

Calling
UU Community Church of Santa Monica
Small Group Ministry
February 2013

Welcome and Explanations 5 minutes

Chalice Lighting

Before his death, Rabbi Zusya said, "In the coming world, they will not ask me, 'Why were you not Moses?' They will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'"

- Folk tale

Check in / On Our Hearts 15 minutes

Covenant 10 minutes

Our covenant includes a description of how we want to be with each other, ground rules for our time together, and our expectations for members of our group.

Readings

Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice "out there" calling me to become something I am not. It comes from a voice "in here" calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.

-attributed to Thomas Merton

I wonder where my life is, the one that could
Have been and never was, the daring one...

-Jorge Luis Borges

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

this one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?
-Mary Oliver, "The Summer Day"

Questions for consideration:

1. What are your greatest joys, gifts, memories? When did you feel the satisfaction of responding to a calling in the past?
2. How did your parents respect their calling, or not?
3. What calls in your life have you run away from or been unable to follow?
4. If you had a year to live, what would you do?

Sharing 60 minutes

Closing Activity / Sharing Insights

Please share an insight you gained from our time together.

Closing Words

Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go and do that because that's what the world needs, people who have come alive.
-Howard Thurman, African-American writer, minister, and college chaplain