

Imagination

UU Community Church of Santa Monica
Small Group Ministry
July 2014

Chalice Lighting

Our blessing and also our curse is that we are born into two worlds, not quite belonging to either. We have animal bodies and instincts, we are subject to the law and limitations of gravity; and at the same time we have a mind that can envision infinite possibilities, that wants us to fly like angels. Rumi says this wonderfully in his poem “Sunset”

...sometimes blocked in, sometimes reaching out,
one moment your life is a stone in you, and the
next, a star.

Roger Housden *ten poems to change your life again and again*

Sharing Silence 3 minutes

On Our Hearts 20 minutes

Covenant and Ground Rules

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group;
- to let the leader know if I will be absent or need to quit;
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others;
- 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, or giving advice;
- to ask questions gently and only when necessary;
- and to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn.

Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawking, *Heart to Heart* (adapted)

Housekeeping

Readings

“...I heard someone on the radio say faintly, it’s coming in at the speed of snow. I still don’t know what they really said, but who cares? It’s coming in at the speed of snow is something you’d hear in a dream. What exactly is the speed of snow? It’s a Zen koan. The imagination opens and the linear train of thought derails. Rereading something I had

written the other day, I found a typo. I was talking about going to a dinner party and I had left off the 'd'. Going to an "inner party" sounds fun, although I'm not sure how you'd get there, who would be invited, and what would be served. I'm pretty sure you'd get to dance, though, and I think once in a while I've heard the music....

I love the flickering things that bump along the edges of mainstream consciousness. These glimpses of inner wisdom flash like fish in a creek, and if I can grab one by the tail I feel like I have a treasure. I'll keep fishing for them, and I'll share them with you. But right now I've got to go. I'm off to an inner party at the speed of snow."

From *Going to an Inner Party in the Rock of Ages at the Taj Mahal* by Meg Barnhouse

One of the virtues of being very young is that you don't let the facts get in the way of your imagination.

Sam Levenson

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.

Antoine de Saint Exupery

We are what we imagine ourselves to be. Kurt Vonnegut

Questions for Consideration

1. What was the attitude, your family's or your own, toward imagination and daydreams when you were growing up? Are daydreams and imagination the same thing or different?
2. Do you value imagination? Or is it just a peripheral activity that you engage in when you're on holiday or bored?
3. Do you make time in your day to imagine how your life, your job, your relationships might be different?
4. Has imagination brought into your life surprising and meaningful experiences, offered a solution to a problem or concern?

Sharing 60 minutes

Closing Activity/ Reflecting on our time together

Closing Words

Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.

Albert Einstein