

## **Sermon: Everything I Need To Know About Life I Learned From Star Trek**

**Date: Sunday, August 8, 2004**

### **1. Bell**

### **2. Gathering Music**

*End Title Theme from Star Trek: The Motion Picture*

By Jerry Goldsmith

(On CD: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collector's Edition of Star Trek: The Motion Picture – Original Soundtrack. Disc #1. Track #18. [3:16])

### **3. WELCOME**

**LESLIE:** Good morning! Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton. My name is Leslie Kaye and I am your service leader this morning.

Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are in your search for truth and meaning, today you are the people who are the Church and you are welcome in this house of worship. We invite you to stay after the service for cold drinks and conversation so that we may get to know you better and answer your questions. If you are new to this church, pick up a copy of our newsletter at the greeting desk so that you may find out more about the life of this church. Our service can also be heard in the foyer where there are comfortable chairs and toys if you need a place where your small child can feel more comfortable.

Welcome.

Our speaker today will be Lyla Miklos, a friend of our congregation. Lyla is the Programming Supervisor for SPACE: The Imagination Station and a long time fan of Star Trek. She has seen every episode of every series, every Star Trek movie and has read a plethora of novels and non-fiction books on the topic.

She has been a panelist and a guest at several Science Fiction conventions and has spoken on everything from women in sci-fi to religion in Star Trek.

We are blessed in this congregation with wonderful music and today is no exception. Helping Lyla today as pianist and vocalist is Pamela Marques.

Out of respect for our worship and those who like to meditate and to our musicians, we ask you to express your appreciation for their contributions at the end of the service, rather than by applause during the service.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LESLIE:** [Announcements]

### **5. PRELUDE**

**LESLIE:** Now let us prepare to worship together as we listen to “You Can Fly!” from Disney’s Peter Pan.

*You Can Fly! You Can Fly! You Can Fly! From Disney’s Peter Pan  
Music by Sammy Fain, Lyrics by Sammy Cahn  
Performed by Bobby Driscoll, Kathryn Beaumont, Paul Collins,  
Tommy Luske and The Jud Conlon Chorus  
(On CD: The Disney Collection – Vol 2, Track #11 [4:06])*

**Wendy:** *But Peter how do we get to Neverland?*

**Peter:** *Fly of course*

**Wendy:** *Fly?*

**Peter:** *It’s easy, you think of a wonderful thought*

**Kids:** *Any happy little thought?*

**Peter:** *Uhh huh*

**Wendy:** *Like toys at christmas?*

**John:** *Sleigh bells and snow?*

**Peter:** *yep, watch me now here I go. It’s easier to fly*

**Wendy:** *He can fly*

**John:** *He can fly*

**Michael:** *He flew*

**Peter:** *Now you try*

**Wendy:** *I’ll think of a mermaid lagoon underneath a magic moon*

**John:** *I’ll think I’m in a pirate ship*

**Michael:** *I’ll think I’m an Indian brave*

**Peter:** *Now every body try*

**All:** *1 2 3*

**Kids:** *We can fly! We can fly! We can fly!*

**Peter:** This wont do. What's the matter with you? All it takes is faith and trust, ohh and something I forgot . . . dust.

**Michael:** dust?

**Wendy:** dust?

**John:** dust?

**Peter:** Yep. Just a little bit of pixie dust. Now think of the happiest things, it's the same as having wings.

**Wendy:** Lets all try it. Just once more.

**John:** Look we're raising off the floor

**Michael:** Jimmeny

**Wendy:** Oh my, we can fly

**Peter:** You can fly

**All:** We can fly

**Peter:** Come on every body here we go. Off to Neverland!

**Chorus:** Think of a wonderful thought  
Any merry little though  
Think of Christmas  
Think of snow  
Think of sleigh bells  
Off you go, like reindeers in the sky  
You can fly! You can fly! You can fly!

Think of the happiest thing  
It's the same as having wings  
Take a path that moonbeams make  
and if the moon is still awake  
you'll see him wink his eye  
ohh, You can fly! You can fly! You can fly!

Off you go with a high and ho  
there's a neverland waiting for you  
where all your happy dreams come true  
Every dream that you dream will come true

When there's a smile in your heart there's no better time to start

*Think of all the joy you'll find when you leave the world behind  
and wave your cares good bye*

*You can fly*

*You can fly*

*You can fly*

*You can fly*

**Big Ben Bell:** *DING DONG*

**Peter:** *There it is Wendy second star to the right and straight on till morning*

**Chorus:** *When there's a smile in your heart*

*There's no better time to start*

*Think of all the joy you'll find*

*When you leave the world behind and wave your cares good bye*

*You can fly*

*You can fly*

*You can fly*

*You can fly*

*You can fly*

## **6. OPENING WORDS**

**LESLIE:** Our opening words come from the creator of Star Trek, Gene Roddenberry:

**[Excerpt from “Gene Roddenberry: The Last Conversation” By Yvonne Fern]**

“Mankind will reach maturity on the day it learns to value diversity – of life and ideas. To be different is not necessarily to be ugly; to have a different idea is not necessarily to be wrong. The worst thing that could happen is for all of us to look and think and act alike. For if we cannot learn to value the small variations among our own kind here on Earth, then God help us when we get out into space and meet the variations that are almost certainly out there.”

## **7. CHALICE LIGHTING**

**LESLIE:** I invite Lyla to come forward and light our chalice, as I read an excerpt from the Star Trek: Deep Space Nine episode “The Emissary”.

**[Excerpt from the Star Trek: Deep Space Nine episode “The Emissary”- Teleplay by Michael Piller, Story by Michael Piller and Rick Berman]**

“That may be the most important thing to understand about humans. It is the unknown that defines our existence. We are constantly searching . . . not just for answers to our questions . . . but for new questions. We are explorers . . . We explore our lives day by day . . . and we explore the galaxy, trying to expand the boundaries of our knowledge. And that is why I am here. Not to conquer you with weapons or with ideas. But to coexist and learn.”

## 8. OPENING HYMN

**LYLA:** Let us join together in singing the theme song to the original Star Trek series. The lyrics can be found in your order of service.

### **Theme Song from Star Trek**

***Music by Alexander Courage, Lyrics by Gene Roddenberry***

Beyond the rim of the starlight,  
my love is wand'ring in starflight  
I know he'll find in star-clustered reaches,  
Love, strange love a star woman teaches

I know his journey ends never;  
His star trek will go on forever.  
But tell him while he wanders his starry sea:  
Remember, remember me.

## 9. RESPONSIVE READING

**LYLA:** Please join me in the responsive reading which can be found in your order of service.

Space.  
The final frontier.  
These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise.  
Its continuing mission,  
to explore strange new worlds,  
to seek out new life and new civilizations,  
to boldly go where no one has gone before.

## 10. OFFERTORY

**LESLIE:** We will now receive the offering to be used to further the ministry of this liberal religious community while we listen to the offertory "When You Wish Upon A Star" from Disney's Pinocchio.

### ***When You Wish Upon A Star from Disney's Pinocchio***

*Music by Leigh Harline, Lyrics by Ned Washington*

*Performed by Cliff Edwards and the Disney Studio Chorus*

*(On CD: The Disney Collection – Vol #2, Track #6 [2:04])*

When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are  
Anything your heart desires will come to you

If your heart is in your dreams, no request is too extreme  
When you wish upon a star as dreamers do

Fate is kind, she brings to those who love  
The sweet fulfillment of their secret longing  
Like a bolt out of the blue, fate steps in and sees you through  
When you wish upon a star, your dreams come true

## 11. JOYS & CONCERNS

**LESLIE:** This is the our time as a church community to come together to share the joys or concerns of our lives—to listen, to pray, to meditate, or focus our thoughts on the ways we may care for one another.

After the meditation, we will join together in silence and, after our silence, during the music, you are invited to come forward, light a candle, and take a chalice tag so that we may know and support you after the service. If you feel comfortable, please write your concern and your full name in the book on the table to the right if you have not already done so, so that we may follow up with a caring card or letter.

## 12. MEDITATION

**LYLA:** Now let us join together in the spirit of meditation and prayer. From the novelization of *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. A woman from our present encounter’s Roddenberry’s future and this is what she sees.

**[Meditation In Words: Excerpt from the novel “Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home”, by Vonda N. McIntyre, Based on the Screenplay by Steve Meerson, Peter Krikes, Harve Bennett and Nicholas Meyer, Story by Leonard Nimoy and Harve Bennett]**

“A Black woman glanced up from her console, saw Gillian, and smiled at her. The Asian man who had helped Chekov entered and took his place at another control console. Gillian stared around in wonder. She was in a spaceship that could travel from star to star, among a group of people who lived and worked together without being concerned about race or gender, among people from Earth and a person from another planet. Gillian broke into a grin. Probably a silly grin, she thought, and she did not care.”

**LYLA:** Now may we all bring our thoughts or prayers to rest in the welcoming silence.

(Wait one minute. Then say: “Amen.” Signal sound technician.)

### ***Imagine***

*By John Lennon*

*Performed by Scott Bakula*

*(On CD – Quantum Leap Original Television Soundtrack – Track #5 [3:05])*

Imagine there's no heaven,  
It's easy if you try,  
No hell below us,  
Above us only sky,  
Imagine all the people  
living for today...

Imagine there's no countries,  
It isn't hard to do,  
Nothing to kill or die for,  
No religion too,  
Imagine all the people  
living life in peace...

Imagine no possessions,  
I wonder if you can,  
No need for greed or hunger,  
A brotherhood of man,  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer,  
but I'm not the only one,  
I hope some day you'll join us,  
And the world will live as one.

(During the music people will be coming up for the Joys and Concerns. Do a quick review of those items written before the service in the Joys and Concerns book and summarize the highlights. When no more are approaching the front.)

**LESLIE:** In the spirit of community we share strength and find common purpose. At this time, we turn our minds toward one another, seeking to bring into our circle of concern all who ask for our love and support.

(Read out the Joys and Concerns that people have written in the book, being careful to read only the ones designated to be shared with everyone.)

(Light one more candle.)

**LESLIE:** I light this candle for all those joys and sorrows which remain in our hearts. Whatever our level of sharing, may this community be a blessing and support to us all.

### **13. READINGS**

**LYLA:** I will now share words of inspiration from each Star Trek series.

#### ***1. Excerpt from the Star Trek episode "The City On The Edge Of Forever"***

Written by Harlan Ellison

**Edith Keeler (to her mission's poor, New York City, 1930):** Now I don't pretend to tell you how to find happiness and love, when everyday is just a struggle to survive. But I do insist that you do survive. Because the days and the years ahead are worth living for. One day, soon, man is going to be able to harness incredible energies, maybe even the atom, energies that could ultimately hurl us to other worlds in . . . in some sort of spaceship. And the men that reach into space will be able to find ways to feed the hungry millions of the world and to cure their diseases. They will be able to find a way to give each man hope and a common future. And those are the days worth living for . . .

**2. Excerpt from the Star Trek: The Next Generation episode "Hide and Q"**

Teleplay by CJ Holland and Gene Roddenberry, Story by CJ Holland

Additional Source Material: William Shakespeare's Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2

**Picard:** I know Hamlet. And what he might say with irony I say with conviction. "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form, in moving, how express and admirable. In action, how like an angel. In apprehension, how like a god . . .

**Q:** Surely you don't see your species like that, do you?!?

**Picard:** I see us one day becoming that, Q. Is it that which concerns you?

**3. Excerpt from the Star Trek: Deep Space Nine episode "Life Support"**

Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore, Story by Christian Ford & Roger Soffer

**Jake:** I guess I forgot you were a Ferengi.

**Nog:** You forgot? To most people, the lobes are a dead giveaway.

**Jake:** What I mean is . . . we spend so much time together . . . and we seem so much alike . . . I sometimes forget we're different.

**4. Excerpt from the Star Trek: Voyager episode "The Gift"**

Written by Joe Menosky

**Janeway (to Seven of Nine):** I can't give you back to the Borg. But you're not alone. You're part of a human community, now . . . a human collective. We may be individuals, but we live and work together. You can have some of the unity you require . . . right here on Voyager.

**5. Excerpt from the Star Trek: Enterprise episode "Broken Bow"**

Written by Rick Berman and Brannon Braga

**Captain Archer:** I hope nobody is in a big hurry to get home. Starfleet seems to think we're ready to begin our mission. I understand there's an inhabited planet a few light years from here.



**Lt. Reed:** *We've detected it sir. Sensors show a nitrogen sulfide atmosphere.*

**Ensign Sato:** *Probably not humanoids.*

**Archer:** *That's what we're here to find out. Prepare to break orbit and lay in a course.*

**Ensign Mayweather:** *I'm reading an ion storm on that trajectory sir. Should I go around it?*

**Archer:** *We can't be afraid of the wind Ensign. Take us to Warp 4.*

#### **14. HYMN**

**LYLA:** Let us join together in singing our second hymn, #134 "Our World Is One World"

Our world is one world  
What touches one affects us all  
The seas that wash us round about  
The clouds that cover us  
The rains that fall

Our world is one world  
The thoughts we think affect us all  
The way we build our attitudes  
With love or hate we make  
A bridge or wall

Our world is one world  
Its ways of wealth affect us all  
The way we spend, the way we share  
Who are the rich or poor  
Who stand or fall

Our world is one world  
Just like a ship that bears us all  
Where fear and greed make many holes  
But where our hearts can hear  
A different call

#### **15. SERMON: Everything I Need to Know About Life I Learned from Star Trek**

**LYLA:** On September 8th, 1966 at 8:30pm EST a monumental moment in history took place.

Star Trek aired for the very first time on NBC.

Almost 40 years later the impact of Star Trek has been felt worldwide.

Since 1966 Star Trek has spawned 5 spin-off series . . .

1. Star Trek: The Animated Series
2. Star Trek: The Next Generation
3. Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
4. Star Trek: Voyager
5. Star Trek: Enterprise

And ten feature length films . . .

1. The Motion Picture
2. The Wrath of Khan
3. The Search for Spock
4. The Voyage Home
5. The Final Frontier
6. The Undiscovered Country
7. Generations
8. First Contact
9. Insurrection
10. Nemesis

Star Trek has also been the inspiration for countless fiction and non-fiction books, collectibles, games, music, clothing, art work and of course hundreds of conventions across the globe.

Its more than a television phenomenon.

Its more than a cultural phenomenon.

Star Trek is an ideological and philosophical phenomenon.

The reason behind this is the vision of the show's creator Gene Roddenberry.

Gene Roddenberry's creation – Star Trek – is solidly based upon humanist principles and ideas. His creation has moved, inspired and sparked the imaginations of millions of people around the world. The basic message of Star Trek is that human beings are capable of solving their own problems rationally. We will learn how to not hate and fear, but rather love and care for one another. Poverty, hunger, homelessness, famine, pestilence and war on Earth will be no more. Humans, on their own, will figure out, how to get it right.

Roddenberry's life before Star Trek was full of adventures and journeys.

Roddenberry was born in El Paso, Texas, in 1921 and was raised in Los Angeles. He studied police science courses in college, learned to fly and volunteered for service in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He flew nearly a hundred combat missions and sorties

and was decorated with both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. After the war, he worked as a pilot for Pam Amercian World Airways. Later he served as a police officer in LA where he began selling scripts to the fledgling television industry. He eventually resigned from the police department to pursue his writing.

Before Star Trek aired on NBC, the public got a special “sneak peak” at history in the making at the 1966 World Science Fiction Convention. From the introduction to The Official Star Trek Compendium here is writer Allan Asherman’s recollection of that day.

**[Excerpt from “The Star Trek Compendium” by Allan Asherman]**

*“After being exposed to more science fiction books and films, I began to attend science fiction conventions. When I heard about the annual world conventions, I determined that I would attend the next one. During the Labour day weekend in 1966, I traveled by bus to Cleveland, Ohio, to attend “Tricon”, that year’s World Science Fiction Convention. During the bus ride I studied the convention’s progress reports, which mentioned three specific film events on the program. A new film, Fantastic Voyage, had been provided by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox. The same studio’s television division, with producer Irwin Allen, had also arranged to show the pilot episode of Allen’s new series, “The Time Tunnel”.*

*The third convention debut was to be another television pilot episode, the work of a producer with an unfamiliar name: Gene Roddenberry. The title of Roddenberry’s new series: “Star Trek”!*

*[I went to the screening and] a tall man appeared at the front of the room. Although he looked formidable, his voice was contrastingly gentle. He sounded almost timid and nervous when he introduced himself as Gene Roddenberry, a lifelong science fiction fan. He told the audience that he had produced a new television pilot which would debut the following week on NBC-TV with a “sneak preview” episode. Even so, he stated, our opinion was important to him. With that, Roddenberry left the stage, and as the lights went out. The audience quieted down for one of the very first public showings of “Star Trek”.*

*There was that funny spaceship again, with William Shatner’s voiceover explaining the mission of the Enterprise. The weird guy with the pointed ears looked even stranger on film with his slightly yellow complexion.*

*There was nothing childish about the episode “Where No Man Has Gone Before”. We waited for a kid or a wisecracking robot to enter the picture, but they never arrived. Even the music was somber, serious and spectacular.*

*There must have been over 500 people in that audience. When the Enterprise hit the galactic barrier, 1,000 eyes opened wide. Five hundred respiratory rates accelerated with that wonderful pleasure that comes over lovers of all things when they see their favourite subject being treated well.*

*Then the whispers started. “He did say this was for television, didn’t he?” Maybe we misunderstood. I recall wondering how Roddenberry could afford to do things like this on a*

*television budget. If he could have read our minds at any moment during that screening, he would have been the happiest producer in the world.*

*The audience continued to watch the episode intently. A very human Captain was attempting to avoid killing a close friend. A satanic-looking first officer was pressuring the captain to liquidate the mutating individual.*

*We noticed people of varied races, genders and planetary origins working together. Here was a future it did not hurt to imagine. Here was a constructive tomorrow for mankind, emphasizing exploration and expansion. This was the science fiction series we all wanted to see. We were all extremely impressed.*

*After the film was over we were unable to leave our seats. We just nodded at each other and smiled, and began to whisper. As the murmuring grew louder, Roddenberry returned to the stage. People quieted down again, waiting for him to say something. The producer however was waiting for us to say something. Roddenberry seemed to have no idea of the effect the show was having on us.*

*Finally, Gene Roddenberry broke the silence. He asked for the audience's opinion; we gave him a standing ovation. He smiled, and we returned the smile before we converged on him. We came close to lifting the man upon our shoulders and carrying him out of the room."*

That recognition of how revolutionary the future that Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek presented was not lost on some present day revolutionaries from the 1960's. Here is a story from Nichelle Nichols' autobiography "Beyond Uhura".

**[Excerpt from "Beyond Uhura" by Nichelle Nichols]**

*"There were so many good things about working on Star Trek – the money, the exposure, my coworkers – that it was with great difficulty that I resolved to leave after the first season. After we wrapped up the last show, I walked into Gene's office and resigned.*

*"There's too much here that I just can't take," I explained. "I've put up with the cuts and the racism, but I just can't do it anymore."*

*Gene listened attentively, then he said, Nichelle, please think about it."*

*"Gene, you've been wonderful, but there's too much wrong here, and I can't fix it." We talked a while longer, and before I left, we hugged warmly. Then he said, "I don't want you to do this. I can make things better. I do have a problem, and I am fighting a hard battle."*

*I sensed what Gene had alluded to, but I didn't really know what he was trying to communicate. Remember, at this time, I had no idea how far he'd gone to protect me.*

*"If you leave, they win," he said intently. "And if they chase you away, they win double."*

*I said goodbye to Gene, thinking to myself that if I stayed and allowed myself to be treated as less of a person than my coworkers, the ubiquitous “they” were winning, too. It simply wasn’t worth it to me anymore.*

*The following evening I attended an important NAACP fund-raising event. I was chatting with someone when a man approached and said, “Nichelle, there is someone who would like to meet you. He’s a big fan of Star Trek and of Uhura.”*

*I turned to greet this “fan” and found myself gazing upon the face of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I was stunned, and I remember thinking. Whoever that fan is, he’ll just have to wait.*

*The man introduced us. Imagine my surprise when the first words Dr. King uttered were, “Yes, I am that fan, and I wanted to tell you how important your role is.”*

*He began speaking of how he and his children watched Star Trek faithfully and how much they adored Uhura. At that moment the impact of my decision really struck me. Nevertheless, I replied, “Thank you, Dr. King, but I plan to leave Star Trek.”*

*“You cannot,” he replied firmly, “and you must not. Don’t you realize how important your presence, your character is?” he went on. “Don’t you realize this gift this man has given the world? Man and women of all races going forth in peaceful exploration, living as equals. You listen to me: Don’t you see? This is not a black role, and this is not a female role. You have the first nonstereotypical role on television, male or female. You have broken ground –“*

*“There have been other Black stars,” I countered.*

*“In TV?” he replied. “Yes, Beulah, Amos and Andy. Do I need to go further?”*

*“No,” I answered softly.*

*“You must not leave. You have opened a door that must not be allowed to close. I’m sure you have taken a lot of grief, or probably will for what you’re doing. But you changed the face of television forever. You have created a character of dignity and grace and beauty and intelligence. Don’t you see that you’re not just a role model for little Black children? You’re most important for people who don’t look like us. For the first time, the world sees us as we should be seen, as equals, as intelligent people – as we should be. There will always be role models for Black children; you are a role model for everyone.”*

*“Remember, you are not important there in spite of your color. You are important there because of your color. This is what Gene Roddenberry has given us.”*

*All that weekend Dr. King’s words echoed in my mind as I weighed every factor. Perhaps he was right: Perhaps Uhura was a symbol of hope, a role model. And if that were the case, did I not owe it another chance? Granted, Uhura’s full potential had not been realized, and sadly, probably wouldn’t be. But she was there, wasn’t she? And that had to count for something.*

*When I returned to work on Monday, I went to Gene's office first thing and told him about my conversation with Dr. King and my decision to stay.*

*A tear came to Gene's eye, and he said, "God bless that man. At least someone sees what I'm trying to achieve."*

Dr. King was right! Nichelle Nichols' presence on television did touch and affect the generations to come after her. From the Spring 1991 issue of *The Humanist* here is a portion of an interview with Gene Roddenberry about one such individual.

**[Excerpt from "Interview of Gene Roddenberry: Writer, Producer, Philosopher, Humanist" by David Alexander. Originally published in "The Humanist" March/April 1991]**

**Alexander:** *We were talking with Whoopi Goldberg the other day, and she related how important the original series was to her in her younger days. Whoopi has become very, very successful, partially due, she says, to Star Trek. She is on the current series repaying, one could say, her debt to Star Trek.*

**Roddenberry:** *It is very nice of her to do this, too. What she has said about Star Trek's effect on her fulfills my dream of what television should always be, what storytelling should always be. I can't imagine a more exciting thing to do with television and drama than to show the various problems you will face as a human, with all the temptations one way or another. Hopefully, you will find a resolution, unexpected or not, that allows people to benefit from the drama they see. Whoopi is, to my mind, a splendid sample of making use of drama in your life: isolating the decisions you are likely to face, having put it firmly in your mind that, if the dramatized situation ever happens to you, you won't make the wrong decision.*

**Alexander:** *After Star Trek: The Next Generation was cast, Whoopi came to you and said she wanted to be in the show.*

**Roddenberry:** *She was brought in by her agent. I was trying to guess why she wanted to talk to me and fearing a little bit that she was a lightweight mentally or maybe she just liked science fiction and would ask to play some part that I wouldn't feel was right for the series. Indeed, what she said was, "I want to be in 'Star Trek.'"*

*I immediately pulled back to my first bulwark of argument and said, "Yes, but you are a well-known actress capable of playing a lead in the show, and we have a bunch of working actors already cast. We have a person in every category we need." I was trying to be polite, because I thought highly of her. She said, "No, you don't get it, do you? What I am saying is that I love Star Trek. It's been close to my mind all my adult life, and I want to play a part in it, even if I just run a bar." This is the character I later suggested to her.*

*She is a marvelous woman. She said, "I don't want to be a star of the show. I don't want to deprive anyone of their job." She then explained why she liked the show and said, "I just*

want to be a part of what this is doing for people." She had been affected by the original series and she understood perhaps more than many, what drama could do to people and that the drama that was being played out on Star Trek was important.

At Gene Roddenberry's memorial service Whoppi Goldberg had this to say:

**[Excerpt from "The Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry: Star Trek Creator" by David Alexander]**

*"What to say about a man whom I didn't know well for twenty-five years, but I knew him spiritually. He was a man who was able to reach out through my television and explain to me that I had a place in the world and in the future. For me, I guess, Gene Roddenberry is Thoreau. I always wanted to meet a visionary. I didn't realize until I was on my way over here that that's exactly what he was.*

*I sat with him and Rick Berman as I begged to be on the show. They thought I was kidding. I said, "No, you don't understand. We're talking about Star Trek. I really need to be a part of this." And they just kind of mused me. They thought it was very interesting and Gene wanted to know why.*

*When I explained to him that this was the only vision that had black people in the future, he thought that was very bizarre. I guess he didn't realize that nobody else saw us there. This is what drew me to the show and to this man.*

*He always had something nice to say to me, always something really fun. I'm not going to mourn. I was lucky. As Mr. Bradbury mentioned, it's time to celebrate this life that changed the entire face of the world. Everywhere you go, no matter what country, they all know Star Trek. They all know that somehow, the world can actually be better, because of this one man's vision.*

*What an honor to have been able to meet someone who changed the world without screaming, or yelling – or that cursing of the presidents, like some of us do. He just said, "No. This is my vision." And for once, people who were in charge listened. And twenty-five years later a kid from the projects, and kids from all over the world, all over the country, are sitting here to celebrate Gene Roddenberry. Thank you."*

There is a concept in Star Trek called IDIC [ I – D – I – C ]. It stands for Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. Gene Roddenberry said in Yvonne Fern's book "Gene Roddenberry: The Last Conversation":

**[Excerpt from "Gene Roddenberry: The Last Conversation" By Yvonne Fern]**

*"Diversity is so important. Because in diversity, you can trace certain properties of the human spirit that transcend differences. It is only when you look at what unites humans rather than what divides them that you have some idea of what it means to be human."*

And when we look back at Star Trek: The Original Series, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, Voyager and even Enterprise we see each one of these shows bringing diverse people together with a common purpose.

Not to dominate and control and change the world into their sense of what is right and wrong, but rather to enrich their lives by knowing there are even more possibilities.

The Prime Directive, which is also known as Starfleet General Order One, is one of the founding principles of the Federation. In summary, it states the right of each sentient species to live in accordance with its normal cultural evolution is considered sacred, no Starfleet personnel may interfere with the healthy development of alien life and culture. Such interference includes the introduction of superior knowledge, strength, or technology to a world whose society is incapable of handling such advantages wisely. Starfleet personnel may not violate this Prime Directive, even to save their lives and/or their ship, unless they are acting to right an earlier violation or an accidental contamination of said culture. This directive takes precedence over any and all other considerations, and carries with it the highest moral obligation.

Although any fan of Star Trek knows that every Captain from every series broke this rule at least once if not multiple times, for various extenuating circumstances. Still knowing that this is the most important rule or philosophy that humanity's future must abide by is very profound and telling.

Every Star Trek series is filled with flawed characters, but all of them share a sense of nobility and honour.

There are so many positive qualities Star Trek instills . . .

Teamwork

Duty

Honour

Friendship

Sacrifice

Equality

Courage

Leadership

Justice

Love



Compassion

Curiosity

Acceptance

and so much more.

As UU's we affirm and promote the following principles . . .

- the inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- the goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Star Trek in all its incarnations also affirms and promotes these principles.

At Gene Roddenberry's memorial service Patrick Stewart aka Captain Jean Luc Picard ended up being the last speaker of the day. Here is some of what he had to say.

**[Excerpt from "The Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry: Star Trek Creator" by David Alexander]**

*"Dying. Gene certainly thought about that, and he wrote about it. It has become a standing joke on our sets that whenever the good captain begins to philosophize, the crew and cast will burst into universal groans. Eventually somebody will cry out, "Give us the death speech Captain!" Well, Jonathan, Marina, you're going to get it. Lavar, Gates, Brent. Michael, here it comes: that speech that we've so often laughed about.*

*It occurred very early, in the start of the second season. It was written by Gene . . . and the good Enterprise was in peril and all of were convinced we were going to die. The android, Data, paid an unexpected visit to the captain's quarters and asked him, "Captain, what is death?"*

*Picard replied, "Well, Data, some explain it as our changing into an indestructible form, forever unchanging. They argue that the purpose of the universe is to then maintain us in an earthlike garden which will give us pleasure through all eternity. At the other extreme are those who prefer the idea of our blinking into nothingness, with all our experiences, our hopes, our dreams, only a delusion.:*

*And Data asks, "And which do you believe, sir?"*

*“Well,” says Picard, “considering the marvelous complexity of our universe, its clockwork perfection, its balances of this against that, matter, energy, gravitation, time, dimension, pattern, I believe that our existence must mean more than either of those choices. I prefer to believe that what we are goes beyond Euclidean and other practical measuring systems and that, in ways we cannot yet fathom, our existence is part of a reality beyond what we understand now as reality.”*

*I wonder how many popular television series would have the guts to place a speech like that in the middle of a prime time broadcast? Even at its most frivolous, which sometimes *The Next Generation* is, it is concerning itself with ideas, with issues. That is what Gene did. He readjusted our view. He corrected our vision, our vision of where we were going and what our values were. What our values will become.”*

**[Excerpt from “The Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry: Star Trek Creator”  
by David Alexander]**

*On September 24, 1992, eleven months to the day Gene died, a letter was sent to Daniel S. Goldin, Administrator of NASA, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration on Mount Wilson Institute Stationary.*

*Here is what the letter said.*

*Dear Mr. Goldin:*

*We would like to add our endorsement to the nomination of Gene Roddenberry for the posthumous award of a NASA Medal for Distinguished Public Service.*

*Gene Roddenberry’s creative genius opened the imaginations of hundreds of millions to the fact that the remarkable achievements of NASA are only the first step in an advancing technology that will carry humankind away from humanity’s birthplace and out to the stars – perhaps to join the even larger and more diverse community of intelligent life in the Cosmos.*

*We respectfully urge that NASA consider the award of the Medal for Distinguished Public Service to Gene Roddenberry coincident with the first anniversary of Gene’s death on October 24, 1991.*

*Sincerely,*

*Hugh Downs  
ABC News*

*Robert Jastrow  
Director, Mount Wilson Institute*

*Schedules did not permit the award to be given on the first anniversary of Gene's death, but shortly thereafter, on January 30, 1993, Majel accepted the Distinguished Public Service Medal for Gene from Daniel Goldin at a ceremony held at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.*

*The citation accompanying the medal read: "For distinguished service to the Nation and to the human race in presenting the exploration of space as an exciting frontier and a hope for the future."*

*There was another honor NASA accorded Gene, but of a more private nature. This tribute brought to light the true faces of NASA's people, revealing the poetry hidden in their hearts.*

*Sometime between his death and the publication of [his official autobiography], a small canister of Gene's ashes was sent to Houston, Texas, to the care of a friendly astronaut. The ashes were taken from the shipping canister and sealed in a slightly larger machined, stainless steel cylinder. Accompanied by a 5" x 7" American flag, the cylinder was carried on board the space shuttle, inventoried as part of the several pounds of personal property each astronaut is permitted.*

*Later, on a giant column of fire and smoke, the space shuttle rose into the sky above Florida, taking a small part of Gene along with it. Gene Roddenberry had made it into space.*

*He would have loved the adventure."*

## **16. CLOSING HYMM**

**LYLA:** For our closing hymn we shall sing the theme song to Star Trek: Enterprise – Faith of the Heart. The lyrics can be found in your order of service.

### **Theme Song to Star Trek: Enterprise – "Faith of the Heart" By Diane Warren**

It's been a long road.  
Getting' from there to here  
It's been a long time.  
But my time is finally here

And I can see my dreams come alive at night.  
I can touch the sky.  
And they're not gonna hold me down no more.  
No they're not gonna change my mind.

'Cause I've got faith of the heart.  
I'm going where my heart will take me.  
I've got faith to believe.  
I can do anything.

I've got strength of the soul.  
No one's going to bend nor break me.

I can reach any star.  
I've got faith.  
I've got faith.  
Faith of the heart

## 20. CLOSING WORDS

Please be seated for our closing words. Our closing words, fittingly come from Star Trek's creator, here is Gene Roddenberry on CD from a lecture he gave in New York City that was recorded in May 1976.

### **“The Star Trek Philosophy”**

From a lecture given by Gene Roddenberry in New York City (May 1976)  
(On CD: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collector's Edition of Star Trek: The Motion Picture – Original Soundtrack. BONUS CD – INSIDE STAR TREK WITH GENE RODDENBERRY. Disc #2, Track #13. [4:40])

### **Transcript of Recording:**

**Gene Roddenberry:** *I think, probably the most often asked question about the show is - is why the Star Trek phenomenon? And this is incidentally not just a fan or a Trekkie question. It is now being asked by communications experts, by sociologists, educators and others. There have already been a couple of master thesis written on this. And there are a couple of doctorates presently at work. And it could be an important question, because you can ask how can a simple space opera with blinking lights and zap guns and a hobgoblin with pointy ears reach out and touch the hearts and minds of literally millions of people and become a cult in some cases.*

*Obviously what this means is that television has incredible power. They're saying that if Star Trek can do this, then perhaps another carefully calculated show could move people in other directions. What's to keep selfish interests from creating other cults for selfish purposes? Industrial cartels? Political parties? Governments?*

*Ultimate power in this world, as you know, has always been one simple thing: The control and manipulation of minds. Fortunately, any attempt however, to manipulate people through any so called Star Trek formula is doomed to failure and I will tell you why in just a moment. First of all our show did not reach in effect all these people because it was deep and great literature. Star Trek was not Ibsen or Shakespeare. To get a prime time show, network show, on the air and to keep it there you must attract and hold a minimum of eighteen million people every week. You have to do that in order to woo people away from “Gomer Pyle”, “Bonanza”, “Beverly Hillbillies” and so on. And we tried to do this with entertainment, action, adventure, conflict and so on.*

*But once we got on the air, and within the limits of those action adventure limits, we did not accept the myth that the television audience has an infantile mind. We had an idea. And we had a premise.*

*[Applause]*

*Thanks you and we still believe that.*

*As a matter of fact we decided to risk the whole show on that premise. We believed that the often ridiculed mass audience is sick of this world's petty nationalism and all its old ways and old hatreds. And that people are not only willing, but anxious to think beyond those petty beliefs that have for so long kept mankind divided.*

*[Applause & Cheers]*

*Thank you.*

*So you see, that the formula, the magic ingredient that many people keep seeking and many of them keep missing is really not in Star Trek it is in the audience. There is an intelligent life form out on the other side of that television tube.*

*[Laughter]*

*The whole show was an attempt to say that humanity will reach maturity and wisdom on the day that it begins to not just to tolerate but to take a special delight in differences in ideas, in differences in life forms. We tried to say that the worst possible thing that could happen to all of us is for the future to somehow press us into a common mould. Where we begin to act and talk and look and think alike.*

*If we cannot learn to actually enjoy those small differences, take a positive delight in those small differences between our own kind here on this planet, then we do not deserve to go out into space and meet the diversity that is almost certainly out there. And I think this is what people responded to.*

*The result of that was seven years after being dropped by the network of saying those things there are now people watching it than ever before. And if you ascribe those things to any mystic or scriptural brilliance in Star Trek you miss the entire point.*

*What Star Trek proves, as faulty as individual episodes could be, is that the much maligned common man and common woman has an enormous hunger for brotherhood. They are ready for the twenty-third century now and they are light years ahead of their petty governments and their visionless leaders.*

*[Applause & Cheers]*

## **21. POSTLUDE**

**LYLA:** Please be seated while enjoying our postlude, The Enterprise Theme from Star Trek: The Motion Picture by the recently departed Jerry Goldsmith.

*The Enterprise Theme from Star Trek: The Motion Picture*

*By Jerry Goldsmith*

(On CD: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collector's Edition of Star Trek: The Motion Picture – Original Soundtrack. Disc #1. Track #6. [5:59])

## **22. FAREWELL**

**LYLA:** Thank you. May you all live long and prosper.

## **22. COFFEE & CONVERSATION**