev'rywhere I go across the land, I stand so proudly in the sun  
And say, "I am home."

Our closing hymn, "**We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table**," comes to us from the Christian gospel traditions and originally referred to life in a welcoming heaven. Our UU version speaks to us as we look forward to the end of this seemingly unending pandemic. Just imagine our first Sunday pot-luck when we again are able to gather together upstairs in Walker Hall with our beloved community present - where "all are truly welcome" It will happen!