



At-Home Preparations

Welcome to our summer worship series, “Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation & Compassion.” These pages are for you to print and follow along in a personal practice at home. On these first two pages, you’ll find some ideas for making a sacred space in your home and participating in this series by creating visual art. The rest of this document contains links to a weekly interview with Dr. Wendy Farley, who wrote the book that inspired this series, and Dr. Marcia McFee, the visionary who created this worship series experience. We hope you’ll enjoy the journey!

Gather items to help you create a sanctuary space. Candles, prayer rugs or scarves, bells, pillows, any ritual items that represent your personal connection with the holy...you can get creative here. And this doesn’t have to be a permanent spot in your home — you can always repurpose the space for normal use during the week apart from worship.

Wind chimes are an item of focus for this series. There are lots of cool DIY craft ideas for making your own wind chime! Look on Pinterest and Google to find suggestions. You might hang your wind chime somewhere close to your chosen worship spot so it can catch the breeze.

Make signs for each week of the series with messages that affirm our central messages. You could make and decorate cardboard/chalkboard/

whiteboard signs to display in your home as a reminder of the worship theme throughout the week, or even simply write these affirmations in a journal and meditate on them. Here are the messages to put on signs for each week of the series:

Week 1: "Water is life. Water your life so you can water other life... for the beauty of the earth."

Week 2: "Your very essence is warmed by the presence of divine love. Be reminded to offer that warmth to others... for the beauty of the earth."

Week 3: "Find beauty within the imperfections of life and accept peacefully the natural cycle of growth and decay. Be reminded to offer grace for imperfections... for the beauty of the earth."

Week 4: "The more we know, the more we know we don't know. Wonder and awe that leads to care of creation is good... for the beauty of the earth."

Week 5: "Look at you! So beautiful, Dearest. So beautiful. Believe this voice of the Divine Lover... for the beauty of the earth."

Week 6: "A contemplative life can empty us and ready us to become instruments of the Good... for the beauty of the earth."

If you have children at home, please know that we have prepared a scavenger hunt activity each week for children's time! Parents, you'll want to take a peek at these ideas beforehand and make sure you have the items hidden somewhere in your home for children to find easily when the time comes. Here are the scavenger hunt activities/items for each week:

Week 1: A cup of water and a plant

Week 2: A blanket

Week 3: Something with a crack or imperfection in it

Week 4: A star (can be homemade)

Week 5: A mirror

Week 6: A megaphone (can be homemade out of a rolled piece of paper)