

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Covenant Circle Session
Sacrifice and Martyrdom
Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Marysville, Washington

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words:

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/sacrifice-2/>

Sacrifice

I gave an eye to save from night
A babe born blind;
And now with eager semi-sight
Vast joy I find
To think a child can share with me
Earth ecstasy!

Delight of dawn with dewy gleam
On damask rose;
Crimson and gold as pennons stream
Where sunset flows;
And sight most nigh to paradise,
Star-studded skies.

Ah! How in old of age I feel,
E'er end my days,
Could I star-splendoured sky reveal
To childish gaze,
Not one eye would I give, but two,--
Well, wouldn't you?

Robert William Service

Round One – Check-In

Round Two Reflection Question:

On October 27, 1553 Michael Servetus was burned alive in a slow fire because he would not recant his belief that Christ, God and the Holy Spirit were dispositions of the same Being (a Unitarian theology) rather than separate Beings (a Trinitarian theology) (More on Servetus here http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Servetus)

One of the most horrific images to come out of the Viet Nam war was the self-immolation of Buddhist Monks protesting the war.

Nelson Mandela and Gandhi were both imprisoned for their civil disobedience.

The course of history has been altered as men and women have become martyrs for various causes.

Are there ideals or causes for which you would be willing to become a martyr?

Round Three Reflection Question

Do you recognize people who have made sacrifices for you? How are those sacrifices reflected in your life?

Round Four Reflection Question:

Are there people or causes for you have or are willing to make a sacrifice? How do you treat the burden of sacrifice in your life?

Closing:

Reading

O God, root and source of body and soul, we ask for boldness in confronting evil. When you are within us, we have the power to counter all that is untrue. O Father and Mother of all humankind, may we redeem our failings by the good work that we do. In the name of the one, the only God.

Khasi Unitarian Prayer, Singing the Living Tradition #516