

Worship Sharing 1-9-24

“The Light Within” - PYM Faith and Practice

“...In contrast with early Friends, not all Friends today consider themselves to be Christians or even theists. Friends come from very diverse religious backgrounds and experiences and apply their different perspectives as they encounter the Light Within. Regardless of the journey that brings individuals to explore the Quaker way, the invitation to enter into an unmediated, inward relationship with the Divine continues to be at the heart of Quaker experience.

Through this relationship, each person encounters the Spirit, active in the world, and providing guidance for everyday living. The reality of this spiritual relationship within each worshipper brings the Friends meeting together as a community of faith. Friends understand that faithfulness to Spirit can produce a spiritual energy within their faith community that encourages them to support each other within that community, and most of all, to live in harmony with the Divine. Friends also understand that the experience of God continues to unfold and that the record of God’s presence in human lives continues to be written.

Friends find that the Light Within:

- Accompanies, comforts and loves us as we seek Divine truth;
- Reveals who we are, including what we would prefer not to see about ourselves, and leads us out of spiritual darkness or dryness;
- Illuminates, inspires and transforms us;
- Shows us how to live with love, compassion and justice towards others;
- Gives us energy and power to change ourselves and the world in small ways and large;
- Leads us to the right decisions in our meetings for worship with attention to business;
- Provides ongoing revelation of God’s truth.”

Queries

How does this understanding of the Light Within speak to you?

In what ways have you experienced the Light Within acting as described here?