The State of a City's Union
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By Vijaya Sundaram

What is the State of a City
In a world where disunion abounds
And the sounds of argument and anger
And dissonance crowd around?

What should we celebrate
Before it is too late?

Our neighbors, our brothers and sisters
Our mother and fathers, our friends,
Grandparents, and folks of different colors,
Our schools and parks, our woods and playgrounds,
Our industry, our art, our commerce,
Our protectors – firefighters, police folk, and officials,
All part of a tapestry that makes us Medford,
The Middle Ground where we can walk across
And greet each other in welcome.

What do we celebrate in this fair city
Where people from around the world
Live, love, learn, and toil together
In good and bad weather?
Hoping to lead an unspoiled life,
Unsoiled by greed and rage, we
Remember the words:
"Into ploughshares beat their swords
Nations shall have war no more."

Hope and charity are our calling,
And Love – the greatest of all –
With Peace comes bearing
A flag of many colors:
(Fairness, justice, equality,
Love, acceptance, hope.)

Let's celebrate community and unity
Rejoice in our difference, reject indifference
Open our hearts to beauty and joy, let
Hope into the broken hearts of
Those left behind, or cast aside.

Build strength and resilience
As a city, grow in brilliance!

Let us be open to goodness and hope
To invite all into a world of greater scope
Full of wonder and richness:
Our emerald parks, our shining ponds,
Our tranquil Fells, a panacea which
Alleviates the daily storms
Of traffic abd bad news, and strife
In lives filled with stress
And deafening dissonance.

This is our City, and together
We shall make it beautiful,
We will raise a shout of cheer,
Lift the cup of unity, and drink deep.

The outer world, rife with chaos, awaits,
But we – circles expanding outward –
We will send out our ripples,
Disrupt hatred, disrupt distrust,
Through community and unity grow
An immunity against hatred
And invite in the songs of joy.

This is how we celebrate
The state of the city:
Create a communion of fellowship,
Sisterhood and brotherhood,
Personhood, and human good.
And sing our song of peace.