



Do We Need God?

God is like a mirror. The mirror never changes, but everybody who looks at it sees something different.
- Rabbi Harold Kushner

God gave us an opportunity through science to understand the natural world, but there will never be a scientific proof of God's existence.
- Francis Collins

Opening and Chalice Lighting

Blessed is the fire that burns deep in the soul. It is the flame of the human spirit touched into being by the mystery of life. It is the fire of reason; the fire of compassion; the fire of community; the fire of justice; the fire of faith. It is the fire of love burning deep in the human heart; the divine glow in every life.
- Eric A. Heller-Wagner , UUA Worship Web

Quiet Reflection

Sharing/ Check-In

Take two or three minutes to share how you are spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and physically. You can speak or you can pass. We want to know how you are in this moment.

Do We Need God?

Ministry in Midair

Nothing is for certain. Uncertainty is one of life's gifts. It may not make life easier but it improves the quality of life by stretching our perceived limitations and shrinking our egocentric worldviews. In this life it is rarely either/or; instead, it is mostly maybe.

In troubled times when we are as likely to track high alert terrorist threats as often as high pressure systems, embracing uncertainty is essential if we are to thrive. While no one likes the coming storms, everyone can endure them if we remember the realities of liberal religion.

Remember that life isn't fair. Even death and taxes are doled out in inequitable ways. When we realize that "rain falls on the just and unjust alike," we are relieved of finding some one to blame—others, ourselves, God—for our trials and errors. When we are not busy pointing fingers we can find time to hold a hand in the midst of scattered showers.

Remember that no one is in charge. Sure, it is comforting to believe that all things happen for a reason and that "he's got the whole world in his hands." Sadly, every day evidence does not stack up. Just ask the victims of life's dark side: the abused, neglected, hungry, and hopeless. It does no good to exhort them, "Go with God," as we go to brunch. But when we break bread with "the least of these," more than one diner is transformed.

Finally, remember that no one is alone, or at least, no one needs to be. God's spirit is present to all so long as we embody it to some. The key to living with uncertainty is to be empowered by community. That is where you and I come in, and may we do so religiously, with two feet planted firmly in midair.

- Rev. Greg Stewart, April 2007 San Francisco Unitarian Universalist Newsletter

Break/Quiet Contemplation

Take about 10 minutes to review through the attached handout—"Do We Still Need God?" by Marc Smircich—and to think about the questions below, or other ones that the handout raised for you.

Sharing/Deep Listening

Speak about this topic in any way that is comfortable to you. If you choose to use the questions, focus on just one or two, as this will allow you to go deeper into the topic.

- How do you feel about God?
- What role, if any, does God play in your life?
- Do you think we need God in our lives? in our community? in the world?

Discussion

This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.

Checkout/ Likes & Wishes

What did you like about this meeting? What would you like to see change at future meetings?

Announcements

Closing Reading/ Extinguish Chalice

We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight. Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into the unknown.

- Sara Moores Campbell, *Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal* #701

Go your ways,
knowing not the answers to all things,
yet seeking always the answer
to one more thing than you know.

- John W. Brigham, *Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal* #687