

## Worship Sharing • SEYM 2012 Gathering

### *Make a Joyful Noise at Every Opportunity!*

#### THURSDAY

##### Quotes

"Make a joyful noise at every opportunity to all ye lands. Serve God with gladness: come before All with singing. Know ye that the Universe hath made us and not we ourselves; we are the people, and the sheep of the pasture. Enter into the gates with thanksgiving and be thankful unto our Light. For the Universe is good; mercy is everlasting; and truth endureth to all generations."

- Psalm 100, adapted by Lyn Cope, QUF, & Mary Struble, Simply Catholic

"For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace;  
The mountains and hills before you shall break forth into singing,  
And all the trees of the forest shall clap their hands."

- Isaiah 55:12

"All the passions can be reduced to four: joy, hope, fear, and grief. These four are so closely connected that, when one is controlled, the others all obey. Consequently they can be reduced to one: joy. And desire is the movement of the soul seeking joy."

- Thomas Merton, *The Ascent To Truth* (NY: Harvest/HBJ Books, 1981): 54

"I shall play a song for you...and if I cannot play, I shall sing a tune for you...and if I cannot sing, I shall dance a dance for you...and If I cannot dance, then I shall only Be for you...Rejoicing...Rejoicing!"

- anonymous

##### Queries

When have I felt deep joy?

How has joy worked as a catalyst to change my outlook on a situation?

How do I share joy with others?

When - and in what way - has a song or other music spoken to my condition?

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#### FRIDAY

##### Quotes

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

- Micah 6:8 (King James Bible)

"Oh, that we who declare against wars and acknowledge our trust to be in God only, may walk in the Light and therein examine our foundation and motives in holding great estates! May we look upon the treasures and the furniture of our houses and the garments in which we array ourselves and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these our possessions or not. A day of outward distress is coming and divine love calls to prepare against it! Harken then, Oh ye children who have known the Light, and come forth! Leave everything which our Lord Jesus Christ does not own. Think not his pattern too plain or too coarse for you. Think not a small portion in this life too little, but let us live in his spirit and walk as he walked, and he will preserve us in the greatest troubles."

---John Woolman, from his essay,  
*"A Plea for the Poor, or A Word of Remembrance and Caution to the Rich,"*  
Chapt. 10, the fourth paragraph

##### Queries

Who am I, in my inner view of myself? Who am I, in how I can imagine God views me?

In what ways do I do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with my God?

How do my possessions possess me? How did I choose to not let that happen? How did I change my ways so my possessions don't possess me? How has that affected me?

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#### SATURDAY

##### Quotes

"As Jesus came to the city and observed it, he wept over it. He said, 'If only you knew on this of all days the things that lead to peace. But now they are hidden from your eyes.'"  
- Luke 19:41-42 (Common English Bible)

"My uncle George Warner, who was born in the nineteenth century, was both well educated and widely traveled. One day during meeting for worship in Germantown, Pennsylvania, Uncle George rose to speak and surprised his family and the meeting by speaking his message in French.

"When the service ended, a stranger rose from the back of the room and said in French, 'I read, but do not speak English. This morning when I walked by your sign and read 'The Society of Friends,' I thought to myself, maybe someone in there will be a friend to me. I was desperate and felt ready to end my life. I entered the meeting house and was sitting quietly in prayer, when suddenly someone rose and spoke in French the words of comfort I most needed to hear.'"

- Barbara Cummings St. John, 1997

"But in moments of silence, of meditation, of enlightenment and peace, one learns to live in the atmosphere of solitude even in the midst of crowds. Not 'divided,' but one with all God's Love."

-Thomas Merton, *Love and Living* (NY: Harcourt): 21

##### Queries

How has a message spoken (or unspoken) - in meeting for worship, by someone known or unknown to me, by an animal or rock or other thing - changed me or informed me or affirmed an inner knowing?