

LOST – A Television Tale of Faith and Redemption

Date: August 12, 2007

1. Bell

2. Gathering Music:

Redemption Song Words and Music by Bob Marley Anne-Marie Pavlov (guitar/vocals) and Pamela Marques (percussion/vocals)

Old pirates, yes, they rob I; Sold I to the merchant ships, Minutes after they took I From the bottomless pit. But my hand was made strong By the hand of the Almighty. We forward in this generation Triumphantly. Won't you help to sing This songs of freedom 'Cause all I ever have: Redemption songs; Redemption songs.

Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery; None but ourselves can free our minds. Have no fear for atomic energy, 'Cause none of them can stop the time. How long shall they kill our prophets, While we stand aside and look? Ooh! Some say it's just a part of it: We've got to fulfill the book.

Won't you help to sing This songs of freedom- 'Cause all I ever have: Redemption songs; Redemption songs; Redemption songs.

Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery; None but ourselves can free our mind. Wo! Have no fear for atomic energy, 'Cause none of them-a can-a stop-a the time. How long shall they kill our prophets, While we stand aside and look? Yes, some say it's just a part of it: We've got to fulfill the book. Won't you have to sing This songs of freedom? - 'Cause all I ever had: Redemption songs - All I ever had: Redemption songs: These songs of freedom, Songs of freedom.

3. Welcome

MICHELE: Good Morning! And welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton on this glorious Sunday morning.

My name is Michele Corbeil and I am a member of this congregation and I will be your service leader this morning.

Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are on your journey of faith, today you are the people of this congregation, and you are welcome in this house of worship.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbour and/or introduce yourself to somebody new.

[Give people a few moments to greet each other.]

Following the service you are invited to join us for refreshments and conversation in the lobby. I want to thank so many people in this congregation, many that I don't know at this point who spent the better part of the summer installing a new ceiling in our lobby so that our experience of conversation and coffee hour would be more enjoyable. And perhaps today we can test out the ceiling during our time of getting to know each other better. This service is also broadcast into the lobby where there are comfortable chairs where you or a small child may feel more comfortable, or if you need to leave the sanctuary to use your cell phone.

Our speaker today is Lyla Miklos. Lyla is a communicator, activist, writer, organizer, artist and friend of this congregation for the past eight years. And over the past few summers Lyla has shared her passion for a number of television series through words and song. And today she will takes us on a spiritual exploration of the critically acclaimed and award winning television series LOST.

We are blessed in this congregation with wonderful music and today is no exception. Joining Lyla today are Rachel Derry, Pamela Marques, and Anne-Marie Pavlov. We will also enjoy readings today from Josh, Peter and Sonja Maurin, Jeffrey Simmons, and Kevin Ryan Williamson.

Out of respect for our worship and those who like to meditate we will ask you to refrain from applause during the service, but show your appreciation by approaching the musicians and speakers following the service by speaking directly with them.

4. Announcements:

MICHELE: [TBD]

5. Prelude:

MICHELE: Now let us prepare to worship together as we listen to our Prelude.

Bring Me To Life Words and Music by Evanescence Pamela Marques (piano/vocals), Anne-Marie Pavlov (guitar/vocals) and Lyla Miklos (vocals)

How can you see into my eyes like open doors
Leading you down into my core where I've become so numb
without a soul my spirit sleeping somewhere cold
until you find it there and lead it back home

Wake me up inside. Wake me up inside. Call my name and save me from the dark.
Bid my blood to run before I come undone. Save me from the nothing I've become.

Now that I know what I'm without you can't just leave me. Breathe into me and make me real
Bring me to life.

Wake me up inside. Wake me up inside. Call my name and save me from the dark.
Bid my blood to run before I come undone. Save me from the nothing I've become
Bring me to life.

Frozen inside without your touch without your love Darling only you are the life among the dead.
I've been sleeping a 1000 years it seems. I've got to open my eyes to everything.

Wake me up inside. Wake me up inside. Call my name and save me from the dark.
Bid my blood to run before I come undone. Save me from the nothing I've become
Bring me to life. Without a thought, without a voice, without a soul
Don't let me die here There must be something wrong. Bring me to life.
Wake me up inside. Wake me up inside. Call my name and save me from the dark.
Bid my blood to run before I come undone. Save me from the nothing I've become
Bring me to life.

6. Opening Words: Our opening words, which will be shared by Jeffrey and Kevin are from a conversation between the characters Locke and Jack from the LOST episode "Orientation".

[Jeffrey and Kevin come to the microphones.]

[Kevin will read the dialogue assigned to Locke and Jeffrey the dialogue assigned to Jack.]

LOCKE: If it's not real, then what are you doing here, Jack? Why did you come back? Why do you find it so hard to believe?

JACK: Why do you find it so easy?

LOCKE: It's never been easy!

[Jeffrey and Kevin position themselves behind the chalice.]

MICHELE:

7. Chalice Lighting:

MICHELE: Sonja and Peter Maurin will share our Chalice Lighting. Our chalice reading comes from the LOST episode “. . . And Found”. It is part of a conversation place between the characters Sun and Locke.

[Sonja and Peter come to the microphones.]

[Sonja will read the dialogue assigned to Sun and Peter the dialogue assigned to Locke.]

SUN: I don't think I have ever seen you angry.

LOCKE: Oh, I used to get angry all the time. Frustrated too.

SUN: You are not frustrated anymore?

LOCKE: I'm not LOST anymore.

SUN: How did you do that?

LOCKE: Same way anything LOST gets found – I stopped looking.

[Jeffrey and Kevin light the chalice.]

8. Opening Hymn:

SONJA: Please stand if you are able and let us join together in worship by singing hymn #205 from Singing the Living Tradition entitled Amazing Grace.

[Sonja, Peter, Jeffrey and Kevin return to their seats.]

#205 – Amazing Grace Words by John Newton, Music by Virginia Harmony Rachel Derry (piano)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved, how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

9. Unison Reading:

MICHELE: Please join in our unison reading, which comes from the LOST episode "White Rabbit". The words are printed in your order of service.

Last week most of us were strangers, but we're all here now. And god knows how long we're going to be here. But if we can't live together, we're going to die alone.

10. Offertory:

MICHELE: We will now receive the offering to be used to further the ministry of this liberal religious community while we listen to our offertory.

Older Chests Words and Music by Damien Rice Lyla Miklos (vocals), Anne-Marie Pavlov (guitar/vocals), Pamela Marques (vocals) and Rachel Derry (vocals)

older chests reveal themselves like a crack in a wall starting small and grow in time we all seem to need the help of someone else to mend that shelf of too many books read me your favourite line papa went to other lands and found someone who understands the ticking and the western man's need to cry he came back the other day yah you know

some things in life may change and some things they stay the same like time there's always time on my mind so pass me by i'll be fine just give me time

older gents sit on the fence with their cap in hand lookin' grand they watch their city change children scream or so it seems louder than before out of doors and into stores with bigger names mama tried to wash their faces but these kids they lost their graces when daddy lost at the races too many times she broke down the other day yah you know

some things in life may change but some things they stay the same like time there's always time on my mind so pass me by i'll be fine just give me time there's always time on my mind so pass me by i'll be fine just give me time

11. Meditation:

MICHELE: This is the our time as a church community to come together to share the joys and 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 the silence, during the music, you are invited to come forward, and light a candle. If you feel comfortable, please write your joy and concern and your full name in the book, so that we may follow up with a caring card.

12. In Words:

From the LOST episode "Exodus - Part 2" Written by Damon Lindelof & Carlton Cuse

MICHELE: Our meditative reading comes from the LOST episode "Exodus – Part 2"; and will be shared by Peter and Josh Maurin. Please join with them in the spirit of meditation or prayer.

[Peter and Josh come to the microphones.]

[Peter will read the dialogue assigned to Locke and Josh the dialogue assigned to Jack.]

JACK: Look, I need for you -- I need for you to explain to me what the hell's going on inside your head, John. I need to know why you believe that that thing wasn't going to...

LOCKE: I believe that I was being tested.

JACK: Tested?

LOCKE: Yeah, tested.

JACK: I think...

LOCKE: That's why you and I don't see eye-to-eye sometimes, Jack -- because you're a man of science.

JACK: Yeah, and what does that make you?

LOCKE: Me, well, I'm a man of faith. Do you really think all this is an accident -- that we, a group of strangers survived, many of us with just superficial injuries? Do you think we crashed on this place by coincidence -- especially, this place? We were brought here for a purpose, for a reason, all of us. Each one of us was brought here for a reason.

JACK: Brought here? And who brought us here, John?

LOCKE: The island. The island brought us here. This is no ordinary place, you've seen that, I know you have. But the island chose you, too, Jack. It's destiny.

JACK: Did you talk with Boone about destiny, John?

LOCKE: Boone was a sacrifice that the island demanded. What happened to him at that plane was a part of a chain of events that led us here -- that led us down a path -- that led you and me to this day, to right now.

JACK: And where does that path end, John?

LOCKE: The path ends at the hatch. The hatch, Jack -- all of it -- all of it happened so that we could open the hatch.

JACK: No, no, we're opening the hatch so that we can survive.

LOCKE: Survival is all relative, Jack. JACK: I don't believe in destiny.

LOCKE: Yes, you do. You just don't know it yet.

[Peter and Josh return to their seats.]

13. In Silence:

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

[Wait one minute. Then say: "Amen." Musicians should proceed quickly and quietly to the stage.]

14. In Music:

Why Words and Music by Annie Lennox Lyla Miklos (vocals), Rachel Derry (piano/vocals), Anne-Marie Pavlov (vocals) and Pamela Marques (vocals)

Why ... Why...

How many times do I have to try to tell you That I'm sorry for the things I've done But when I start to try to tell you That's when you have to tell me Hey... this kind of trouble's only just begun I tell myself too many times Why don't you ever learn to keep your big mouth shut That's why it hurts so bad to hear the words That keep on falling from your mouth Falling from your mouth Falling from your mouth

Tell me... Why... Why ...

I may be mad I may be blind I may be viciously unkind But I can still read what you're thinking And I've heard it said too many times That you'd be better off Besides...Why can't you see this boat is sinking (this boat is sinking this boat is sinking) Let's go down to the water's edge And we can cast away those doubts Some things are better left unsaid But they still turn me inside out Turning inside out turning inside out

Tell me... Why ... Tell me... Why ...

This is the book I never read These are the words I never said This is the path I'll never tread These are the dreams I'll dream instead This is the joy that's seldom spread These are the tears... The tears we shed This is the fear This is the dread These are the contents of my head

And these are the years that we have spent And this is what they represent And this is how I feel Do you know how I feel 'cause i don't think you know how I feel I don't think you know what I feel I don't think you know what I feel You don't know what I feel

15. Joys and Concerns:

[During the music people will be coming up to light candles and write Joys and Concerns into a book.]

[Wait for the music to end.]

MICHELE: In the spirit of community we share strength and find common purpose. At this time, we turn our minds towards 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.]

16. One Last Candle:

[Light one more candle.]

MICHELE: I light one last candle for all those joys and sorrows, which remain, in our hearts until the time comes to speak them aloud. Whatever our level of sharing, may this community be a blessing and a support to all of us.

Please join me in the unison words of support, which are printed in your Order of Service.

Let us reach out in thought and deed to all who are in need. May we open our hearts to the suffering and the celebrations of others, making a place for each of us in our human condition.

17. Reading:

MICHELE: Our reading this morning comes from the LOST episode “?”, [Note: You may want to just refer to this episode as “question mark” for oral purposes.] and will be shared by Peter and Kevin.

[Peter and Kevin come to the microphones.]

[Peter will read the dialogue assigned to Locke and Kevin the dialogue assigned to Eko.]

EKO: I believe the work you have been doing is more important now than ever.

LOCKE: What work?

EKO: Pushing the button.

LOCKE: That's not work. That's a joke -- rats in a maze with no cheese.

EKO: It is work, John. We are being tested.

LOCKE: Tested?

EKO: The reason to do it -- push the button -- is not because we are told to do so in a film.

LOCKE: Oh -- well, then what is the reason, Mr. Eko?

EKO: We do it because we believe we are meant to. Isn't that the reason you pushed it, John?

LOCKE: I was never meant to do anything. Every single second of my pathetic little life is as useless as that button! You think it's important? You think it's necessary? It's nothing. It's nothing. It's meaningless. And who are you to tell me that it's not?

EKO: This cross was worn by my brother - Yemi. Yemi was a great man, a priest, a man of God. And because I betrayed him he was shot and died. He was placed on a plane, which took off from an airstrip in Nigeria half a world from here. Then, the plane that I was on, crashed on this island. And somehow, here, I found my brother again. I found him in the same plane that took off from Nigeria. In the same plane that lies above us now -- that has concealed this place. And I took this cross from around Yemi's neck and put it back on mine, just as it was on the day I first took another man's life. So let me ask you -- how can you say this is meaningless? I believe the work being done in the hatch is more important than anything. If you will not continue to push the button, John, I will.

18. Hymn:

PETER: Please stand if you are able and let us join together in singing our second hymn, #99 from Singing the Living Tradition entitled Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen.

[Peter and Kevin return to their seats.]

#99 – Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen Words and Music: African American Spiritual Rachel Derry (piano)

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen Nobody knows my sorrow Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, Glory Hallelujah!

Sometimes I'm up Sometimes I'm down Oh, yes, Lord! Sometimes I'm almost to the ground, Oh, yes, Lord!

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen Nobody knows my sorrow Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, Glory Hallelujah!

Although you see me going 'long so, Oh, yes, Lord I have my troubles here below Oh, yes, Lord

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen Nobody knows my sorrow Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, Glory Hallelujah!

One day when I was walkin' along Oh, yes, Lord The sky opened up and love came down Oh, yes, Lord

19. Sermon:

LOST: A Television Tale of Faith and Redemption

LYLA: Why are you here?

- Some of you might say, because the sermon topic caught my interest in the Church Newsletter.
- Some of you might say, because I have a friend who's taking part in the service today and wanted to show them my support.
- Some of you might say, because I am a dedicated churchgoer and I try to never miss a church service.

Yet even after having made the decision that you wanted or needed to be here today, there are so many variables that could have kept you from being here.

- You could have come down with a nasty stomach bug and decided to stay home?
- You could have slept through your alarm?
- Your car could have broken down?

Going from the mundane to the more profound now.

- What if I had never approached the Church Services Committee about doing this sermon?
- What if my Mother and Father had never met?
- What if the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton had never been established?

A million different variables have led all of us to be in this sanctuary at this moment in time.

In the television show LOST, a diverse group of individuals end up being on the same plane flight from Sydney, Australia to Los Angeles, California. A flight that tragically ends in disaster as it explodes over the Pacific Ocean and crashes on a mysterious tropical island.

You have already been introduced to some of the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 in our readings today.

There is . . .

- Jack - a spinal surgeon who is taking his father's dead body back home for burial.
- Sun - the daughter of a Korean mob boss
- Eko - a former African Warlord who assumed his brother's identity as a Priest.
- Locke - a man who was a wheel chair bound paraplegic prior to crash landing on the island.

In total there are over 40 survivors. Including Kate, Sawyer, Sayid, Claire, Hurley, Shannon, Boone, Michael, Walt, Rose, Bernard and Ana-Lucia, just to name a few.

Every character we are introduced to carries heavy emotional baggage and guilt over causing pain, death, or destruction due to the choices they have made throughout their lives. The crash gives all of them an opportunity to reinvent themselves. The island allows them to seek forgiveness and be redeemed.

One of the most fascinating characters on the show to examine is Locke. He was paralyzed and bound to a wheelchair before crashing onto the island. Miraculously the island has somehow cured him and he can walk again. Not only can he walk, he has become a person of strength, rather than weakness. He can track and hunt and feed his fellow survivors. He has become a valuable asset to the team rather than a burden.

Although Locke has been given this undeniable gift, he still is who he is. A wounded man who has always been seeking the acceptance of the father who rejected him. A lonely and easily manipulated man who has always longed to belong and needs a sense of importance.

Locke often butts heads with Jack over the big questions surrounding the island, the crash and the survivors. Having his mobility restored has given Locke a new sense of purpose. Locke insists that all of these elements came together for a deeper reason that is yet to be revealed. Jack believes that the crash didn't occur for any kind of deeper reason. It just happened.

The show LOST and more specifically the characters of Locke and Jack embody the debate between Faith and Science. Why are we here? What is the meaning of life? Do our lives have a purpose?

- Some believe we are here to enjoy and experience life to its fullest.
- Some believe we are here to love, help or serve others.
- Some believe life is a mystery.
- Some believe life is meaningless.
- Some believe our purpose in life is to serve or worship a God or prepare for the next life.

- Some believe life is a struggle.
- Some believe our purpose in life is to contribute to something that is greater than ourselves.
- Some believe our purpose in life is to become self-actualized.
- Some believe we create our own meaning.
- Some believe that life is an absurd joke.

Even if you don't believe in a supreme being, you do believe in something. Something motivates you to get out of bed in the morning face another day and do something with your life.

As poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote:

A person will worship something – have no doubt about that.

We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts – but it will out.

That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and character.

Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming.

As Unitarians we advocate for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. In LOST characters are also trying to find truth and meaning in the absurd reality they now find themselves in. But again we as Unitarians stress that our search must be a responsible one.

The more Locke is convinced that the island itself is something he must worship and obey; the more he isolates himself from his fellow crash survivors. He believes in his truth so strongly he is unwilling to consider any other possible explanation. He is so wrapped up in his absolute truth he cannot empathize with anyone else's feelings or understand anyone else's point of view.

I was raised as a child in a religious faith that referred to their belief system as The Truth. That's Truth with a capital T. I have found that it's very dangerous to believe that you have all the answers and you have nothing to learn from anyone or anything else. It gives you an arrogant sense of superiority.

Locke's unquestionable belief that he is right sadly causes him to act in the most unforgivable of ways. He takes a life and his justification for doing it is that he believes he knows the Truth and must defend it.

Capital T truth or absolute truth can rear its ugly head in many forms. Fanaticism does not necessarily have to be religious to be extreme or intractable.

In a recent issue of Vanity Fair Magazine movie actor and activist Brad Pitt interviewed South African Spiritual Leader The Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Here is some of that interview:

Brad Pitt: What is it about the great religions? Why can't the great religions play well with each other? What are they defending? I'll tell you my interpretation: it signifies a lack of faith to always be threatened and always to have to prove your way is the best. It seems again to be antithetical to the teachings of the individual religion.

Desmond Tutu: Yes, I think you are quite right, that what you are actually saying is it's not the religions that have a problem. Because the religion DOES produce wonderful people . . . Let's take Buddhism. It

has produced the Dali Lama. Hinduism – it has produced Mahatma Gandhi. Christianity produces say, a Mother Teresa, a Martin Luther King Jr. So you see. But how can a thing produce good in one case, and then it produces bad? Because look at the Ku Klux Klan. The Ku Klux Klan claimed to be Christian. And look at the ghastly things they do in the name of religion. You look at what they are doing, say, in Northern Ireland. Then you have to say, no, it isn't in any way a faith, a religion. Because no religion has ever sanctioned murder. No religion has sanctioned the oppression of another.

As Unitarians we also advocate for acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. In this house of worship we welcome and accept Christians, Atheists, Pagans, Buddhists, Agnostics, Humanists and the list goes on.

In LOST the survivors of the crash come from all walks of life, economic status, race, religion, sex, age and culture. Sometimes their differences cause them to clash, but other times they are able to look past their differences and find solace in their commonalities. Finding a common purpose when our theologies, ideologies and philosophies are so diverse and even more frustratingly completely contradictory is a challenge we wrestle with not only in this church community, but in our everyday lives. Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan said, "The idea that there is one people in possession of the truth, one answer to the world's ills, or one solution to humanity's needs, has done untold harm throughout history — especially in the last century. Each of us has the right to take pride in our particular faith or heritage. But the notion that what is ours is necessarily in conflict with what is theirs is both false and dangerous. It has resulted in endless enmity and conflict, leading men to commit the greatest of crimes in the name of a higher power. It need not be so. We can love what we are, without hating what — and who — we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings." I remember as a child getting into some deep theological debates with my Mother, a devout Jehovah's Witness. I would ask her if God is good and perfect how could he create Satan who is the embodiment of evil? And if God knows all why would he create Adam and Eve knowing that they would disobey him?

My mother's very patient answers to these kinds of questions were somewhat similar to a discussion that came up on a recent episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show. A man was angry with God and decided to take out his anger on his wife by having an affair with her best friend. His life was filled with disappointment and failure and despite praying to God and asking for help his downward spiral was not ending. Oprah told the man he needed to reassess his relationship with God. She stated that God gives us free will and does not neatly lie out all the answers before us like breadcrumbs. We have to find them from within.

My mother used to tell me that God didn't create us to be robots that obeyed his every command, but created us to think for ourselves and to have the power to make our own decisions.

It is interesting that Eve and then Adam choose to eat from the Tree of Knowledge before being cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Physicist Stephen Hawking, once said, "If we find an answer to why we and the universe exist, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason—for then we would know the mind of God."

Whenever I attend a science fiction convention and am a part of a panel discussion regarding LOST the first topic the panelists and the audience want to discuss and unravel is what is the central mystery behind the series. What is the final end game the creators of LOST have planned? I often frustrate my fellow panelists with my lack of wanting to know the answers to the big picture questions of the show. For me the show is about the quest for redemption every character is on, not unraveling the scientific and supernatural mysteries of the island. It is about the journey, not the destination.

There is a very funny video on You Tube that gives an alternate ending to the epic fantasy series The Lord of The Rings. Instead of three volumes of books by JRR Tolkien or over twelve hours of film by Peter

Jackson the crudely animated clip ends in less two minutes with Frodo and Gandalf riding on a giant Eagle and casting the ring into the Fires of Mount Doom.

For anyone who has ever read the books or watched the films I'm sure you are all having a little chuckle imagining that scenario. But the journey Frodo goes on throughout The Lord of The Rings tests his strength, courage and commitment. He comes out of the journey a far better and wiser Hobbit than when he started. An easy solution to his dilemma would not have forged the stronger individual he became.

I have been drawn to the show LOST since it first premiered on television back in September 2004 because at the centre of the show is a very spiritual core. The show asks us that question humanity has been asking forever - why are we here? And whenever the show peels away a layer of the answer to this question, it inevitably leads to at least half a dozen new questions.

Writer Leo Tolstoy in his novel Anna Karenina laments, "Without knowing what I am and why I am here, life is impossible."

Astronomer Carl Sagan's reply to that cry for answers is as follows, "I think if we ever reach the point where we think we thoroughly understand who we are and where we came from, we will have failed. I think this search does not lead to a complacent satisfaction that we know the answer, nor an arrogant sense that the answer is before us and we need do only one more experiment to find it out. It goes with a courageous intent, to greet the universe as it really is, not to foist our emotional predispositions on it, but to courageously accept what our explorations tell us." The final principle we promote as Unitarians is respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

As the television show LOST progresses we discover that the lives of all the characters in the show have been inexplicably linked. They have all somehow directly or indirectly affected one another's life journey. Unbeknownst to most of them, decisions they have made throughout their lives have impacted their fellow crash survivors long before they met them on the island and may have inadvertently resulted in all of them coming together.

I'm sure most of you have seen the Frank Capra movie; IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, starring James Stewart as George Bailey. In the film George becomes extremely depressed and suicidal and he wishes he had never been born. A Guardian Angel named Clarence is sent to protect him in his hour of need and grants him his wish. George soon discovers that all the kind and compassionate deeds he has done throughout his life have helped his small community and his family flourish and thrive. If he had never existed people, places, and events would have been dramatically different. As insignificant as we may sometimes feel when we compare ourselves to the vast cosmos of the galaxy, the significance of our actions on the small little world we embody every day is very profound.

George like most classic heroes is powerful not through might or malice. He is powerful because every action he takes is done from a place of love. Famous fictional heroes, like George Bailey, always win in the end because they don't succumb to hate, but embrace love.

In the world of LOST, things always go haywire when characters abandon love.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Whether humanity will consciously follow the law of love, I do not know. But that need not disturb me. The law will work just as the law of gravitation works, whether we accept it or not. The person who discovered the law of love was a far greater scientist than any of our modern scientists. Only our explorations have not gone far enough and so it is not possible for everyone to see all its workings. When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall - think of it, always."

So again, I ask, why are you here?

The answer to that question is yours to discover. We are always students. Always learning. And what I have learned is that I gain more insight when I am wrong than when I am right and that right and truth are not one and the same.

The journey we as seekers of truth all take must always be tempered with love. To find redemption we must first start with forgiving ourselves. For we are all mired in a beautiful tapestry of imperfections.

Our lives have meaning because we give them purpose with every choice we make. Choices that impact everyone and everything we are connected to.

20. Closing Hymn:

LYLA: For our closing hymn we shall sing hymn #131 from Singing the Living Tradition entitled Love Will Guide Us. Please stand if you are able.

#131 – Love Will Guide Us Words: Sally Rogers, Music: Traditional (arr. by Betty A. Wylder) Rachel Derry (piano)

Love will guide us, peace has tried us, Hope inside us will lead the way. On the road from greed to giving. Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels, If you cannot speak before thousands, You can give from deep within you. You can change the world with your love.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us, Hope inside us will lead the way. On the road from greed to giving. Love will guide us through the hard night.

21. Closing Words:

MICHELE: Please be seated for our Closing Words, our Postlude and Benediction. Josh and Peter will share our closing words. Our closings words are a conversation between Jack and his father Christian from the LOST episode "Man of Science, Man of Faith".

[Josh and Peter come to the microphones.]

[Peter will read the dialogue assigned to Christian and Josh the dialogue assigned to Jack.]

CHRISTIAN SHEPARD: Dr. Shepard, may I have a word, please.

JACK: So, what did I do wrong?

CHRISTIAN SHEPARD: You did something wrong?

JACK: You're frowning.

CHRISTIAN SHEPARD: My face is always this way.

JACK: Dad, hey, c'mon, let's hear it.

CHRISTIAN SHEPARD: You might want to try handing out some hope every once in awhile. Even if there's a 99 percent possibility that they're utterly, hopelessly screwed, folks are much more inclined to hear that 1 percent chance that things are going to be okay.

JACK: Her spine's crushed. I tell her that everything's going to be okay -- that's false hope, dad.

CHRISTIAN SHEPARD: Maybe. Maybe, but it's still hope.

[Peter and Josh return to their seats.]

22. Postlude:

MICHELE: We will now bring our minds and hearts into focus and reflect on today's words and music while we enjoy our Postlude.

One Words and Music by U2 Lyla Miklos (vocals), Anne-Marie Pavlov (guitar/vocals), Rachel Derry (piano/vocals), and Pamela Marques (percussion/vocals)

Is it getting better? Or do you feel the same? Will it make it easier on you now? You got someone to blame You say

One love One life When it's one need In the night One love We get to share it Leaves you baby if you Don't care for it Did I disappoint you? Or leave a bad taste in your mouth? You act like you never had love And you want me to go without Well it's

Too late Tonight To drag the past out into the light We're one, but we're not the same We get to Carry each other Carry each other One

Have you come here for forgiveness? Have you come to raise the dead? Have you come here to play Jesus? To the lepers in your head Did I ask too much? More than a lot. You gave me nothing, Now it's all I got We're one But we're not the same Well we Hurt each other Then we do it again

You say Love is a temple Love a higher law Love is a temple Love the higher law You ask me to enter But then you make me crawl And I can't be holding on To what you got When all you got is hurt

One love One blood One life You got to do what you should One life With each other Sisters, Brothers One life But we're not the same We get to Carry each other Carry each other

One One

[All musicians remain on the stage until the Benediction is read and the chalice is extinguished.]

23. Benediction:

[Jeffrey and Kevin position themselves behind the chalice and Sonja goes to the podium and reads the dialogue assigned to Locke.]

SONJA: Everyone gets a new life on this island. Maybe it's time you start yours.

24:Chalice Extinguished:

[Jeffrey and Kevin extinguish the chalice.]

[Everyone returns to their seats.]

25. Refreshments & Conversation