

We began with a deep round of check-ins. It seems that as the months go by, we share more and more nuanced and tender openings and personal struggles in these check-ins. We often express gratitude for the fellowship of this group.

We then continued our conversation on our connections to nature. Where last month's sharing was mostly on finding blissful moments, tonight's reflections were more layered. This was precipitated by everyone learning that 2 baby birds were dying on the back porch after falling down the chimney (from a nest maybe?) into the fireplace of the Community House. Life is so fragile. Not being alone feels particularly important at the end of life. Some of us have had experiences of communicating on a deep level with other animals at times like this. Many of us find our greatest peace and inspiration from the natural world.

Unexpected challenges -- particularly health -- provide opportunities for us to practice being in the present moment, to understand that this is truly all we "have." Shifting from death being an unwelcome disaster to being a tender transition we are blessed to accompany each other towards, provides openings for wonder, wisdom, and awe.

When we eat out of our gardens, we become more aware of the sequence of the crops coming into harvest: we've consumed asparagus and lettuce in abundance, are heading into eggplant and beans, and by the end of August will be swimming in tomatoes. This is when tomatoes are here, locally, in our backyards. The rest of the year they come from farther and farther away - and taste less and less like these August tomatoes. What shifts if we stop asking God for tomatoes (or anything else) when we want them and are simply ready to receive them when it is tomato season?

We resonated with a reflection one shared that in losing our understanding of our interconnectedness with all beings, that we've made a real mess of things on our earth. Can we re-learn these connections in time? These past 2 Seekers' meetings have inspired us to practice listening more deeply to the natural world.

With much gratitude for each other, we decided to meet next on Monday, August 31, 2015 at 7pm in the Community House. Our topic will be Healing & Forgiveness. Readings will be shared in the coming weeks.