

Iowa Yearly Meeting-Conservative

Annual Meetings – July, 2020

Friday Collection: Let Your Life Speak

Worship Sharing is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of life in the Spirit, through listening to each others' experiences and insights in a worship-grounded setting. In small groups, and in a covering of silent worship, Friends share their responses to a queries that provide a focus for the group. We listen deeply to what is shared, without discussion. Worship Sharing may last an hour, or less, depending in part on the size of the group.

Guidelines for Worship Sharing

- We wait in silent worship, in union with each other, and share gleanings from our spiritual journeys.
- Our purpose is to search together in silence for God's truth and inspiration. We also hope to draw closer as a community by sharing deeply our spiritual experiences.
- No Friend is ever required to speak. Be a better listener than a speaker, but if you do share speak up and speak clearly for those who may be hard of hearing.
- In order to allow the space for each of us to share, be mindful of the length of one's offering. Typically each Friend shares only one time until all others have spoken.
- Listen fully to each person's words. Please do not interrupt or comment upon what another Friend has shared.
- Allow ample worship between messages. Hold the gift that each person offers in the Light, without judgment.
- Try to speak from your own experience, rather than speaking of the experience of others or of abstract ideas.
- Avoid commenting on, or responding directly to, what someone else has said. One may, of course, share on themes or concerns raised by another as they apply to one's own life.
- Please do not repeat elsewhere what you have heard. Please respect the confidentiality of what is shared in the Worship Sharing session.
- Worship sharing depends on our respecting and honoring each other.

Let Your Life Speak*

“Lighthouses don’t go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining.”
—Anne Lamott

“It is more fit for us, to be covered with God’s eternal Spirit, and clothed with his eternal Light which leads us, and guides us into righteousness, and to live righteously and justly and holy in this profane evil world. This is the clothing that God puts upon us, and likes, and will bless. This will make our Light shine forth.”
---Margare Fell

“Great things did the Lord lead me unto, and wonderful depths were opened unto me beyond what can by words be declared; but as people come into subjection to the Spirit of God, and grow up in the image and power of the Almighty, they may receive the word of wisdom, that opens all things, and come to know the hidden unity in the Eternal Being.”
---George Fox

“Freedom lies in being as open as possible to ever more realities and experiences, and to share and be enriched by other people’s experience. Being open to God is being open to more and more reality... What the spiritual practice is about is coming to terms with the reality. And transforming it, somehow.”
---Steve Hope (Queer Quaker)

“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.”
---Anne Lamott

Queries

1. How do I let my life speak in witness to my beliefs? How do my actions and words show that God works in me and through me?
2. How do I take my sense of God and bring it into a tangible form of hope for others? What does it look like to wear ‘the clothing God puts upon us’?
3. What does it mean for me to not give up as a servant of God? What spiritual practice helps me to be steadfast in the work I am called to do?
4. How can I open myself more freely to transformation and thus become more fully alive to the Spirit?

*From Gathering 2020, SEYM