

August 28, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

JOYFUL, JOYFUL!

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"The moving finger of God in human history points ever in the same direction. There must be community."

HOWARD THURMAN

Reflection

Last Sunday, as this is written, the 2024 Olympics ended with a joyful flourish. Yes, there was broadcast drama -- but at the same time, there radiated a sense of joy and community. How could anyone watching the event not be caught up in the ebullience of the Olympic ideals of inclusion, excellence, respect and friendship? Umbrella'd under the term "Olympism," "The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without any discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of

friendship, solidarity and fair play.” (<https://olympics.com/ioc/beyond-the-games>)

Over the past weeks, if you were watching the many Olympics programs, you may have noted many references to and videos of the Tokyo Olympics. Giving pause, it is amazing all that has transpired over such a compact period: the pandemic, the worldwide pandemic economy, the invasion and war in Ukraine, the conflicts and destruction in Israel and Gaza, the many instances of violence and political shifts around the globe. It is dizzying. Does it not just seem appropriate and timely to have a time dedicated to peace, unity and human striving to do better?

While born out of the ideals of Classical Greece, unity, peace and a community of friends are values that are found across faith and moral traditions. Billions of people worldwide viewed the Olympics, no doubt drawn to the exceptional and varied athletic events, but I must wonder if a shared desire for peace and unity was also an attraction. Joyful, joyful!



Gathered Together
Photo by Henning_W

For Pondering and Prayer

If you have some time today, you are invited to explore the song, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” by Henry van Dyke. An easy search on the internet, spend some time with the lyrics and then, YouTube has numerous renditions to pray with. If one draws you in, go for it! Get joyful!

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