

# Living and Dying

## Opening words and Chalice lighting:

For the sun and the dawn which we did not create; for the moon and the evening which we did not make; for food we plant but cannot grow; for friends and loved ones we have not yet earned and cannot buy; for this gathered company; which welcomes us as we are, and from wherever we have come; for our free churches that keep us human and encourage us in our quest for beauty, truth and love, for all that comes to us as gifts from sources beyond ourselves; for gifts of life and friendship, and for this day, may we give thanks.

*Richard M. Fewkes (adapted)*

**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

Religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die. The knowledge of our own death is an enormous shaper of human behavior.

## Questions for discussion

How does this knowledge shape your life?

What sorrow does it bring?

What will you miss the most?

How can the foreknowledge our own death enrich our days?

**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:

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.

The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.

The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.

And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

*Elie Wiesel (Oct. 1986)*

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