

What to Expect from Quaker Worship

In the Religious Society of Friends we worship together in expectant silence. Each person who enters the meeting helps to determine the depth of our worship.

There is no prearranged program, and no human leader.

The silent hour is a time of seeking awareness of the Divine - dropping our usual patterns of thought, analysis and worry. We wait patiently for a kind of consciousness which Quakers have traditionally called the "Light".

The Light may come as a new insight with regards to oneself, an embrace of life and its joys, or a new courage to face life. This is the ministry of silence, of opening ourselves to feel the presence of the Divine Spirit within all of us.

The Light may also lead one to feel they have an insight to share with the Meeting. This is vocal ministry and is offered in the sense and hope that our worship may be deepened by this ministry.

When such a message is shared, the group will appreciate having ample time to listen without comment. The group will enter again into silent waiting before the silence is broken again, if at all, during the rest of the meeting.

This is the ministry of listening, of listening behind the words that are spoken, of holding up those words to the Light, to hear that of God in the speaker.

At the end of the worship hour, someone will close Meeting with a handshake, followed by introduction of newcomers.

In Agate Passage Meeting, Friends often gather, after meeting has closed, to share beverages and/or small snacks.