

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

“Symbol of light and knowledge,
Symbol of warmth and freedom;
We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith.
Here we gather to celebrate hope, and the infinite possibilities of love.” (Tom Goldsmith)

Song:

“Love Will Guide Us”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTOWEeN75jk>
“Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.”

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 in our circle.

Reading 1:

“Just when you seem to yourself
nothing but a flimsy web
of questions, you are given
the questions of others to hold
in the emptiness of your hands,
songbird eggs that can still hatch
if you keep them warm,
butterflies opening and closing themselves
in your cupped palms, trusting you not to injure
their scintillant fur, their dust.
You are given the questions of others
as if they were answers
to all you ask.
Yes, perhaps this gift is your answer.”
(“A Gift,” by: Denise Levertov)

Reading 2:

**“Revolutionary love calls us
to know ourselves deeply
see God in the stranger
find beauty in the imperfect.
Revolutionary love calls us to find
the divine in dirt
the holy in the heartache
and the sacred in the scars.**

Revolutionary love calls us out and then back in;
Revolutionary love calls us to be better and do better;
Revolutionary love calls us to heal and hold each other;
because
None of us would be here if it weren't for our faith
in each other."
(excerpt from "Revolutionary Love," by: Dayna Edwards)

Questions to Consider:

1. Do you believe being given the questions of others to hold is like a gift? Why or why not?
2. What does "love, as a value, mean to you? How can we use that value to create a culture of care?
3. Do you "find the divine in dirt?" Are there other everyday things in which you find the divine?

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.

Chalice Check-In: Does the group want to keep meeting over the Summer? (Some groups do, while some groups don't). If so, what will y'all do at your Summer meetings? Are folks planning to continue in the group next year (in the Fall)?

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? How can we support you in the month ahead?

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice

"We extinguish this flame,
But we keep its light in our hearts,
with its message of love and justice,
Taking it outside these walls to the world we live in,
until we are together again."

(By: Maddie Sifantus)