

September 6, 2024



Dearest Community,

In an email prior to a recent clergy gathering we were invited to prepare with the following question: “What is your personal theme song?” We were further informed that the song didn’t need to be humble or religiously themed. However, the song is what we imagine or wish could be played every time we walked into a room or did something particularly valiant. In some ways it reminded me of the ways that certain characters have theme songs in movies.

When we gathered, people played sound bites for their theme songs. We had everything from Judy Garland to U2 to Macklemore. Most of the pieces all of us recognized, but there were also some that had the gathering going “Ooh, that’s really good. I’m going to have to learn more about that artist.” It was really fun.

What is your theme song?

On the way home, I got to thinking about another “theme” song that I have heard mention of through the years. So I went in search of the source of the stories. Here are two examples, sharing basically the same thing:

“Rabbi Joshua ben Levi said: ‘A procession of angels passes before each person, and the heralds go before them, saying, “Make way for the image of God!”’ (Deut. Rab., 4:4)*

“[A] text from a collection of interpretations called Devarim Rabbah: “Rabbi Joshua ben Levi said, ‘A procession of angels walk before a person wherever he goes, blowing the shofar and announcing, “Make way for the image of the Holy One.”’”**

A theme song of sorts. What does it mean for us to live into what it means to be an image of God? What does it mean for us to live into seeing – truly seeing – other people as images of God, too?

Blessings,

Rev. Joel Aosved
360-296-2678 (Pr. Joel's cell)
pastor@ucf1.org

*Michael K. Marsh. “Make Way for the Image of God!” Interrupting the Silence. January 13, 2013.

**Rabbi Ilana Grinblat. “It’s Time to Make Way for Angels and Act in God’s the Image” Jewish Journal. Sept 2, 2020.

Note: As these come from the same source, I listed them by publication date.