

Gathering for Hope

Words of the Day

I would like to feel more hopeful about

Chalice Lighting

“Let there be light!”

Let it shine in dark places,
in moments of pain,
in times of grief,
in the darkness of hatred,
violence,
oppression,
where there is discouragement and despair.

Wherever darkness is to be put to flight,

“Let there be light!”

Gordon B. McKeeman

The Basket

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support

Shared Readings

Critical thinking without hope is cynicism. Hope without critical thinking is naïveté.

Maria Popova

Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. *Václav Havel*

You may not always have a comfortable life. And you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once. But don't ever underestimate the importance you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.

Michelle Obama

What is man? Hope turned into dust. No.

What is man? Dust turned to hope. *Elie Wiesel*

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope. *Maya Angelou*

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. *Oscar Wilde*

Despair is suffering without meaning. *Viktor E. Frankl*

If we were logical, the future would be bleak, indeed. But we are more than logical. We are human beings, and we have faith, and we have hope, and we can work. *Jacques Yves Cousteau*

Hope knows no fear. Hope dares to blossom even inside the abysmal abyss. Hope secretly feeds and strengthens promise. *Sri Chinmoy*

Help us to be the always hopeful
Gardeners of the spirit
Who know that without darkness
Nothing comes to birth
As without light
Nothing flowers.
May Sarton

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round 1: Share your reflections on hope and the preparation 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.

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.”