

## Fifth Day Morning Worship Sharing

**And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

**Ezekiel 36:26**

The continual resurrection within us of the springs of hope and love; a sense that each of us is, if we will, a channel for a power that is both within us and beyond us.

Lorna Marsden

They were changed themselves before they went about to change others. Their hearts were rent as well as their garments, and they knew the power and work of God upon them...And as they freely received what they had to say from the Lord, so they freely administered it to others. The bent and stress of their ministry was conversion to God, regeneration and holiness, not schemes of doctrines and verbal creeds or new forms of worship, but a leaving off in religion the superfluous and reducing the ceremonious and formal part, and pressing earnestly the substantial, the necessary and profitable part, as all upon a serious reflection must and do acknowledge.

George Fox

So, what can we really do for each other except--just love each other and be each other's witness? And haven't we got the right to hope--for more? So that we can really stretch into whoever we really are?"

James Baldwin

Quakers believe that through this interaction with God, with the Divine, with the Inward Christ - however we name that which we cannot name - through that interaction, we are transformed interiorly and through that inward transformation, that our outward lives will be joyful and of service, and there will be an integrity in our outward lives.

Deborah Shaw

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- 1. In what ways has my heart been broken open to God in a manner that prepares me to witness with integrity?**
- 2. Am I willing to be a channel for the "power that is both within us and beyond us"?**
- 3. When have I felt that another's witness for me allowed me to 'stretch' more fully into being my own person?**
- 4. How does worship in the manner of Friends create a transformative experience?**

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**Search me, God, and know my heart.**

**Psalms 139:23**

Sometimes, after thinking everything through and feeling pretty good about a direction we might take, we feel a stop, as Quakers say—to which it is equally important to pay attention. Dwelling in the place of uncertainty is uncomfortable, but it's one of the aspects of faithfulness. Whether the prompting is to act or to refrain from action, by paying attention to those promptings in small ways we learn to better recognize and distinguish the Spirit's voice from our own will.

Maggie Edmondson NEYM

Each individual person has God within us, and each of us has a message or a gift from God to share, and we just have to be available to each other to be able to hear and to see those gifts that God has given us.

Vanessa Julye

Opening to the Divine in worship requires us to become utterly naked before God, and therefore to the gathered Friends present as well. This is no small matter. In order to reach even partway to this challenging goal, we need to have a deep trust in and care for those around us so that we may know we can be vulnerable in their presence.

Christopher Sammond

God represents the seed of goodness everyone is born with that connects each of us together. This seed grows and flowers when people treat each other well and have the things they need to survive—things like food, clothing, and a safe, warm place to sleep. This is one reason why I believe in equality, fairness, sharing, and peace. When we treat people unfairly, or hurt people, we destroy the goodness that is in each of us and hurt the bond—that bit of God that is in everyone—that connects us together.

Deborah Altus

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- 1. How do I “recognize and distinguish the Spirit’s voice” from my own thoughts and desires?**
- 2. What are ways I can heal the bonds that have been broken by my own or others’ carelessness or thoughtlessness?**
- 3. In what ways have I seen others by recognizing or acknowledging gifts, and created a safe space where trust can flourish?**

## Seventh Day Morning Worship Sharing

**Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And I said, Here am I; send me!**

**Isaiah 6:8**

I truly believe that a more peaceful and just world is possible, and that my faith calls me to work toward building that world.

Bridget Moix

Discerning God's will means discovering how God would have us live as individuals and as a community. The role of the Meeting is important in both types of discernment. The task of listening for the Meeting's call as peacemaker is growing in significance today as many Friends groups recognize how hard it is for individuals to live a life of peace while they are caught up in a social structure that depends on destructive competition, violence, wasteful consumption of the world's scarce resources, and, ultimately, on war.

Sandra Cronk

Think about it: virtually every atrocity in the history of humankind was enabled by a populace that turned away from a reality that seemed too painful to face, while virtually every revolution for peace and justice has been made possible by a group of people who chose to bear witness and demanded that others bear witness as well.

Melanie Joy

So, when the angel is troubling the waters, it is no time to stand on the bank and recite past wonders.

Thomas Kelly

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- 1. What are the barriers I must overcome to witness to the Quaker testimony of peace amidst the destructive events of this world?**
- 2. Bearing witness to the Truth or turning away and birthing atrocities – what is the “world we seek?”**
- 3. How do we as Friends “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed” (Proverbs 31:8) in order to remain faithful today?**