

Caring For Our Earth

Chalice Lighting

Sharing of Joys and Sorrows

Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support.

Shared Readings:

The world asks of us only the strength we have and we give it. Then it asks more, and we give it.

Jane Hirshfield

What we call little things are merely the causes of great things; they are the beginning, the embryo, and it is the point of departure which, generally speaking, decides the whole future of an existence. One single black speck may be the beginning of a gangrene, of a storm, of a revolution.

Henri Frederic Amiel

Tell me, what do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

Mary Oliver

The time to begin most things is ten years ago.

Mignon McLaughlin

The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is.

C. S. Lewis

The future is made of the same stuff as the present.

Simone Weil

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season.

It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year.

It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow.

Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.

W.E.B. Du Bois

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round I What are some changes you can make in your life style?

Round II Share more deeply stories, feelings and experiences of how you can impact the future in response to the homework questions.

Round III A more general discussion

Group Business

Pass out homework for the next session.

Closing Words

Song “Go Now in Peace”

Covenant Groups

Caring For Our Earth

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group.
- to honor the group by letting the leader know if I will be absent and to come to the group one last time and say goodbye if I need to quit.
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others.
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and not tell other people's stories.
- to listen to what others share with an open heart, and to share deeply in my turn.



Leader's Notes for The Future

** (Try to allow time for the third round – the discussion time. After the input of the two previous rounds, the discussion is likely to be very rich.)

Chalice Lighting: (2 min) 7:00-7:15

Ask a group member to read a chalice lighting reading from the facilitator manual. You should have a separate copy in the pocket of that manual. If you can't find it, email me for a copy (ahawkabq@comcast.net).

Sharing of Joys and Concerns: (10 min)

Share any information you have about absent members. Ask group members to tell in one or two sentences...How you are today?

Silence: (3 min)

Give your group the gift of three minutes of silence.

Shared Readings: (5 min) 7:15-7:20

Go around your group, letting persons in turn read one of the readings.

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening: Do your rounds of deep sharing / deep listening.

Round I (15 min) 7:20-7:35

What are some changes you can make in your life style?

Round II (40 min) 7:35-8:15

Each person will have a chance to share more deeply stories, feelings and experiences of how you can impact the future.

Round III As time permits

A more general discussion

Group Business: (5 min) 8:20-8:25

Pass out Q and Q (homework) for next time. If there is to be a potluck, talk about dates, what people will bring, etc.

Closing ritual: 8:25-8:30

Invite people to hold hands around the chalice and say one or two words about an insight they have had this evening.

Sing: Go Now in Peace (2 min)

Quotes and Questions – Caring For Our Earth

*When the animals come to us,
Asking for our help,
Will we know what they are saying?*

*When the plants speak to us
In their delicate, beautiful language,
Will we be able to answer them?*

*When the planet herself
Sings to us in our dreams,
Will we be able to wake ourselves, and act?*
Gary Lawless

“It’s a question of discipline,” the little prince told me. “When you’ve finished washing and dressing each morning, you must tend your planet.”
Antoine de Saint-Exupery

We must describe with our lives the future we want to see for our children.
Rich Heffern

In today's highly interdependent world, individuals and nations can no longer resolve many of their problems by themselves. We need one another. We must develop a sense of universal responsibility. It is our collective and individual responsibility to protect and nurture the global family, to support its weaker members, and to preserve and tend to the environment in which we all live.
The Dalai Lama

How we solve the problems created by global warming will depend on our answers to fundamentally spiritual questions. What is the nature of a good life? What is the purpose of this life we have been given? ...Who are my brothers/sisters/neighbors, and what is my responsibility to them?
Christine Robinson

From her sermon “Spirituality in a Warming World” found on the church website, uuabq.org.

In addition to the questions above, consider these:

- What issues of the future concern you most? Is it the ecological future of the earth – the air, waters, global warming, open spaces, fuel sources, political aspects, spiritual aspects?
- Does your life add more than it takes away? What are some changes you can make in your life style? Which are easy, which are hard?
- Think of a time when you tended the planet, like working on Habitat for Humanity, collecting garbage along a road, recycling for the first time. How did that make you feel?