

Worship Sharing 7/19/2022

“The Quaker Way, A Vision For The New Century”

The spiritual life is not about what we believe or how successful we are. It is about how we trust. Faith as knowledge so often takes the place of faith as trust. The real question is: to what do we give our hearts? And the question that follows is: after the deep and immediate encounter with Spirit which is at the core of the Quaker movement, do we have trust for ourselves and therefore hope to offer the world?

The interplay of seeking and finding are really questions of trust and hope. We need a wider perspective than that of church history or politics or sociology however useful it is to engage with these. We need to consider the world in which we find ourselves, the language we use to express our deepest longings, the needs of the world itself. The church, however we define it, does not exist for itself. We are not here simply to prop up old foundations. We are here to explore the past and examine the present in order to discern the signs of the future. I believe the basic truths are eternal; how we live them out day by day requires the worshiping discernment of the community. Past, present, and future are all part of the continuing revelation.

If I say I am optimistic and speak of hope, this is not a form of facile optimism. The great image of George Fox after a period of depression stays with me: “I saw (also) that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. And in that also I saw the infinite love of God: and I had great openings.”

Harvey Gillman 2010

Read whole article: [Quaker Universalist Fellowship Journal - Number 52 \(universalistfriends.org\)](http://universalistfriends.org)

Queries:

How does this passage speak to your experience?

Have you found that “Past, present, and future are all part of the continuing revelation”?

Where do you find hope in Friend’s traditions?