

More Opportunities for Extended Worship



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In earlier times, Friends would often worship for hours fully expectant and deeply patient for the Living Presence to do its work in the gathered body of Friends. These extended and gathered experiences were core to Quaker convincement, personal transformation, and prophetic challenges to their society.

Modeled on a 25-year practice in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, NEYM Friends are invited to experience a full day of Quaker worship and sharing. We gather for three hours or so of expectant waiting worship. Three hours may sound like a long time, but Friends who practice this extended worship are often surprised how quickly it seems to go by. Friends are free to get up and move around, to lie down on the benches, to use the bathroom, to take a walk outside and rejoin the worship as led. Following the worship we eat our brown-bag lunches sociably, and then return to the meeting room for worship sharing about our experiences of the morning. We usually gather at 9, and finish by 2:30 or 3:00. Friends are welcome to come for the whole day or any part of it.

Transformative experiences can happen when the Living Presence has adequate time to remove the spiritual cobwebs and to shine a Light on the deep calls that are beckoning us to transform ourselves, our community, and the world. It is God's work to awaken us to God's wisdom, guidance, and love. These extended meetings for worship can provide a seedbed, a crucible, for God to do that awakening. Marcelle Martin's Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *An Invitation to a Deeper Communion*, describes the beginnings of these extended worship experiences in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Next Extended Worship Days in NEYM

- **March 30, 2024** Mt. Toby Meeting, Leverett, MA 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **April 27, 2024** Westerly Meeting, Westerly, RI 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **June 22, 2024** Hartford Meeting, Hartford, CT 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **October 5, 2024** Vassalboro Meeting, Vassalboro, ME 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **November 2, 2024** Providence Meeting, Providence, RI 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Detailed fliers will be prepared and distributed in advance for each of these worship locations.

See Other Side

Helping To Develop Extended Worship Opportunities

- Would your meeting like to host one of these Saturday extended worship sessions?
 - Contact Michael or Jean
- Would you like to join us in organizing these extended worship meetings around New England?
 - Help needed especially in eastern and southern New England. Contact Michael or Jean.
- Would you like to organize your own local program of extended worship, regular or occasional, perhaps for your meeting, or for a group of Friends?
 - Friends can meet effectively by zoom. It can be for a shorter time than three hours. Consult with Michael or Jean

Why We Share What Rose for Us During Worship

Sharing our experiences from worship helps us all in several ways. We increase our awareness and learning from our experience. We inspire and encourage others. We learn from each other's experiences and responses. We deepen our connections and love. Our community of Friends becomes a crucible in which God works our transformation.

Proclaim what you have discovered, for others' benefit, sharing as if inviting to a banquet: ...our community will grow in depth and power as we tell each other what we've been trying and finding.... We need to find ways to talk about it — simple, humble, concrete, realistic, truthful. It's not bragging to admit we've been visited by the Lord, and trying to take some steps along the way God's spirit leads.

Brian Drayton, Amor Vincat, 4/30/23

While waiting upon the Lord in silence, as often we did for many hours together, with our minds and hearts toward him, being stayed in the light of Christ within us from all thoughts, fleshly motions and desires, we received often the pouring down of the spirit upon us, and our hearts were made glad and our tongues loosened, and our mouths opened, and we spake with new tongues, as the Lord gave us utterance, and his spirit led us, which was poured upon sons and daughters.

Edward Burrough, 1632 or 1633- 1663

Our vision is to strengthen yielding to the Living Presence in all Quaker gatherings for worship and business so that the Inward Teacher can truly do its work of abundant guidance and love.

Convenors

Michael Wajda, Bennington Meeting, and Jean Rosenberg, Middlebury Meeting, are part of a small online extended worship group with ten other NEYM Friends that has been meeting now for more than two years. Michael and Jean started these full day in-person extended meetings in May 2022 and are committed to moving them around NEYM several times a year, as possible.

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