

All-Together Worship at Yearly Meeting 2022

The following poem will be used as a shared reading for all those participating in All-together worship, wherever you are and however you are joining.

Sharing in the silence of us

A poem written in a creative writing space for young people aged 11-18, facilitated by Rosie Carnall

It's secret friend hugs and the hokey-cokey at sunrise.
It's silence seeping through the being of me.
It's turning the pages (in my mind).
It's expanding my views.
It's challenging myself: thinking about EVERYTHING.
It's stimulating, concentrating, contributing, supporting, reflecting, thinking, feeling, hoping.
It's crafting and folding. Making paper cranes for peace.
It's listening.
It's loving.
It's sharing.

Where do you see faith?
How do you grow community?
Can you build trust through action?

Sharing in Quaker meeting. The warmth of banana bread brown.
Exploring in Quaker meeting. The righteous red of Advices & Queries.
Challenged in Quaker meeting. The needs of sustainable green.
Listening in Quaker meeting, to the fluttering yellow of an epilogue candle.

There's a jittery, nervous hubbub.
Awkward bursts of laughter push through the silence of newness. But silence thickens quickly and twists itself into the ropes that tie me to you, into us. The creaky floorboards of being late settle into the same sighs as my neighbour and our breaths synchronise.

When I'm engaging with Quakers, I'm uprooting the certainties that smother me.
When I'm connecting with Quakers, I feel a peaceful green.
When I'm hoping with Quakers, I see past the window pane.
When I'm contributing with Quakers, I feel a candle glow of light inside.

Our inner love, inner light, can shine here.
We can be bright; warmth spreading and connecting us together. After I leave here, I will be the together we made. I will listen to the silence the world offers and hear the silence of us.

What do we do, and be, and find, with Quakers?
Hope;
Listening;
Humour;
Feeling safe;
Being who we are;
Difference;
Variety;
Sharing;
Hope

Hope is the ending and the beginning.
The last to come out and the start of what we are. Perhaps, in the end, all we can trust, must trust, is that we will have hope. And as long as we do, we will.
If you have no hope, how can you believe change is possible?
What do you hope for?
Faith;
Community;
Action.

Suggestions for Children's Meeting following the BYM All-Together Worship on Sunday 29 May 2022

Our children's meetings are diverse in size and age range, and often unpredictable. We offer these ideas for you to adapt for whoever is present on the day. Some ideas could be used on zoom or home or individually.

Read the poem again

Ask

I wonder what part of the writing you like best?

I wonder what part of the writing is true for you?

I wonder if there is any part of the writing we could leave out and still have all the words we need?

Imagine together

Ask about 'Faith', 'Community' and 'Action' (or other age appropriate terms which younger children can identify with e.g. 'Meeting for worship', 'time with Friends or family', 'caring about something/someone').

If it had a colour, what colour would it be? • If it had a smell, what would it smell like?

If you could touch it, how would it feel? • If you dropped it, what sound would it make?

If you sat on it, how would it feel? • If it could sing, what would that sound be?

If you licked it, what would it taste of?

Worship share

Use a "god bag" of different coloured objects or a selection of postcards/images and ask which object each person would choose to represent faith/action/community/hope.

Represent

Use hoops, or make large circles of string, to represent faith/action/community (you can prompt 'are they connected?' 'how are they connected?' if needed). Collect pictures to sort into Venn diagram which represents faith, community and action.

Make & role play

Use Lego/Playmobil people/cuddly toys to form a representation of community. You could use these in role play to show these people taking action.

Collage

Have coloured paper, pens, old magazines/newspapers, scissors and glue. Invite people to make a collage of the different feelings/images/actions which come to their mind in the following situations, using the words of the poem, (some people may prefer write or draw than collage).

When I'm engaging with Quakers, I'm... • When I'm connecting with Quakers, I feel...

When I'm hoping with Quakers, I see... • When I'm contributing with Quakers, I feel...

Group drawing

On a large piece of paper, draw a window frame. In the poem, the young people said 'When I'm hoping with Quakers, I see past the window pane' – invite the group to draw what they see past the window pane.

Play with connections

The poem says 'silence thickens quickly and twists itself into the ropes that tie me to you, into us.'

Throw a ball of wool/string around the circle, inviting people to pass to someone with whom they have a connection (they may explain the connection aloud if they like).

After the ball has been around a few times, you could tie the two ends in knots and work together to untangle the string back into one big circle –

Is it possible? • How does it feel to be acting together in community?

How do you support each other when it's difficult? • Is there a creative way you could solve this?

Move into different shapes

Work with everyone in the room to represent different shapes, starting simple e.g. a triangle, a circle and gradually get more complex e.g. a star, the inner light, the world...

Other sources: You might also find inspiration from previously published editions of Journeys in the Spirit. Try: [Community](#), [Faith](#), [Action](#), [Hope](#). Other editions can be found [here](#).