

Quaker silent worship is a receptive openness to the inspiration of God or the Spirit. It is rooted in a clear adherence to a spiritualized Christianity that harkens to the primitive or early communities of the New Testament. In silent worship, the Quaker waits to be filled with God's Spirit as a positive ordering of life based on the firm belief in the revelation of Scripture.

During worship, a message may come to us. Friends have found that messages may be for our personal reflection or for sharing on another occasion. Or they may be a leading to stand and speak. Friends value spoken messages that come from the heart and are prompted by the Spirit, and we also value the silence we share together. Following a spoken message, we return to the silence to examine ourselves in the Light of that message

- Worship is based on silent waiting, where we expect to come into the presence of God.
- In this living silence, we listen for the still, small voice that comes from God through the Inward Light.
- Worshiping together in silence is a way for a community to be brought together in love and faithfulness under God's presence.
- During silent worship, anyone may feel inspired by the Spirit to give vocal ministry (speak out of the silence).
- After the person speaks, there is a silence to allow contemplation of the message. While the message might be inspirational, it is not intended to begin a dialogue.
- Meeting for worship ends when one Friend, designated in advance, shakes hands with his or her neighbors. Then everyone shakes hands.

While all Quakers meet for worship to hear more clearly God's "still small voice" (I Kings 19:12), Friends in the unprogrammed tradition base their worship entirely on expectant waiting. We take the Psalmist's advice literally: "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).