

How our Godly Play practice informs our gathering:

Getting Ready

We recognize that we need to prepare, to slow down, open our hearts and anticipate that of God in each other and in our coming together. We check ourselves to see if we are ready.

Crossing the Threshold

We choose to leave one space and enter another, bringing our whole selves to the circle and choosing to be present as fully as possible. We come with our doubts, fears and failings as well as our convictions, joys and successes, our listening as well as our speaking.

Building the Circle

We extend and receive welcome. We do best in hospitable places. In this circle we support each other's learning by giving and receiving hospitality. We take our place and make room for all to take their place.

Telling and Listening to the stories

We need and use story to listen to our own story. We use an economy of words and an economy of gestures so that we provide uncluttered and open access to the story.

Wondering

We invite dialogue with open, honest questions. No fixing, saving, advising, or correcting each other. When there are differences and we feel judgmental or defensive we turn to wonder. "I wonder what brought them to this belief - I wonder how they are feeling now? I wonder what my reaction teaches me about myself?" We strive to put aside judgment to listen to others and to ourselves more deeply.

Silence

We trust and learn from silence. Silence is a gift in our noisy world and a way of knowing in itself. We treat silence as a member of the group. After someone speaks we take time to reflect without immediately filling the space with words. We only speak to improve on the silence.

Response

We practice attending and responding to our own inner teacher as we explore stories, questions and silence in the circle. We pay close attention to our own reactions and responses, to our most important teacher and give freedom to express that in a variety of ways. We trust our minds, our hearts, our emotions, our hands and our bodies.

Prayers and Feast

We take the time to express what is most deeply true and important (prayer). We recognize that feasting is who we are with (relationships) - not what or how much we get (product).

Blessing

We both give and receive blessing. We look for and call out the best in each other and affirm who each person most authentically is. We each are called to have the courage to be who we most authentically and uniquely are.

Goodbye

We have all the time we need. We believe that it is possible to leave the circle with whatever it is that we needed when we joined the circle and that what we receive will continue to grow in the days ahead.