

## Worship Sharing 8/24

This then is the way of redemption; to wait to feel the appearance of the light of the Spirit in the heart; and, at its least or lowest appearance, to be turned from the darkness towards it.

Isaac Penington, Collected Letters, 1677

“This listening through life—even in a worship service that’s carefully planned and prepared – is what Friendly silence is about. This kind of silence doesn’t always require me to get away to a quiet place, like alone on a seashore or a silent retreat at a monastery. Rather it is carrying spiritual stillness in my soul as I move through life. The beauty of Quaker silence is that it can be practiced wherever we are. It does not matter whether we’re rockin’ to some gospel numbers in a quaint island chapel more used to Bach fugues than Harry T. Burleigh spirituals or working on an assembly line in a computer factory. Deep spiritual stillness, listening down to our souls is not dependent on silent surroundings. It’s about stillness inside us.”

J. Brent Bill 2016

“Friends come back from their worship with a new sense of ordination, but not the ordination of human hands. Something has happened in the stillness that makes the heart more tender, more sensitive, more shocked by evil, more dedicated to ideals of life, and more eager to push back the skirts of darkness and to widen the area of light and love.”

Rufus Jones, 1863-1948

## Queries

How do these quotes speak to your condition?

Do you find that you can turn to that “deep spiritual stillness” as a source of spiritual strength in challenging moments? In what ways are you enabled?

Do you find this sense of ‘ordination’ that Rufus Jones speaks of? Do things often seem more sacred through your experience?

