

UCE - Durkin Covenant Group 9/2013

To Meet My Heart's Yearning

Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull for Circle Ministry at First Parish UU Cohasset, MA
Adapted from the session plan developed by Barbara Bates
and used by the First Unitarian Society in Newton, MA
Further adapted by Jean Durkin, Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL

Chalice lighting Opening words

"I look out my window; I walk through the hills; I lose my mind in the mountains,
Among the redwoods and firs and small mint plants growing out of the rock,
Fragrant with the mysterious, clean smell that washes the fatigue out of my bones.

I look out at the sun setting beyond the lake. I listen to the raindrops bouncing in the night, I
hear birds waking and welcoming the sun that casts shadows of mountains through our little
patch of trees, and slowly warms the rocks and the air and the dark water of the lake.

And there is nothing to tell me that the world is anything other than what I see: open and
interwoven and free. There is nothing that is out of place, nothing that does not belong.
There is nothing that does not welcome Life.

The world is a single place, and there is a single spirit that blows across its face.
And the name of that Spirit is Life, Justice, Equity, Compassion.
Different names for the same thing.

May my senses awaken to the touch of that Spirit."

The World is a Single Place from *Our Seven Principles in Story and Verse* by Kenneth W.
Colier

Albert Schweitzer was physician, philosopher, master organist, humanitarian, and an honorary
member of the then Unitarian Church of the Larger Fellowship. His moral philosophy was
reverence for life. With seasoned wisdom, he reminded us that:

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us
has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

Check-in

Topic: To Meet My Heart's Yearning

Dag Hammarskjöld, Swedish diplomat, long-time Secretary General of the United Nations, and
philosopher of life, had this to say about how to greet each day:

"Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and to give back."

Ministry is a commitment to listening and speaking with care and attention to what's important to us—a commitment to being present authentically to others, and to developing and sharing a deeper sense of meaning and spiritual community. It is more than a casual level of conversation; it involves a certain level of risk and of personal disclosure in a setting where members are diverse and hold widely divergent beliefs.

Circle Ministry calls us into right relationship with one another. This ministry is our shared calling, privilege, and blessing.

In the words of Margaret Wheatley:

“We can reclaim conversation as our route back to each other, and as a path to a hopeful future.”

Take a few moments of silence and ponder your responses to these questions:

In joining our Covenant Group this year, what are you looking for? What has brought you here tonight?

Tell a story from your own life when your “light went out” and was rekindled by a spark from a caring person.

Discussion

First response

Cross-conversation

Concluding statements

Feedback

Thank the group.... Ask what they liked and what variations they would hope for.

Closing

Spirit of many names, and beyond all names,
May I rest in this moment and open my eyes to see

How every tree branch,
Every speck of dust on the sidewalk,
Every glance of a stranger,
Points beyond itself to you.

The emptiness, the fullness,
The joy, the energy,
The beginning and ending of all.

Amen.

Prayer of Awareness from Glory, Hallelujah! Now Please Pick Up Your Sox by Jane Ellen Mauldin