

Welcome to Burlington Friends Meeting Worship

Meeting for Worship begins when Friends gather and sit in silence together as Quakers have done for more than 350 years. In this silence we renew our shared belief in the possibility of direct individual or corporate communication with God. We make a purposeful attempt to move away from the distractions of our daily lives and our preoccupation with ourselves. With practice, we learn to: instead focus on the inner Light, which is that spirit of Christ which we believe dwells in everyone.

The silence is at times broken by vocal ministry. Such ministry is not planned, and anyone present may be moved to rise and speak. Ministry may be offered in the form of a prayer, song, or verbal message expressing hope, thanksgiving, or the challenge of a pressing concern. Friends find it important to allow a period of silence between messages. We are cautioned against long discourse, discussion or debate.

Vocal ministry focuses and deepens the silent worship which follows. In this creative and reverent silence, we open our hearts to God and strengthen our bonds to each other. Often we find peace of mind and a renewed sense of purpose and direction.

Meeting for Worship lasts about an hour and ends when those appointed shake hands in token of conclusion. There is a brief period of introductions and announcements, followed by simple hospitality. We invite everyone to share in this important part of our religious fellowship.