

Welcome to worship after the manner of Quakers

Quakers are united in an awareness of the "Inner Light" or "that of God in everyone". This means that God reveals a way of life in truth and love to every human being of every race and religion, directly, without the intermediary of priest or sacred book. Quakers have carried that understanding into their worship, their church government and their relationships with others.



A Quaker Meeting for Worship is based on silence. It is a silence based on expectancy. During the Meeting for Worship the expectant waiting is an attempt to bring us nearer to God and to each other. Meeting for Worship starts as soon as the first person enters the room and sits down.

A Meeting for Worship is a public event, to which anyone is welcome and may share. In Meeting everyone has a part to play; the visitor is welcomed, the regular attender is cherished, the member feels at home. All are part of the quiet waiting upon God: anyone present is free to minister verbally when moved by the Spirit, or continue in silent worship.

Quakers describe this form of worship as "unprogrammed", which means that there is no one who leads the meeting through a set form. Therefore the practice of silence places responsibility for any outcome on each person present. The silence provides everyone with a chance to discern "God's will" individually. Do not be anxious about distracting thoughts. Give way quietly to your awareness of God's presence in us, among us, and in the world.

Sometimes a worshipper may be moved to stand up and speak from his or her experience. This is called "spoken ministry" and it can deepen and enrich the worship. Listen to what is said in an open-minded, charitable spirit. Each contribution may help somebody, but our needs are different and can be met in different ways. Each of us brings our own life's experiences to the Meeting for Worship, and leaves with a spirit of openness, love, and trust.

Meeting comes to an end after about an hour, with handshakes. Newcomers are welcomed and announcements are made by a Friend appointed for that Meeting. We then share a cup of tea; please join us and mingle with us. If you have any questions please feel free to ask the person who made the announcements. There is a Library in the House. There is also a website, www.quaker.ca/toronto

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