

**Universal Worship Service Readings**  
**“The Energy of the Artist”**  
**February 8, 2026**

**Hinduism**

At first there was neither being, nor nonbeing. No kingdom of air, no sky beyond it.

Who straddled what and where? Who gave shelter? Was water there, unfathomed depth of water?

There was no death then, nor immortality. No sign of stirring. No curtain of day or night.

Only one thing, breath. Breathing without breath. Nothing else. Nothing whatsoever.

Also, there was darkness. Darkness within darkness. The darkness of indiscriminated chaos.

Then rose desire. Primal Desire. The primal seed, the germ of spirit.

The searching sages looked in their hearts and knew: Being was a manner of non-Being.

And a line cut, Being from non-Being transversely: What was above it and what below it?

*~The Rig Veda*

**Buddhism**

The four wrong notions:

1. The existence of a separate self.
2. The existence of human beings as separate from creation.
3. The existence of living beings as separate from creation.
4. The existence of a life span as a discreet event.

*~Diamond Sutra*

The five remembrances:

1. I am of the nature to grow old. There is no way to escape growing old.

2. I am of the nature of having ill health. There is no way to escape having ill health.
3. I am of the nature to die. There is no escape from death.
4. All that is dear to me and everyone I love is of the nature to change. There is no way to escape being separated from them.
5. I inherit the results of my actions of body, speech and mind. My actions are my continuations.

*~Uppajjhatthanan Sutta, Subjects for Contemplation*

### **Zoroastrianism**

Him, through devotion to right-mindedness, will I seek who is forever known as the Lord, who is the great creator. For, who through Truth and the Pure Mind, He had promised that through His power, perfection and immortality will be given to all persons, as also strength of character and life renewed.

*~Yasna 45.10*

### **Taoism**

When people see some things as beautiful, other things become ugly. When people see some things as good, other things become bad. Being and non-being create each other. Difficult and easy support each other. Long and short define each other. High and low depend on each other. Before and after follow each other.

Therefore, the Master acts without doing anything and teaches without saying anything. Things arise and she lets them come; things disappear and she lets them go. She has but doesn't possess. Acts but doesn't expect. When her work is done, she forgets it. That is why it lasts forever.

*~Tao Te Ching #2 (Stephen Mitchel trans)*

## **Baha'i**

O Son of Man! My eternity is My creation; I have created it for thee. Make it the garment of thy temple. My unity is My handiwork; I have wrought it for thee; clothe thyself therewith, that thou mayest be to all eternity the revelation of My everlasting being.

*~The Hidden Words #64*

## **Judaism**

Oh, bless the Lord my soul; His praise to thee proclaim  
And all that is within me join to bless His holy name.

Oh yeah!

Oh, bless the Lord my soul; His mercies bear in mind.  
Forget not all His benefits; the Lord to thee is kind.

He will not always chide; He will with patience wait.

His wrath is ever slow to rise and ready to abate; and ready to abate; and ready to and ready to abate.

Oh yeah!

He pardons all thy sins; prolongs thy feeble breath.

He health thine infirmities and ransoms thee from death.

Oh, bless the Lord my soul. Oh, yeah! Oh, bless the Lord my soul.

He clothes thee with His love, upholds thee with His truth.

And like an eagle He renews the vigor of thy youth.

Then bless His holy name whose grace has made thee whole.

Who's love and kindness crowns Thy days.

Oh, bless the Lord my soul. Oh, bless the Lord my soul. Oh, bless the Lord.

Oh, bless the Lord my soul. Oh, bless the Lord my soul.

Bless the Lord. Bless the Lord. Bless the Lord. Bless the Lord my soul.

Oh, bless the Lord. Oh, bless the Lord my soul. Oh, bless the Lord my soul.

*~Poem based on Psalm 103*

## **Christianity**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only one from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*~John 1: 1-5 & 14*

## **Judaism**

As many of you as were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free. There is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

*~Galatians 3: 27-28*

## **Islam**

He who knows himself, knows his creator.

*~Hadith attributed to the Prophet Muhammad*

## **Truth**

My ideal! I imagine at moments that we are playing seesaw. When I rise up, thou goest down below my feet; and when I go down thou risest above my head.

The God who is intelligible to man is made by man himself, but what is beyond his intelligence is the reality.

*~The Gathas*