

Friendship and its changes

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern, November 11, 2014

*Yes'm, old friends is always best, 'less you can catch
a new one that's fit to make an old one out of.*

--Sarah Orne Jewett

Opening/ Chalice Lighting

Rev. Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson

What is this fire?

A match,
a wick,
a flame.

What is this place?

Wood,
and stone,
and glass.

Yet here we have gathered

In this place
Before this flame
Making each holy
By our presence here, together.

Check-in

How is it with your spirit? Going around the circle, take one or two minutes to share about your life. One possibility is to share one high point and one low point of your recent days.

Reading

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

And though thou notest from thy safe recess old friends burn dim,
like lamps in noisome air love them for what they are; nor love
them less, because to thee they are not what they were.

Sitting in Silence / Reflection Time

We will begin and end with the sound of the bell.

Sharing / Deep Listening

Please share your thoughts on the questions below, or any other questions that come to mind regarding the topic of silence. During this sharing, we will listen deeply without response or thought of response, as a gift to each other and ourselves.

Reflecting on a friendship that spanned, or has spanned, a long time:

How did you first become friends?

How did your friendship change over time (if it did)? What changed it?

Sharing Together

Now that all have shared, you may wish to engage with each other's responses.

Tending the Groups—Facilitators' session

How is your group? How can we help you help your group function well?

Closing / Extinguishing the Chalice

Giotto di Bondone

The sincere friends of this world are as ship lights in the stormiest of nights.

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Chalice Circles are small groups that meet regularly to deepen their relationships with each other and to grow spiritually. Chalice circles provide an open and supportive environment in which the inherent worth and dignity of each community member is respected, one that specifically promotes making connections and developing friendships within our congregation, and supports spiritual growth and the search for truth and meaning.

“In the presence of compassionate non-judgmental listening and sharing, miracles happen.” — Marianne Williamson