

A Great Show
Thursday, March 11, 2010

Recently our church hosted a Java Notes, Concert for a Better Community (www.javanotes.org). This is a terrific ministry of our Outreach Committee that is helping us to raise funds for our partnership with Dane County Habitat for Humanity. The concert last Friday was one of my favorite artists from this series, Krista Detor (www.kristadetor.com).

Krista and her entourage do a terrific show. It is honest. It is earthy (I like earthy). It is real. Her sound is engaging. And she has a great sense of humor.

During the second half of the show, she shared music from the Darwin Song Project. She was one of several folk artists that had been invited to Shrewsbury England to write songs celebrating Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday and then perform them live at the Shrewsbury Folk Festival at the end of the week.

Not only were the songs performed well, it was touching to hear more about Charles Darwin's life. In this honest portrayal of his life, we heard about how he lived. Not only his commitment to excellence, but also of his commitment to his wife and children. We heard of the sadness he lived with after the death of a child. We heard of his struggle with organized religion and the constraints that it sometimes places upon people.

As I listened to the music and the presentation, I found my mind wandering about faith and the (what I consider unfortunate) tenuous relationship with science that has ensued since Charles Darwin's discoveries and writings. For better or worse, the church is made up of people like you and me. We can often live out of a sense of grace, accepting the gifts God gives to us and others. Or we can often live out of a sense of fear, which prompts us to be defensive and negative over new thoughts and ideas. Too much of this tenuous relationship between science and religion has remained within the realm of fear and defense.

The song that sealed the deal for me, was the last one Krista performed, titled, *You May Stand Mute*. The chorus repeats most of a line that Darwin once said ". . . but what an utter desert is life without love." As that song has traveled around in my mind now for almost a week, I have been struck by the teachings of our faith, that remind us that God calls us to live a life of love. It is a life of love toward God, and a life of love toward our fellow humans and for all of creation.

One of my commitments this week is to live out of that sense of love and grace, accepting the gifts God is giving to me and to others. What about you? What direction are you seeking to live your life today?

Thank you Krista, for making me think. Thank you, Krista, for a terrific performance. Thank you, Krista, for reminding me of God and God's surprising love.

In the hope Jesus offers us,
Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and passionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.