

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH

April Theme Salvation

Opening Reading/ Chalice Lighting

The salvation of this human world lies nowhere else than in the human heart, in the human power to reflect, in human meekness, and in human responsibility. -Vaclav Havel

Check-In How goes thy spirit? What do you need to leave behind in order to be fully present here and now? 2-3 sentences

Business

Branches extravaganza is May 16 @1:30
Summer Groups will meet on Thursdays

Revisit the Covenant

Claim time for Deeper Listening Deeper listening is a time at the end of our meeting where you can be listened to uninterrupted for what is essentially an extended check in if you have more you need to say than the initial check in. You are encouraged to claim time ranging between 3-5 minutes.

Centering Take a moment to breathe, feel your feet on the floor and your body in the chair. After a few minutes of breathing, find your heartbeat (either by listening to your ear or placing your fingers on your pulse). See if you can hold the attention of your heartbeat and listen to the sounds in the room. (1-2 minutes) Our goal would be to bring this sense of calm and way of listening to the readings and to one another, keeping our attention toggling between self and what you are listening to.

Readings (Read through readings and questions twice, one time per facilitator, with reflection space in between followed by Quaker Style sharing. Try to stay in I statements and personal stories and not shift into third person and facts. Try to leave space between speakers.)

Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime,
Therefore, we are saved by hope.
Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate
context of history;
Therefore, we are saved by faith.
Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone.
Therefore, we are saved by love.
No virtuous act is quite a virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as
from our own;
Therefore, we are saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.
Reinhold Niebuhr:

*A wise teacher asked his students, “How can we know when the
darkness is leaving and the dawn is coming?”*

*“When we can see a tree in the distance and know that it is an elm
and not a juniper,” ventured one student.*

*“When we can see an animal and know that it is a fox and not a
wolf,” chimed in another.*

“No,” said the teacher, “those things will not help us.”

Puzzled, the students demanded, “How then can we know?”

*The master teacher drew himself up to his full stature and replied
quietly, “We know that the darkness is leaving and the dawn is
coming*

when we can see another person

*and know that this is our brother or our sister; otherwise, no
matter what time it is, it is still dark.”*

Questions

Have you been saved by hope?

Have you been saved by faith? Yours or someone else's?

Have you been saved by love?
What were the circumstances surrounding your needing to be saved?
What/Who has saved you?
What is the role of other people in your salvation?
What is the role of community?

Deeper Listening If time is claimed by an individual, group listens to speaker uninterrupted for that designated time. It is best to have a timer of sorts so that facilitator can listen fully as well.

Check Out

One sentence about where you are now that we have been together for the past hour and a half. (How did you show up? Would you share more or less? Would you do anything differently? Focus your likes and dislikes on your own behavior)

Closing reading/Chalice Extinguishing

There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now. James A. Baldwin