

LIVING IN A CAPRICIOUS WORLD

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

“I am being driven forward into an unknown land.
The pass grows steeper
The air grows colder and sharper
A wind from my unknown goal
Stirs the strings of expectations.
Still the question
Shall I ever get there?
There where life resounds
A clear pure note in the silence.” *Dag Hammarskjold – Singing the Living Traditions #486*

PURPOSE: We come together to build connections and to talk about what deeply matters.

CHECK IN: What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing. What are you leaving behind to be here today?

READING OF GROUP COVENANT

FOCUS: COPING WITH CRISIS

“Living in a capricious world means accepting that we do not live within a stable moral cosmos that will always reward people for what they do. We should not deny that real tragedies do happen. But at the same time, we should always expect to be surprised and learn to work with whatever befalls us. If we can continue this work, even when tragedies come our way, we can begin to accept the world as unpredictable and impossible to determine perfectly. And this is where the promise of a capricious world lies: if our world is indeed constantly fragmented and unpredictable, then it is something we can constantly work on bettering.”

From “The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life” by Michael Puett & Christine Gross-Loh

FOR CONSIDERATION: Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; if time remains, general response and conversation are welcome. You may speak to any or all of the questions or comments as you wish.

1. How do you react to living in a capricious world? Tired and discouraged? Overwhelmed and adrift? Challenged and energized?
2. Who or what sustains you?
3. What can you do to deal with it?
4. What can you do to improve or change things?
5. Where do you need to focus? How do you find your focus?

CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK: Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like held confidential? Otherwise, this is a reminder that we treat each other’s sharing with kindness and respect.

CLOSING WORDS:

“My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
So much has been destroyed
I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely,
with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.” *Adrienne Rich – Singing the Living Traditions # 463*