

Creativity Group

Opening Words

for chalice lighting by Bets Wienecke

As we gather together,
May we learn to recognize and affirm
The pieces of possibility --
The bits of good -- we bring.
May we encourage rather than control;
Love rather than possess;
Enable rather than envy.

Allowing our individual gifts to weave a patchwork of peace:
The soft deep blue of sensitivity and understanding;
The red energy of creativity;
The white heat of convictions;
The risky, fragile green of new growth;
The golden flashes of gratitude;
The warm rose of love.

Each of us is indispensable if we are to minister to a broken and wounded world.
Together, in our gathered diversity, we form the whole. So be it.



Group Covenants

Welcome to the creativity group. Over the last seven years the regular members of this group have come up with a set of covenants, or agreements, which we will all abide by to help make this group a safe and pleasant space.

- We will all arrive by 7pm so that we are present for the opening circle. We will close by 9pm.
- We will start each group with a 'check-in'. This is simply an opportunity to go round the circle and give everybody a chance to say their name and a few words about how they are feeling at this moment or tell of any significant news that they'd like the group to know before we get on to the creative activity.
- During the check-in, we will allow each person to speak without interruption, and we will listen to what they have to say without commenting on it immediately afterwards or starting a conversation.
- During the rest of the evening, we will be positive and encouraging about the creative efforts of everyone in the group, including ourselves! We hope that this will create a supportive atmosphere where everyone feels able to try out new things and participate fully without fear or embarrassment.
- We will also be appreciative of the activity being offered, even if it would not usually be 'our sort of thing', out of respect and gratitude to the person who has volunteered to prepare and lead the session.
- There is always a 'pass option' so we can choose not to speak during the check-in. We can also choose not to take part in the activity being offered. It is perfectly acceptable to bring along other art or craft projects and quietly work on our own things whilst enjoying the company of the rest of the group.

The deeper intention is that these covenants will help us to create a safe space where we can all be in right relationship with ourselves, each other, and God (you may prefer to use an alternate word or phrase, such as 'the

Spirit of Life' or 'the Universe', for what you hold to be the greatest good). Copies of these covenants, and more information about the thinking behind them, are available as a handout for you to take away with you.



Closing Words

for extinguishing the chalice by Steve J. Crump

That which is worthy of doing, create with your hands.
That which is worthy of repeating, speak with a clear voice.
That which is worthy of remembering, hold in your hearts.
And that which is worthy of living, go and live it now.