

**Do you think this life is all there is, or do you believe in an afterlife?**  
Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bremerton, WA, Rev. Liz Stevens, 2006-2007

**Opening Reading:**

**Cloud-Hidden by David Whyte**

This chapter is closed now,  
not one word more  
until we meet some day  
and the voices rising  
to the window  
take wing and fly.

Open the old casement  
to the lands we have forgotten,  
look to the mountains and ridgeways  
and the steep valleys, quilted by green,  
here, as the last words fall away,  
the great and silent rivers of life  
are flowing into the oceans,  
and on a day like any other  
they will carry you again,  
abandoned,  
on the currents you have fought,  
to the place where you did not know  
you belonged.

**Discussion Questions:**

What do you think happens when we die?

What are your experiences with death, loss, grief?

Do you long for immortality? Why or why not?

**Closing Reading:**

**In Passing by Lisel Mueller**

How swiftly the strained honey  
of afternoon light  
flows into darkness

and the closed bud shrugs off  
its special mystery  
in order to break into blossom:

as if what exists, exists  
so that it can be lost  
and become precious.