



*Sunday School
Opening*

Brother Jon Hardinger

2025.9.7



1. I've found the pearl of greatest price: My heart doth sing for joy!



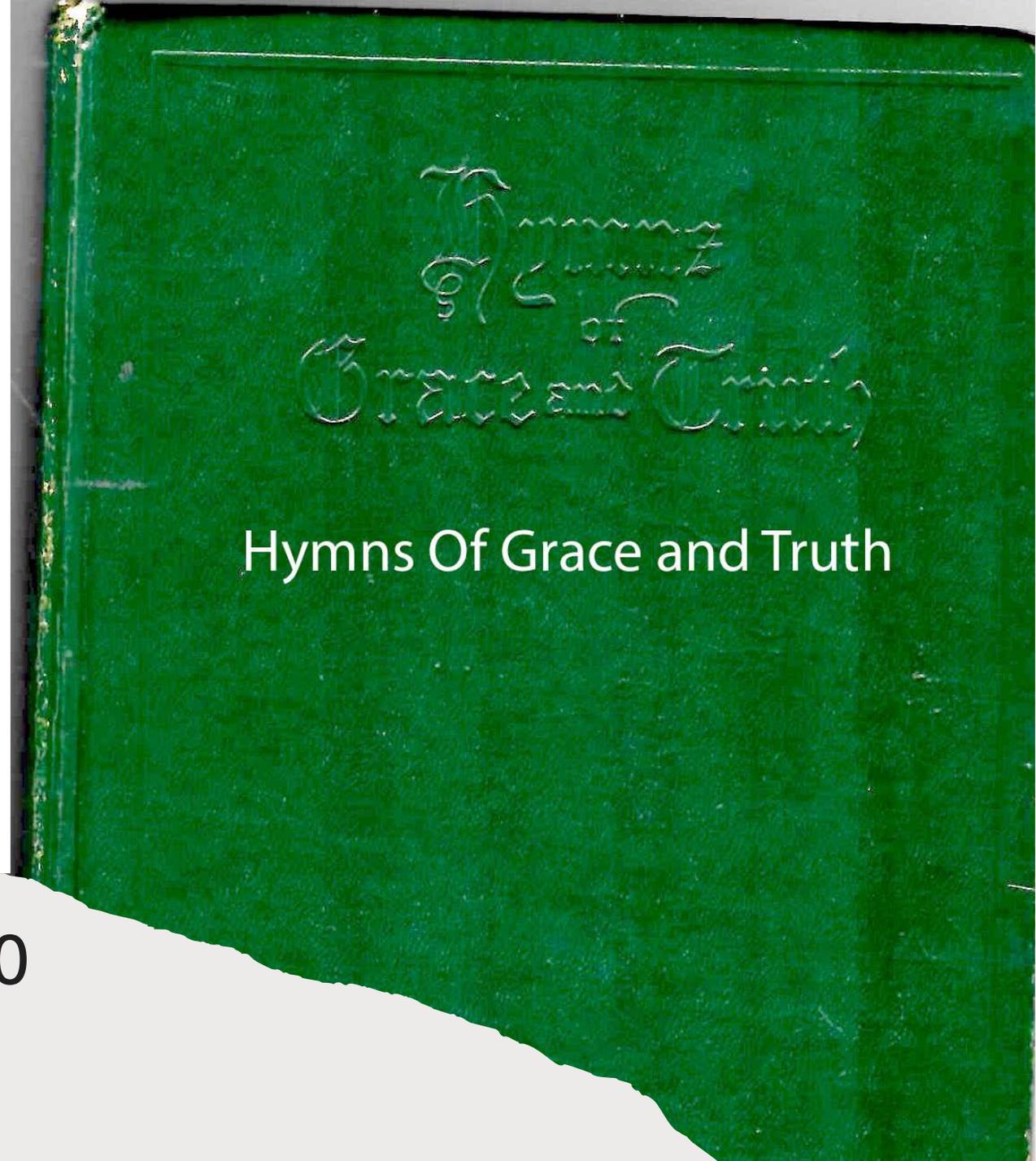
And sing I must, for Christ is mine—Christ shall my song employ!



2 Christ is my peace: He died for me, For me He gave His blood; He as my wondrous Sacrifice Offered Himself to God.	3 Christ is my Prophet, Priest and King: My Prophet full of light, My great High Priest before the throne, My King of grace and might!
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4 Christ Jesus is my All in all,
My comfort and my love,
My life below, and He shall be
My joy and crown above!

K. Me...



Hymns Of Grace and Truth

Hymns of Grace and Truth #80

Memorable pearl Moments

Sister Marjorie Scheidecker's pearl beads.

My mother, Rowena, told me about her Majorca pearls that her mother gave to her, and they were recently misplaced and found again.

- <https://www.majorica.com/en/blogs/majorica-universe/how-majorica-pearls-are-created>

We saw pearls being commercially grown by oysters in the sea by Croatia.

We bought a black pearl for Jay's wife in Hawaii.

The pearl is found in the Bible about ten times.



You all are familiar with the “Matchless Pearl” tract, let me review it for you. Here, the work in the soul, begins with his own punishing pilgrimage, and departing on it, gives this pearl to the missionary.

“As the diver spoke, his eyes were wet with tears. “Now I must tell you, for soon I will leave, and who knows whether I shall ever return? My son was a diver, too—the best pearl diver on the coasts of India. He had the swiftest dive, the keenest eye, the strongest arm, the longest breath of any man who sought for pearls. What joy he brought to me! He always dreamed of finding a pearl beyond all others. One day he found it, but in his desire to get it, he stayed under too long. He lost his life soon after. All these years I have kept the pearl, but now, my friend, I am giving it to you.” The old man, shaking with emotion, worked the lock on the strongbox and drew from it a carefully wrapped package. Gently folding back the cloths, he picked up a mammoth pearl and placed it in the hand of the missionary. It was one of the largest pearls ever found off the coast of India, and it glowed with a luster and brilliance Morse had never seen. It would have brought a fabulous sum in any market.”

Continuing, the Missionary said:

“God is offering salvation to you as a free gift. It is so great and priceless that no man on earth could buy it—millions of dollars are too little. No man can earn it—in a thousand pilgrimages you could not earn it. It cost God the life-blood of His only Son to make the entrance for you into heaven. All you can do is accept it as a token of God’s love for you, a sinner.”

“The event in this man’s life became too priceless to be bought or earned.”

How about the work in your own soul? The work in my soul?

This account illustrates the preparation of that anxious soul, determined in his own work, and because of his previous experience of losing his son, finally he relates to God giving His only Son and receiving the gift.

That work here emphasizes the price to be paid to get that pearl but because his son gave his life, it was an insult to say it was a commodity to be sold, a useful object of gain, and to his own self-imposed pilgrimage.

Suddenly the world's ways fall into place, as the quality and character shines brighter than the object. Job 28:18 “ acquisition of wisdom above pearls.:

Ya, know that Oyster also did not regard that pearl as a useful tool or commodity, it was only of value to another seeking treasures. Co Pilot said it was a testament to resilience not utility.

1 Corinthians 7:31 “those who use this world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.”

Matthew 13:45- 46 NASB 95

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

All church members are in the kingdom but not all in the kingdom are in the church.

MacDonald's Commentary says that just as the oyster – through irritation and suffering likewise “Christ's suffering (also) did **form** the church”

I took note that use of the word “form.”

McGilchrist writes of this too and in the making, is either a form, or a structure. For this presentation, I would say that the form is God's work, and structures are mankind's.

When I see the root word form in the Bible, I think of God's work. Galatians 4:19 “I am in labor until Christ is **formed** in you”

Romans 8:29, 12:2, Genesis 2:7 “Lord God **formed** man”

Colossians 2:9 “fulness of Deity dwells in bodily **form**”

(Form is shape, fashion, contour, beauty, figure)
(Structure is building, order)

“The root Latin word Structure is ‘Struere’ and implies construction and putting an edifice together by parts.” Iain McGilchrist.

“The word form (is ‘forma’,) on the other hand, there are no such implications, and refers to the overall shape, or Gestalt. Something that can be constantly changing, in order to stay the same.” Iain McGilchrist

2 Peter 3:5 “by the Word of God the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was **formed** out of water and by water.”

Forms include vortices, fractals, spirals, circles, and observed by golden proportions and Fibonacci formulas.

Asymmetry is in natural forms, symmetry in structure.

We understand how the pearl is both beautiful and costs a lot to acquire.

The missionary's pearl diving friend's heart was enlightened, elevating the value of a precious pearl, gotten through sacrifice, beyond any monetary value. This helps the pearl diver "see" that God's gift of His only Son is a price beyond what he can pay.

Let's also consider that Christ's work is forming the church. That symphony spoken of in Ephesians 2:10 as workmanship, then I want to bring out the uselessness of the pearl to the Oyster.

One pattern of our thinking is about usefulness and whether something has value. But, let me echo what CoPilot said, that the Oyster is not using the pearl, certainly it cannot sell it either. But the oyster is demonstrating the truth in ways that show godlike ways of salvation.

If it is not utility, what can we discover? CoPilot said, "resilience"

Romans 5:3-8 "proven character"

Romans 5:3-7 NASB 95

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.”

(The diver's son died)

Adam's race was given the charge to name the creatures, Genesis 2:20, and this God given charge is in us as well, as we categorize, name all that is in our grasp. (hold on to that thought) And can obscure seeing by faith. "What was that thing? That thing really bothers me! That "Named" something reduces it to our own terms of complaints and grievances. We can name ourselves into a corner, walk our own plank to our own loss.

Rather see like the oyster who continues along with the irritation.

Read with me " Three times I implored the Lord, that it might leave me and He said to me "My grace is sufficient for you"
2 Corinthians 12:8-9.

(But we as members of Adam's race are called to not just to name things in our creation, which came up short until God intervened and fashioned Eve, today we come up short until we confess that Name. And who would that be?)

The Opening Hymn brings out the Name(s) of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that works in our souls. "Christ is mine, Christ is my peace, Christ is my Prophet, Priest, and King, Christ is my All in all."
Romans 10:9 "confess Jesus is Lord."

The other hand pattern, then is not to figure it out, and logically fix the problem, but to allow the Spirit of God to natural ways of the figure of an oyster, who's given the grace to make a pearl out of the irritation.

Read with me the verse describing the New Jerusalem, the Holy City found in Revelation 21:21 "And the twelve gates, were twelve pearls, each one of the gates was a single pearl."

Do you and I get the truths carried along with this long purpose of God to church- pearls to display in glory?

Also, the Pearl of great price. The Lord purposed in glory to go and redeem a people of His own possession, and this is broad to the kingdom, but also to His bride the church.

Again, to say another way, in Adam's race, his God given charge to name the creatures, and have dominion, I believe the charge for Adam's race in the day of grace is to see the Name of Jesus, and to confess the name of Jesus.

Philippians 2:9, 10 "that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess"

James answered to the council at Jerusalem "Brethren, listen to me, Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself with about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His Name." Acts 15:14

If you wear pearls, or see someone wearing pearls, then think of these truths

Christ the Merchant seeing a pearl of great value gave all He had for it.

We can grow along with irritations.

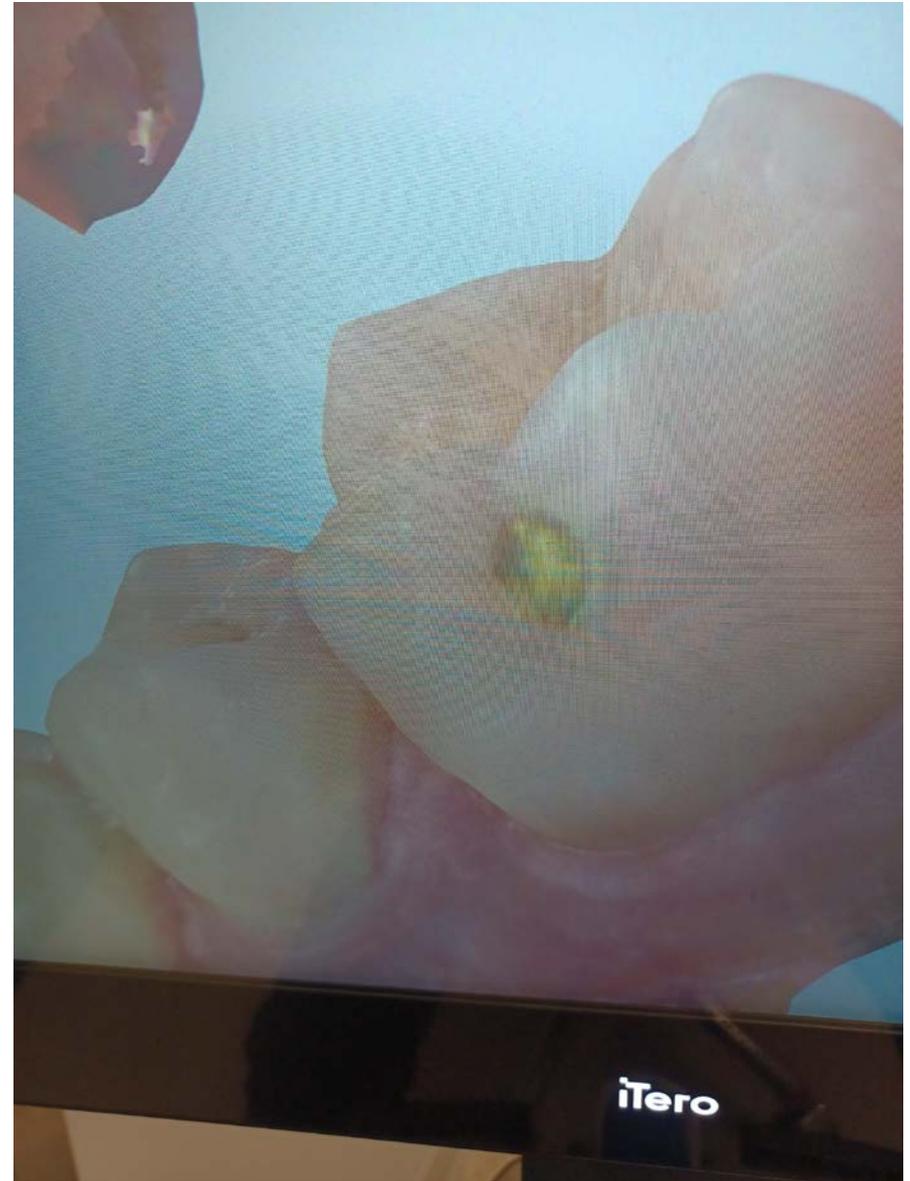
We must name that name of Christ. To name Christ is to confess His name and that a work in the soul. Let this work in your soul to see what the natural man cannot see.

We are members of His church and His heavenly Kingdom.

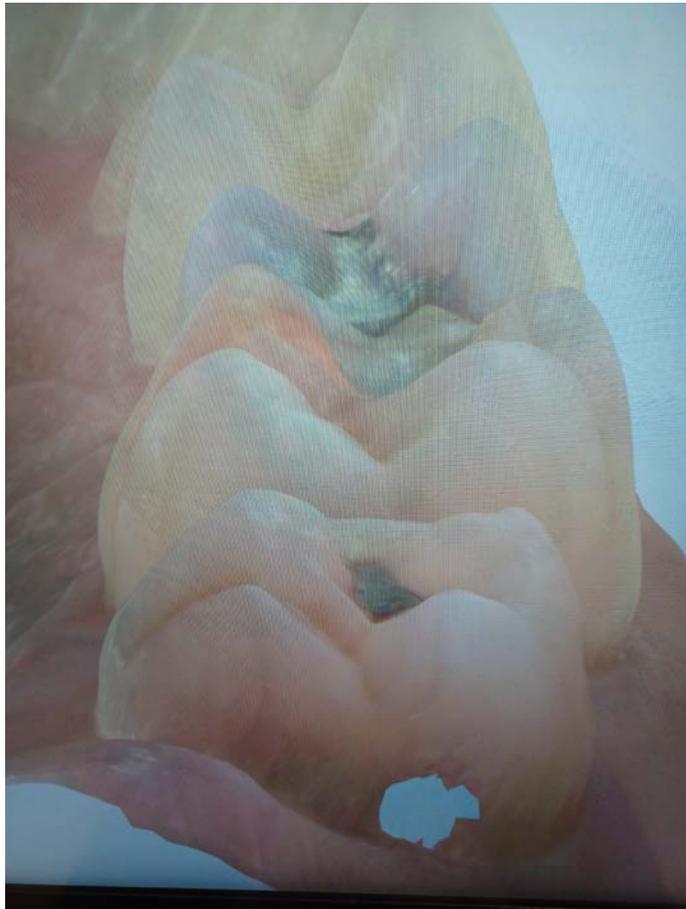
Those gates in heaven are set with pearls.

Jon: "When your structures are broken, look to being formed."

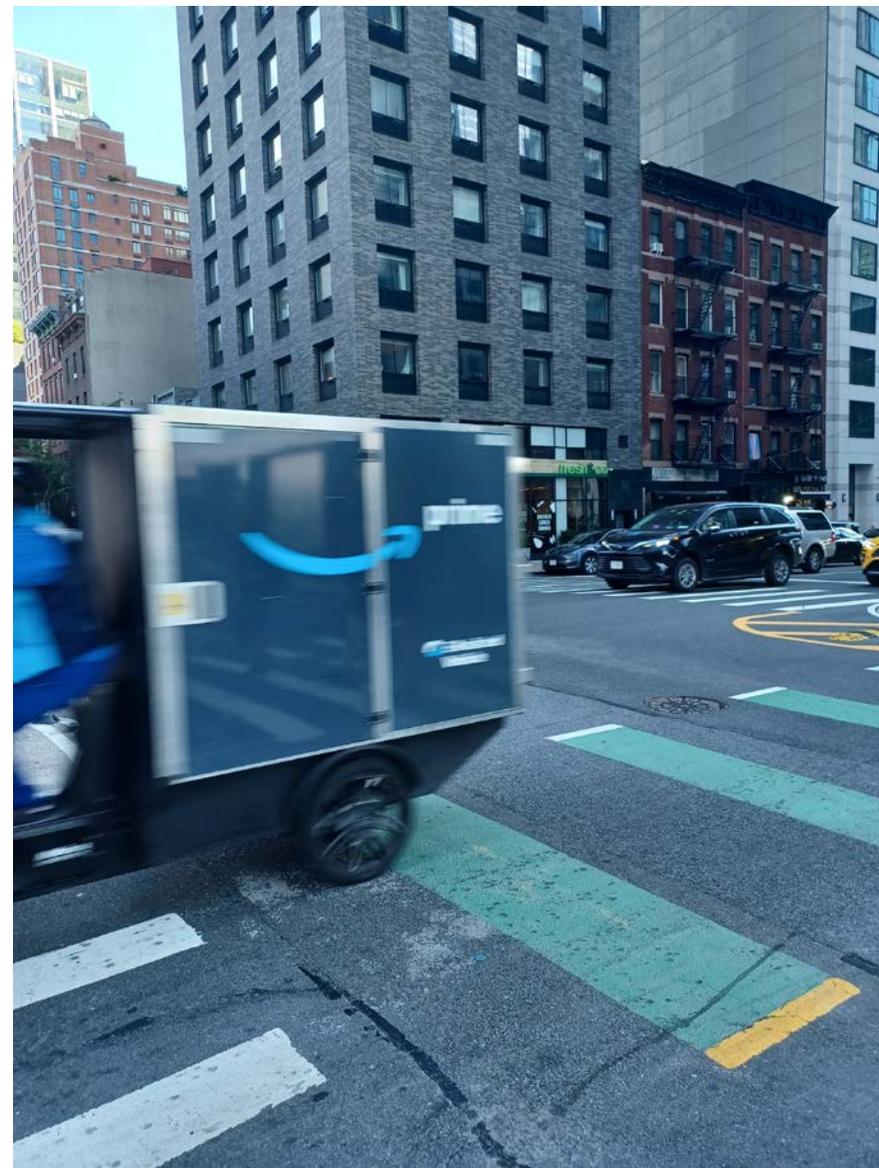
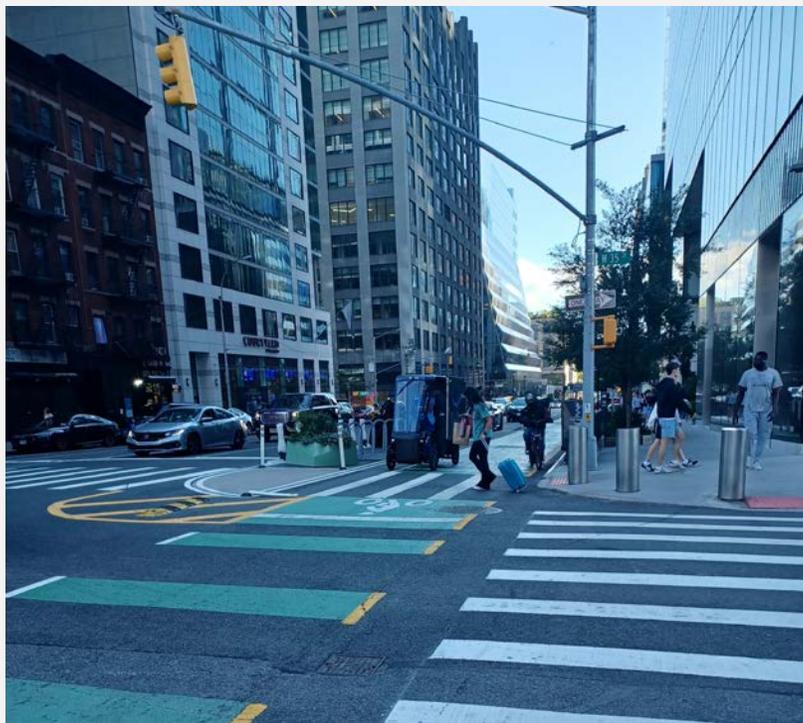
Forms and structure
in one image
Brother Steve did this
gold foil in 1977-79



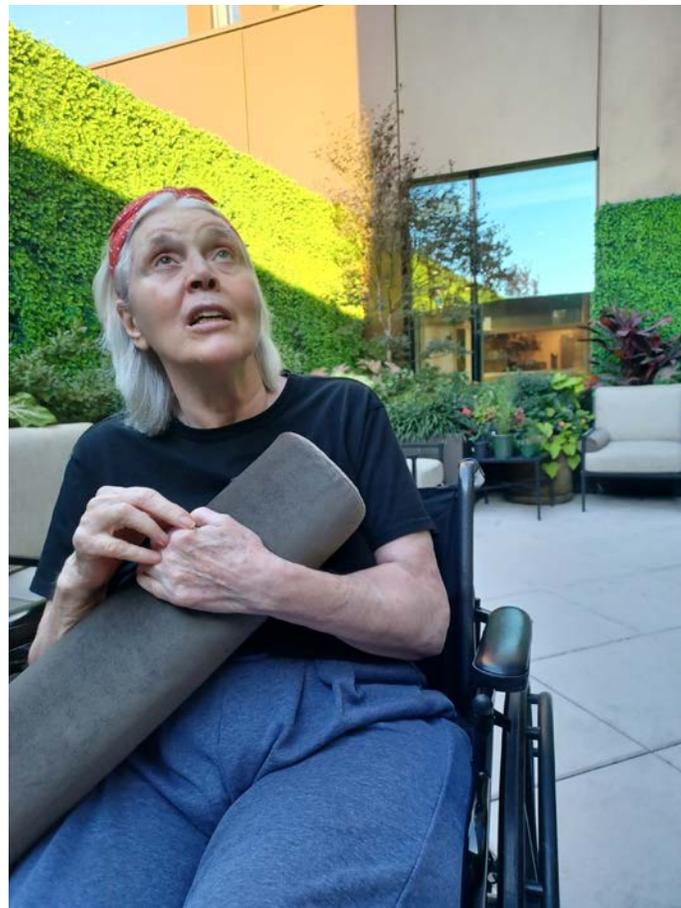
Forms, figures, fashions, contour and beauty



Obvious Structures



Looking Up



Beaming
Sunrise at
Cedar Falls
during
Conference
Looking up
helps us to
beam too.



*Walking with
Joanne
together we
“beheld” this
sunset in our
neighborhood*

