

-Worship Sharing 8-29-23

Way Forward

What I didn't understand then—what I didn't have language for—was that my longing wasn't just to know that God talks to everybody. If that were all I needed, I never would have searched for a people at all. If the message is "God talks to everybody," then all we have to do is listen to God, and that's the beginning and the end of our journey. But it turns out, God is trickier than that. God is smarter than that. Yes, God talks to everybody, but God doesn't tell everybody—or give everybody—exactly the same things. God gives me a piece, and you a piece, and that guy over there a piece, and expects us to learn how to play well together.

To share.

This is the beginning of covenant.."

Emily Provance, 2019

"We will not all be called to witness in the same way, but we should not assume that we have the luxury of waiting to act until we have it completely figured out. We must make a first step towards believing in the radical imagination of newness that boldly critiques the current paradigm. We can't be too worried about being polite; if we engage in fundamental paradigm shifts we will inevitably hurt each other's feelings. It will be hard work. But it will also be deeply healing—the kind of work that can break through the numbness."

Christina Repoley, 2006

"Something is happening around me: the dark is less dark, the silence is less deep. Even the air is changing. It is damper, sweeter. Morning is at hand. Light will soon come flowing over the edge of the world, bringing with it the day. What a gift! Whether wrapped in streamers of color or folded in tissues of mist, it will be mine to use in ways that I can foresee and in those that are unexpected. The day will make its own revelation, bring its own challenge; my part will be to respond with joy and gladness."

Elizabeth Yates, 1976

Queries

How do we as Friends "learn to play well together"?

What has given you the conviction to move forward in witness, before "it is all figured out"?

How can we better meet each day with joy and gladness?