POWER
May your time together be meaningful and full of warm connection! ~Rev. Rebekah

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING WORDS: by Rev. Karen Johnston

Do not be alone right now. Gather together.
Gathering together grows courage: in ourselves and in others who see the numbers swelling.
It is a small thing, but right now it is an important thing.
Great sources of wisdom remind us: just because you cannot stem the tide of *all* hate,
it is still right to do the thing you can do.
These things add up: your one thing & my one thing; his one thing & their one thing & her one thing.
Together it becomes a BIG thing.
Do not be alone right now. Any liberation—all liberation—is collective liberation.
My freedom is bound with yours and yours with mine. Inextricably.
Let us together cast our lots doing this BIG thing: bending the moral arc of the universe towards justice.

CHECK-IN

READINGS

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." ~Alice Walker

"Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times more effective and permanent then the one derived from fear of punishment." ~Mohandas Gandhi

"And power without compassion is the worst kind of evil there is." -E.J. Patten, *Return to Exile*

"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The power of transgression is the archetypal foundational story of the Bible because we transgress; because we want to break our own codes, sometimes of morality, sometimes of ethics, sometimes of the power structures… because there is freedom in transgression, and there is power in transgression." ~Esther Perel

"We do not need more intellectual power, we need more spiritual power. We do not need more of the things that are seen, we need more of the things that are unseen." ~Calvin Coolidge

"Never underestimate the infinite love within you. It has the power to transform lives" ~Mimi Novic

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions and readings you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

~ What spoke to you from the readings?
~ As a spiritual principle, "Power" is often intertwined with love and compassion. How have you experienced Power within "Love" and "Compassion"? Or is there a time when Power is present, and love and compassion are not?
~ What is "Power" to you? How does Power show up in your life?
~ "Power" is also linked to choices and will. Reflect on a time when Power framed your decisions or called you towards action.
~ How is Power related to the sacred and holy in the world?
~ What is not within your spiritual Power?
~ We are thankful for our teachers, in whatever form they come to us. Who models spiritually grounded Power in your life?
~ Esther Perel points to the "power of transgression". What does that mean to (or inspire in) you?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available)

MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words to close the circle)

CLOSING WORDS by Tom Shade

My friends,
There is a **power** at work in the universe.
It works through human hands,
but it was not made by human hands.
It is a creative, sustaining, and transforming power
and we can trust that power with our lives
and with our community.
It will sustain us whenever we take a stand on the side of love;
whenever we take a stand for peace and justice;
whenever we take a risk.
Trust in that power.
We are, together, held by that power.

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE

Merry Meet, Merry Part, Merry Meet Again!