

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website

Chalice Circles

Discernment

Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bremerton, WA, Rev. Liz Stevens 2006-2007

Opening Reading: "Questions Before Dark" by Jeanne Lohman

Day ends, and before sleep
when the sky dies down, consider
your altered state: has this day
changed you? Are the corners
sharper or rounded off? Did you
live with death? Make decisions
that quieted? Find one clear word
that fit? At the sun's midpoint
did you notice a pitch of absence,
bewilderment that invites the
possible? What did you learn
from things you dropped and picked up
and dropped again? Did you set a straw
parallel to the river, let the flow
carry you downstream?

Discussion Questions:

How do you know who you are and who you are meant to be? What to do and what you are meant to do next?

Do you pray? How? Why? When?

How do you process the events in your life to learn from them? How do you decide what to do next?

What part do you have to play in the world? Do you have a sense of how that part fits into the whole?

Closing Reading:

God Speaks to each of us by Ranier Maria Rilke

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

There are words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.

Flare up like flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.