

Gathering for Social Class

Words of the Day

I think about class when ...

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice to shine on our time together. In its light we celebrate the relationships and understanding we are creating in this place and time. May our sharing be deep. (*Light chalice*)

The Basket

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence, holding ourselves and others in shared support

Shared Readings

Much of what is today called “social criticism” consists of members of the upper classes denouncing the tastes of the lower classes (bawdy entertainment, fast food, plentiful consumer goods) while considering themselves egalitarians. *Steven Pinker*

When I was a cashier at a food co-op, I hated it when members would say, “Have a great week-end,” assuming that I had 2-day weekends off! *Lori Wyman*

Our theology says this vision to “begin the world anew” must be with all kinds of people, not just with the social circle we create or like-minded liberals. It must be practiced in an ever-intentional manner and in ever-widening circles if our faith is going to be truly transformational. *Mark W. Harris*

... true cultural barriers can't be separated from structural barriers. They are intimates; often, they feed off one another. *Erin Keane*

Formal education gets confused with intelligence, leading to a worldview in which people become problems to be solved or burdens to be dealt with rather than human beings who deserve respect. This kind of disregard may be unintentional, but its effects are real, lasting, and harmful. Whatever our political leanings, we can and should be better than this. *The Rev. Dan Schatz*

One way our upper class can promote upward mobility, then, is not only by pushing wise public policies but by opening their hearts and minds to the newcomers who don't quite belong. *J.D. Vance, Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*

Advanced degrees do not guarantee middle-class income, and lower- or working-class origins do not guarantee limited education. *A Preliminary Report on Class in the Unitarian Universalist Association, 2015*

... studies show that a married woman's sense of class identity reflects her husband's job, her own job, and her attitude toward gender roles. *Dennis Gilbert*

An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics. *Plutarch*

One way to think of a person's position in society is to imagine a hand of cards. Everyone is dealt four cards, one from each suit: education, income, occupation, and wealth, the four commonly used criteria for gauging class. *Janny Scott and David Leonhardt, Class Matters*

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round 1: Share your responses to social class and the materials.

Round 2: Share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

Closing Circle

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again. (*Extinguish the chalice.*)

Song/Chime

Announcements

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, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the "I-message."