

SMALL GROUP SESSION
LIFE STAGES 2: INTO ADULTHOOD

By the Rev. Glenn H. Turner

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

My eyes already touch the sunny hill,
going far ahead of the road I have begun.
So we are grasped by what we cannot grasp;
it has its inner light, even from a distance -

and changes us, even if we do not reach it,
into something else, which, hardly sensing it, we already are;
a gesture waves us on, answering our own wave...
but what we feel is the wind in our faces.

Rainer Maria Rilke - trans. R.B.

CHECK IN: (40 - 50 minutes)

What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing.

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted, if time remaining, general response and conversation is welcome. Confidentiality.

FOCUS: Into Adulthood

“Perhaps, until one starts, at the age of seventy, to live on borrowed time, no year will seem again quite so ominous as the one when the formal education ends and the moment arrives to find employment and bear physical responsibility for the whole future. My parents had given me everything they could possibly owe a child and more. Now it was my turn to decide and nobody -not even the Oxford Appointments Board - could help me very far. I was hemmed in by the choice of jails in which to serve my life imprisonment, for how else at twenty can one regard a career which may last as long as life itself, or at the best until that sad moment is reached when the prisoner is released in consideration of good behavior, with a pension?”

Grahame Greene, *A Sort of Life*, 1971

We began, last session, sharing our earliest years - up to the early teens. We pick up with our stories about coming of age: about the perplexities of adolescence, about our early attempts to establish our identities, make our own relationships, decide on our life-work, and gain control over our own lives. Where did we conform? Where did we rebel? How did we take leave of our families? How did we find ourselves?

(Let’s take about 5 minutes to jot down what we’ll want to mention.)

LIKES AND WISHES

How did this session go for you? Is there anything you’d like to call particular attention to?

CLOSING WORDS:

Lisa Alther wrote in *Kinflicks* about becoming an adult and commented: “If this was adulthood, the only improvement she could detect in her situation was that now she could eat dessert without eating her vegetables.”

Margaret Atwood noted: “We thought we were running away from the grownups, and now we are the grownups.”