

Depth and Breadth
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Unitarian Church of Evanston – January 2013

Opening Reading and Chalice Lighting

“Change Alone is Unchanging” from *Singing the Living Tradition* #655

Whosoever wishes to know about the world must learn about it in its particular details.

Knowledge is not intelligence.

In searching for the truth be ready for the unexpected, *change alone is unchanging.*

The same road goes both up and down.

The beginning of a circle is also its end.

Not I, but the world says it: all is one.

And yet everything comes in season.

Heraklitos of Ephesos

Check-in: How is it with your spirit?

Brief follow up/clarifying questions

Topic: Depth and Breadth

Our religious community is one where many of us seek the nourishment and spiritual growth of deep, lasting friendships. This is where we can dig down deep into the meaning in our lives and it is where we may also come to know our own depths.

Our religious community is one where we must also remain open to the new, embracing divergent ideas and experience. It is where it is most important for us to be challenged and broadened.

Our roots must go deep and our branches must spread wide. This is no easy task and it will take a lifetime of practice.

Questions for reflection and sharing:

1. In our new member welcome we have said, “we promise to never close our hearts against you.”
 - How do we keep this promise? How have we broken it?
 - Can you think of a time when keeping your heart open has been a challenge? Without going into specifics, can you describe how it felt and if you were able to learn through the challenge?

2. Can you think of someone who you've met at church who you probably never would have gotten to know otherwise? What have you gained from that relationship?
3. Is it possible to stay open to newcomers and continue to deepen our existing relationships? How can we do that?

Brief follow up

Likes and wishes

Closing Reading:

"I believe that the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church is to address the social isolation and rootlessness that is characteristic of modern life, to minister to the hurts and hopes of those in our community, and to radically define our community beyond our membership borders, seeking to bring other people who need our support into our churches and into our lives."

Rev. Glenn Turner