

Service

Opening words and Chalice lighting:

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer

Welcome and check-in (A time to share what is on your mind in order to clear it and be in the present.)

Reading for discussion

Now my friends, I am opposed to the system of society in which we live today, not because I lack the natural equipment to do for myself but because I am not satisfied to make myself comfortable knowing that there are thousands of my fellow men who suffer for the barest necessities of life. We were taught under the old ethic that man's business on this earth was to look out for himself. That was the ethic of the jungle; the ethic of the wild beast. Take care of yourself, no matter what may become of your fellow man. Thousands of years ago the question was asked; "Am I my brother's keeper?" That question has never yet been answered in a way that is satisfactory to civilized society. Yes, I am my brother's keeper. I am under a moral obligation to him that is inspired, not by any maudlin sentimentality but by the higher duty I owe myself. What would you think me if I were capable of seating myself at a table and gorging myself with food and saw about me the children of my fellow beings starving to death.

1908 speech

Questions for discussion

We ask our small groups to engage in one volunteer project outside the church community yearly. One reason is the tendency of small groups to become self-involved.

Why do you think groups have that tendency?

If you haven't done a service project, do you think it's important?

Does the idea of volunteering appeal to you? Why or why not?

Check-out (A time to share likes and wishes, such as "I like how we..." "I wish we would...", or express how you felt about the group.)

Closing words and extinguishing the Chalice:

Kindness in words creates confidence.

Kindness in thinking creates profundity.

Kindness in giving creates love.

Lao-Tse

Thanks to everyone for their participation and commitment to our group!