

## 2024 May Chalice Circle: Hopefully

**Opening Words and Chalice Lighting** We gather in this most hopeful of seasons, to listen, to share, and to be renewed.

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

### Song

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=glsj8VxQNkw&si=Oqkw-vccsO627Yrd>

### Reading 1

" 'Hope' is the thing with feathers - That perches in the soul - And sings the tune without the words - And never stops - at all -

And sweetest in the Gale is heard - And sore must be the storm That could abash the little Bird That kept so many warm

I've heard it in the chilliest land - And on the strangest Sea - Yet never in Extremity, It asked a crumb - of me."

- Emily Dickinson

### Reading 2

"Hope is a bad thing. It means that you are not what you want to be. It means that part of you is dead, if not all of you. It means that you entertain illusions. It's a sort of spiritual clap, I should say."

- Henry Miller

### Reading 3

"While there's life, there's hope."

- 3rd century B.C. Greek poet Theocritus

### Questions to Consider

1. How does Hope fit into your view of the world?
2. Do you think what Henry Miller says in Reading 2 is true?
3. Is it possible to be realistic and to be hopeful at the same time?

**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 share your own experiences and thoughts about the topic and readings with no crosstalk or interruption. Please ensure everyone gets an equal opportunity to share.

**Additional Thoughts/Crosstalk:** As time allows, after listening to others, do you have additional thoughts to share?

**Checkout:** What are you taking with you as you leave the circle? (AND/OR) How can we support you in the month ahead?

**Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice** “ What’s so fascinating and frustrating and great about life is that you’re constantly starting over, all the time, and I love that.”

- Billy Crystal