

RESPONSIBILITY: SELF/SOCIETY

Rev. Glenn Turner, March 2016

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING

“The Armful”

"For every parcel I stoop down to seize
I lose some other off my arms and knees,
And the whole pile is slipping, bottles, buns,
Extremes too hard to comprehend at once
Yet nothing I should care to leave behind.
With all I have to hold with hand and mind
And heart, if need be, I will do my best.
To keep their building balanced at my breast.
I crouch down to prevent them as they fall;
Then sit down in the middle of them all.
I had to drop the armful in the road
And try to stack them in a better load."

—Robert Frost

SILENT REFLECTION

CHECK-IN: (40-50 minutes)

FOCUS: “RESPONSIBILITY: SELF/SOCIETY”

What am I responsible for? Each of us has to ask that question.

And, as Robert Frost says, in his humorous poem, “The Armful,” we’ve got a lot of responsibilities to balance. We start young: as children to learn. We grow up and work. We might marry. We might have children. More responsibilities.

We have to make choices about where to live, how to live, what to eat, what to join, who to vote for. And, always, we act as two - self, society.

We are one of many making choices which affect not just ourselves but others as well. What are you responsible for? What is society responsible for? How are we part of the whole?

Discussion: Let’s break it down.

1. How do you take responsibility for your own health?
As a member of society how do you take responsibility for the health of others?
2. How do you take responsibility for your family?
As a member of the society, what responsibility do you share for taking care of others?
3. What do you do to care for and protect the environment?
As a member of society how do work with others to protect the environment?

LIKES AND WISHES

CLOSING WORDS:

“...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility.

To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.”

— Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays*