

Diversity is Delight  
A Reflection for Unity Sunday 2025  
by Shelly Davis

DIVERSITY is DELIGHT,  
and *unity* in diversity is WONDER.

Imagine, if you can:

- a world with only one kind of bird,
- a garden with only one kind of flower,
- a perpetually cloudless sky,
- a human body simply made up of arms,
- a library stocked with thousands and thousands of copies of *one single book*,
- a wardrobe of multiple pieces of clothing—all the same color

Now, imagine, if you will:

- a world with more than 10,000 species of birds,
- a garden exploding with the color and shapes of many kinds of wildflowers,
- a sky that can host a diversity of cloud types, shifting and changing into an infinite array of shapes and sizes,
- a human body with arms and legs, a torso, neck, head, hands, feet,
- a library stocked with thousands and thousands of novels and histories and mysteries and poetry collections and books of art and music and children's stories
- a wardrobe that includes splashes of color for any given day or mood and more than one "coat of many colors"

I DELIGHT

believing in, seeing, exploring, creating, nourishing,  
living in, and celebrating DIVERSITY.

And I DELIGHT

as I behold the possibility of a creative, generative  
life force—a “Creator,”—who has, does and is *still*  
creating a stunningly diverse creation all around,  
within, and *among us*.

That diversity *among us*—

when held and even hallowed—

seen as holy and whole—

because of, rather than despite,

our distinctiveness and particularity—

by another name, *unity*—is,

I believe, in so many ways,

- gift,
- struggle, and
- wonder.

I believe Unity in Diversity is *gift*:

- when we open ourselves—spirit, mind and body—  
to life and spirit that playfully and continually defies  
categorization, classification, encapsulation
- when we open our eyes anew or for the first time  
on the Red Line or commuter train or reading  
a Bible story we’ve read many, many times before

I believe Unity in Diversity is *struggle*:

- when fear and scarcity shape the narrative of difference,
- when we close ourselves off in gated communities
- when we prioritize independence above interdependence

I believe Unity in Diversity is *good* struggle and “*good trouble*” when we:

- build bridges and create covenants and
- forge alliances and reach across aisles of ALL kinds in hope for a better, more human, more sacred way

I believe Unity in Diversity is *wonder*:

- when I take the time to be with—*really be with*—our two feline housemates
  - they’re both cats
  - littermates, to be precise
  - now four years old—still plenty playful, yet more cuddly and less rambunctious
  - Vienna and Finzel are their names—thank you for asking . . .
  - and they are so wonderfully *different*
    - different coats and colors
    - different temperaments and meows
    - different eating habits
      - one we call “Hoover,” as in vacuuming it all up, and
      - one we simply protect from her sister while she takes her sweet time relishing *every—single—bite* . . .

- occasionally—when neither one of them thinks we’ve noticed them—they actually curl up *together* for a nap or a mutual grooming session
- I believe Unity in Diversity is wonder even like two of your favorite critters curling up together for an afternoon snooze . . .

DIVERSITY is DELIGHT,  
and *unity* in diversity is WONDER.

And what are DELIGHT and WONDER,  
if not elements of JOY?

And, thanks be to God, JOY is fruit and gift of the Spirit  
not for one, but for ALL—even you and even me.

May it *be*, and may we *make it*, so.

Amen and Amen.