

Gathering for Imagination (Theme for January)

There are suggestions for Zoom sessions – speaking in turns, muting, and using Chat for the Words of the Day. Some sections use a timer / clock.

When you join the meeting *Facilitators – do these for yourself first and help others.*

- Check that you are unmuted and have video, if you're using video. Check your volume.
- Make sure your picture box shows your "name tag." Use Rename to change if necessary.
- Make sure you have a copy of the Gathering available.
- **Words of the Day.** Use Chat to write the Words of the Day. Write "My imagination is most welcome when " and then complete the sentence.

Chalice Lighting "We'll begin by lighting the chalice." *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

As we enter this new year, let us imagine a new beginning, a time of fulfillment, peace and wellness. As we imagine it, so may it be.

Words of the Day "Now we'll read the Words of the Day from the Chat box." *People can't see Chat written before they joined the meeting, so you might want to read these yourself or ask people to read their own.*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns "We'll share joys and concerns." *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to "chain" to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Silence, holding each other in support "Now a few minutes of silence" (2 or 3)

Shared Readings "I'll start the first Shared Reading." *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to "chain" to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to read.*

My imagination makes me human and makes me a fool; it gives me all the world and exiles me from it. *Ursula K. Le Guin*

Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is. *Attributed to Francis Bacon*

You may think I'm small, but I have a universe inside my mind. *Yoko Ono*

We are what we imagine. Our very existence consists in our imagination of ourselves ...The greatest tragedy that can befall us is to go unimagined. *N. Scott Momaday*

If you fall in love with the imagination, you understand that it is a free spirit. It will go anywhere, and it can do anything. *Alice Walker*

The imagination is one of the highest prerogatives of man. *Charles Darwin*

I think nature's imagination is so much greater than man's, she's never going to let us relax. *Richard Phillips Feynman*

The man who has no imagination has no wings. *Muhammad Ali*

I have a habit of letting my imagination run away from me. It always comes back though ... drenched with possibilities. *Valaida Fullwood*

Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning. *Gloria Steinem*

Deep Listening and Sharing

Round 1. Deep Sharing. “Now we share reflections on Imagination and the preparation.” *Note the time available for each person and ask people to mute or remain quiet for each speaker..*

Go first to model. Then ask people to raise their hand if they're ready to go next. Assist with un-muting if needed. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.

Round 2. Responses and Comments. *Note how much time is available for Round 2. People can unmute for freer exchange. Go first to model for the group.*

Closing Circle “In a few words, share what you will take away from the session on imagination.” *Begin, and then either call on people or “chain.” Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Chalice “We will extinguish the chalice.” *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.

Bell or Chime

Announcements

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share responsibility for good process by watching how much time I take to speak, noticing what is going on for others, and considering problems if they occur
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the “I-message.”