

AFDS 1/14/24

On Community

Love is the central motif of nonviolence, the force by which we bind ourselves to each other.

I am Beloved, and you are Beloved, and we belong to each other.

This is the way of Beloved Community: claim your Belovedness; love God, love self.

Then proclaim it: love others, love the world.

Everything else will disappoint and overwhelm, but the love owned and reflected is the living water we need along the journey.

~ excerpted from Osheta Moore, *Dear White Peacemakers*

You show your humanity by how you see yourself not as apart from others, but from your connection to others.

~ Desmond Tutu

What if getting our relationship right with the Earth and all its creatures is not the scenic backdrop of some circus sideshow, but as crucial as getting our relations right with our Creator, our family, and our neighbors? What if *all of Creation* is the most palpable expression of our Creator's generosity, sense of wonder, and commitment to diversity?

~ Gary Paul Nabhan

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

~ George Bernard Shaw

For discussion:

How do I define 'community' and might that definition be too small?

What change is required in my life in order that I might 'see that of God' in everyone?

Do I see nature as an integral part of my community?