

Quotes used in Chalice Lightings and Closings

Rev. Dr. Stephen Papa—

Ministry is the process of changing context, making things sacred by seeing them in a larger context – doing things for a higher purpose...ministry is not just what one does, but how and why.

Is it done with reverence, care, honor, respect? If so, it's ministry.

Rev. William Murray A Faith for all Seasons

About suffering:

"...The universe does not judge; nor does it mete out rewards and punishments; it simply is. The only justice we will find is the justice we create. The answer to the problem of unjust suffering is not to be found by questioning God or the cosmos; the answer is our love, love of life, love of the world in spite of its lack of justice, and the love we can give to one another."

In the biography of Isadora Duncan, the 20th century professional dancer, she shares an exchange with a person who was visiting her in a time of grief after the death of her two children...here's is what she said about her friend:

"...she made me repeat to her all their little sayings and ways, and show her their photos, which she kissed and cried over. She never said, "Cease to grieve," but she grieved with me, and, for the first time since their death, I felt I was not alone." from MY LIFE by Isadora Duncan

She was fortunate to find one person who had the simple talent of being able to "be with" her and share her sorrow.

Shakespeare: *"Give sorrow words. The grief that does not speak whispers the o'er fraught heart and bids it break."*

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From Joanna Macy from the book "Dharma Rain":

"Is it my imagination to think that we have been chosen [to live] at a time when the stakes are really high, at a time when everything we've ever learned about interconnectedness, about trust, about courage, can be put to the test. Each one of us is a gift...the earth is giving to itself. Every anguish, betrayal, disappointment can help prepare us for the work of healing...If the world is to be healed through human efforts, I am convinced it will be by ordinary people, people whose love for this life is greater than their fear, people who can open to the web of life that called us into being..."