

Circles of Love



Theme “Deep within the human mind, there is a fascination with the circle because it satisfies some longing within us.” John O’Donohue from ANAM CARA

Environment Display around the room a variety of circle images: for example, the moon, the sun, a globe, a Celtic cross. Have paper circles of a variety of colors on a table with tools for writing and drawing.

Chairs Arrange chairs in a row or rows so that participants are not facing each other.

Introduction

Presider Ask each participant to introduce herself/himself to the person sitting in back of her/him without turning or facing the person. Then pose the question: “What was the experience like?” Pause for some reflection on this. Ask each person to share one word or phrase on thoughts or feelings.

After sharings, ask participants to stand and move chairs in a circle. Repeat the above exercise with introductions to the right into a way of seeing that is broad and spacious.



Song “Gather the Dreamers”

(Play this song on the tape/CD of the same name.)

Invite participants to join in singing.)

Gather the dreamers and wake the sleeping,
now is the time to give birth to the dream.
Gather the dreamers, a new day is dawning,
the time is now and the earth is calling our name.

Gather the lovers and heal the broken,
weave all the earth with heartstrings of love.

Gather the lovers, a new day is dawning,
the time is now and the earth is calling our name.

Carried within us, the dream,
dare we to grasp now the moment.

We can make dreams come true if our vision is new.

It’s a quest that belongs to us all.

Peacemakers gather and teach forgiveness,
link hands through all lands in a circle of peace.

Peacemakers gather, a new day is dawning,
the time is now and the earth is calling our name.

“Gather the Dreamers” by Kathy Sherman, CSJ;

Sisters of St. Joseph of LaGrange: Ministry of the Arts. Used with permission.

Reading

“Time as a Circle,” Chapter 5, Anam Cara by John O’Donohue (or another reading of your choice)

Prayer Response

Circle me, Lord.
Keep protection near
And danger afar.

Circle me, Lord
Keep hope within.
Keep doubt without.

Circle me, Lord.
Keep light near
And darkness afar.

Circle me, Lord.
Keep peace within.
Keep evil out.

Circle me, Lord - david adam, World Prayers



Reflection Time

Repeat the sentences, “Deep within the human mind there is a fascination with the circle because it satisfies some longing within us. It is one of the most ancient shapes in the universe.”

Reflect

- How true is it for you that “the circle... satisfies some longing within us.”?
- In what way is the circle a meaningful symbol for you?
- Is there a difference you experience when you think of time as linear or time as circular?



Presider: Ask participants to choose a paper circle and a writing or drawing tool. **Directive:** Write or draw your response to the above question(s). Allow sharing time within the circle of participants.

Closing

Prayer “May You Dance In Beauty”

I invite you to enter for a moment
into Sacred Time and Space,
into a way of seeing that is broad and spacious.
See this Day, from the time you arose this morning
until you sleep this evening, as one Ceremony,
divided into small and familiar rituals,
your Heart as the Altar.
You, part of the Cycles of Light and Darkness.

Now begin to see your Life,
from the moment of your Conception
until the time of your Death

as one long, continuous Ceremony,
filled with many rituals,
some familiar, some unknown and challenging.
Your Home and all Your Relations, the Altar.
You, part of many Seasons and Cycles.

Now see this Ceremony of your Life
as part of a much larger Ceremony that extends
Seven Generations into the Past and
Seven into the Future,
made up of many Births and Deaths.
This beautiful spinning Earth the Altar.
You, part of the great Ebb and Flow.

Now, if You will, imagine this larger Ceremony
to be but one part of a Ceremony so grand,
so magnificent as to be hardly comprehensible,
a great, vast Ceremonial Circle, rich and vibrant
with millions upon millions of swirling
Circles of Dancing Light,
and You, one of those Dancing Circles,
a Dancer on the Altar that is the Universe,
where Time is Eternal.

circle wisdom - sedonia cahill, World Prayers

Closing Ritual

Presider: Invite the participants to stand in a circle and envision the dream within as the song, “Gather the Dreamers” is again listened to or sung. Movements with the song are invited; join hands in the circle and sway with the rhythm.



Acknowledgments

“Circles of Love” ritual: [Marguerite Samz, OSM](#);
from [Hill Connections](http://hillconnections.org) (<http://hillconnections.org>), a web site linking [Contemplation](#) and [Social Justice](#).
© Copyright [Tile Tempo](#): “Father, Mother and Child” tile by Amy Theresa Dallas. Used with permission.
© Copyright - “Gather the Dreamers” art piece: used with permission of [Ministry of the Arts](#).
© Copyright - “Elements of Wisdom” art by [Doris Klein, CSA](#). Used with permission.