

CHALICE LIGHTING AND OPENING WORDS:

The gods and goddesses must have a sense of humor.
Why else would cats chase things that I cannot see?
Why else would puppies chase their tails?
Why else would something happen to make me smile when I am crying?

Grant me the eyes to see humor that opens a heart.
Grant me the heart that can to be warmed by the smile.
Grant me the smile that makes others wonder what secret I know.
Grant me the gentle humor that engages others –human and otherwise – in seeing the
wisdom of the universe.

CHECK-IN: How are you feeling right now?

READING OF GROUP COVENANT:

TOPIC:

Humor is all around us. Take, for example, the irony of a winter storm on April Fool's Day.
Some humor we observe. Some humor we create by our actions. Have you ever pretended that
you were a fly on a wall or standing on a balcony above yourself and watching what you are
doing? It often takes three tries for me to get things together to leave. Even the dogs expect that
and just lie still as I come back into the house for things I have forgotten -- even after I have left
the driveway and returned.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Share something that you have observed in the last day or so that makes you smile.
- 2) Share something about yourself that is humorous. How is it to laugh at ourselves?
(Caution: Truly define something for ourselves rather than what others may tell us.)
- 3) Does humor enhance your life?

CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK: Anything you said here that you want held confidential?
Otherwise, we treat each other's sharing with kindness and respect.

CHECK-OUT: How was this session for you?

CLOSING WORDS: "The Prayer of the Cat" adapted

Lord,
I am the cat.
It is not, exactly something I ask of You!
No----- I ask nothing of anyone.....
Wouldn't You like someday
To put a curse on the whole race of dogs?
If so I should say.....AMEN

Carmen Bernos De Gasztold, *In Praise of Animals*, Edward Searl, p. 94