

Worship Sharing 1-17-23

Silence and Transformation

“From the beginning, it was the witness of changed and liberated lives that shook the foundations of the established social, economic, and religious order of England. The Religious Society of Friends—the Friends Church—is about nothing if it’s not about transformation. Helping each other open to the Living Christ among us, allowing ourselves to be searched by the Light at work within us, humbling ourselves to be taught by the Inward Teacher, trusting that surrendering to the Refiner’s Fire, we can be given new hearts. It is and always has been through these new hearts that we are made channels for the Motion of Universal Love.”

Noah Baker Merrill 2012

“The silence of worship is not just an absence of noise, or even an outward stilling of the physical, it is a journey within, a ‘going inside’ to a deeply felt but easily reached place of holy relationship. Together, we meet each other in the silence, come together, ‘all focusing on something we share’, ‘picking up the same questions in the silence’, gathered, before God. We come expectantly and in surrender. We come in hope of we know not what, the hope of faith. We come in the humility of those seeking, those grateful for what we are given, those hungry to hear the call, those eager to work with God to further God’s loving purposes. We come as those who know the world is not as loving as it might be, that humanity hurts itself as well as the planet, that we need to at least try doing our bit to help, and that our faith both requires this of us, and helps us to achieve what we discern is best.”

Ben Pink Dandelion 2009

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your experience?

Have you experienced the sort of transformation these authors discuss, and if so, in what ways?

In what way can we better share this experience?