Bulletin for Justice

Business

Chalice Lighting

We gather in hope of experiencing compassion, being able to open our hearts, listen with care and be truly present with each other. We also hope to see beyond this moment and beyond the limits of our daily concerns and to remember that we are part of a larger world and of all that lives therein.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene, Oregon, Small Group Ministry

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence – holding each other in silent support

Shared Readings

It is a church and a town of enormous privilege. I often find myself co-opted by the culture of entitlement there. And yet I try to stand outside of it, too.   *Rev. Gary Smith*

The little girl saw her first troop parade and asked. "What are those?"
"Soldiers."
"What are soldiers?"
"They are for war. They fight and each tries to kill as many of the other side as he can."
The girl held still and studied.
"Do you know . . I know something?"
"Yes, what is it you know?"
"Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come."
Carl Sandburg

No day passes in which blacks don't have to deal with white supremacy. It is found everywhere—in the churches, in seminaries, at publishing houses, in government, and all around the world. There is no escape. If whites get tired of talking about race, just imagine how people of color feel. *Charles Briggs*

Seven blunders of the world that lead to violence: wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, politics without principle. *Mahatma Gandhi*

And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory. *Howard Zinn*

I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days, governments had better get out of the way and let them have it. *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Clem understood that justice grows out of recognition of ourselves in each other. That my liberty depends on you being free, too. That history can't be a sword to justify injustice, or a shield against progress, but must be a manual for how to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past—how to break the cycle. A roadway toward a better world. *Barack Obama, from the Eulogy for Clementa Pinckney*

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round 1
Briefly share your thoughts about justice. Is it based on laws or on morality?

Round 2
Have you or someone you know ever been a victim of injustice? Share more deeply from your exploration of the preparation materials about the role of justice and injustice in your own life or in your community.

Round 3
As time allows, share additional thoughts on justice or reflect on what others have shared.

Closing Words

We can realize that our very sorrow for the world, our dread for what might happen for the future beings and for our children and their children, our outrage at what is happening—all of these, which I summarize as "our pain for the world," are actually evidence of our interconnectedness. Otherwise we wouldn't care so much.
Quote from interview with Joanna Macy

Song or Chime

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share with the facilitator the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, or giving advice
  to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn.