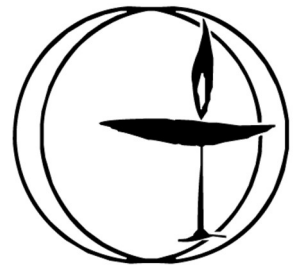


Chalice Circle February 2024

Theme: Curiously



Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

Light of Our Creative Spirits -- Tracy Johnson

We light our chalice today

- light of our Creative Spirits
- light of our Wise Souls
- light of our Wondering and Curious Minds
- light of Love for this place, this people, this work

Illuminate our hearts and the spaces between them in this Sacred Time of unfolding.

Song/YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/ZHo4iCkoVvY>

“Wonderful Life” by Zendaya, soundtrack of Disney’s film Smallfoot (lyrics on last page)

Reading 1

I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift should be curiosity. -- Eleanor Roosevelt

Check-in: Without crosstalk or interruption, briefly describe where you are in your life now, and notice what needs to be shared to be fully present in our circle.

Reading 2

The Importance Of Being Curious -- Dalia Molokhia

I knew the day would come when my children would learn to talk and inevitably start asking those much-anticipated questions. The questions themselves didn’t worry me. I was actually looking forward to seeing where their curiosity would lie.

What was bothering me was whether or not I would know the answers. In the age of the smartphone, this may seem like a silly worry. Surely, the answers to almost everything would be just one Google away.

Still, I struggled with how I was going to prepare to become an all-knowing parent. Then one day it struck me: I didn’t need to have all the answers. What a great example I could set if I let my kids know that I, too, am still learning. And I realized how much more I could learn if I took another look at things I thought I already knew the answer to with the curiosity of a child. A child’s mind is a beginner’s mind – curious, open to new ideas, eager to learn, and not based on preconceived notions or prior knowledge.

I decided that I would approach questions with a beginner’s mind, too.

Curious about curiosity, I searched for answers, and found frequent references to Albert Einstein’s famous words, “I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious. The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence.”

Questions to Consider

1. Do you think curiosity is always a good thing? Was there a time your curiosity got you in trouble?
2. What would it mean for you to use a beginner's mind?
3. What are you curious about? How do you close the gap between what you know and what you want to know? Who are some people you enjoy talking with about things you want to better understand?
4. What are some questions you have but that you're comfortable NOT having answers for?

Sitting in Silence: We will sit in silence for 3-5 minutes. Take this time to reflect on the readings, questions, and theme. Center yourself and consider what you want to share with the group.

Sharing/Deep Listening: Please listen attentively to others then share your own experiences and thoughts on the topic/readings without crosstalk or interruption.

Additional Thoughts/Crosstalk: After listening to others, what questions or additional thoughts do you want to share?

Reading 3

We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths. -- Walt Disney

Checkout: What is one thing you're taking with you from tonight's discussion? How can your fellow circle members support you until we meet again?

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice

All That We Do Not Know -- Susan L Suchocki

Day by day, month by month, year by year we are confronted with all that we do not know, that we do not understand, that we do not grasp.

Sometimes we are humbled by this knowledge and say: God, it is too wonderful for me to comprehend but I know this universe is more grand and more beautiful than I ever could have imagined, and I give thanks for the blessing of being here and seeing, hearing, experiencing, and sensing all that is so wonderful around and in me.

Sometimes we are saddened by this knowledge and say: O merciful spirit, we need to have the burden of hurt and suffering removed from us. Grant us the courage, the wisdom and fortitude to bear the pain of living. Send us those who will carry our burdens for a short while and send us those who will comfort us with their healing words and thoughts.

Sometimes we are angered by this knowledge and say: In the name of justice and compassion—if it be in our power—give us the strength and ability to right the wrongs, for we do not nor does any person in the world deserve this.

Sometimes we are made joyous by this knowledge, and we say: Spirit of life who blesses our world, we rejoice and cheer for our glorious life.

Sometimes we are made curious by this knowledge and say: Holy and inexplicable is this life—I have no idea what happened or how it happened but somehow, someway, something changed, and I am free to explore new ways of being. Please always let me continue to search for the unknown in myself and others.

"Wonderful Life" (Lyrics)

Take a look around
And see the world we think we know
Then look closer
There's more to life than meets the eye
A beauty to behold
It's all much bigger than we know
It's only just beginning to unfold
So let it all unfold

[Chorus]

Far beyond all reason in your mind
There's a world mysterious
There for you to find
All these questions
That we always have
All we are is curious
There's nothing wrong with that
So go 'round every corner
Search every part of the sky
'Cause a life that's full of wonder
Is a wonderful life

Dig beneath the surface
Find the lessons there to learn
And then dig deeper
Feed your intuition
Don't leave any stone unturned
Be the seeker of the truth
Listen when you hear it calling you
You know it's calling you

(repeat Chorus)