

Extended Meeting for Worship at Waterford Quaker Meeting



Waterford Monthly Meeting, 61 Newtown Road, Waterford

Saturday October 3rd, 2pm - 5:30pm

Extended worship is a period of sitting with and in the divine spirit. In the manner of Early Friends, we gather for a prolonged period of silent reflection and inward searching, usually remaining in waiting worship for about 3 hours, with time at the conclusion for afterthoughts and sharing.

In earlier times Quakers would often worship for hours, fully expectant and deeply patient for the Living Presence to do its work in the gathered body of Friends. These gathered experiences were core to Quaker conviction, personal transformation, and prophetic challenges to the cultural behaviors in the places where Quakers lived.

We will gather in silence, with hearts and minds open and bent towards listening to that of God among and within us. Spoken ministry may arise from the silence, though it is not uncommon for worship to remain silent for the duration of our time together. Messages should be a deepening of the

silence we share. The purpose of silent worship is not to speak, but to listen more clearly. To this end, we hold the silence as ministry itself, which has the capacity for transformation and transcendence.

We will gather in Waterford Meetinghouse at 2pm for three hours of expectant waiting worship. Friends are free to get up and move around, to lie down on the benches, to use the bathroom, even to take a walk outside and rejoin the worship as led. Following the worship, we take some time for some sharing about our experiences of the practice.

Transformative experiences can happen when the Living Presence has adequate time to remove the spiritual cobwebs and to shine a Light on the deep calls that are beckoning us to change and to make the world a better place. Extended worship is an experience for all those who are seeking, wishing to deepen their connection to the divine within, and expand their individual and communal spiritual lives. It is God's work to awaken people to God's wisdom, guidance, and love. These extended meetings for worship can provide a seedbed for that awakening.

Contact Liadhaín Saoirse Reilly for more information: liadhreilly@gmail.com

Further resources: Marcelle Martin's Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *An Invitation to a Deeper Communion*, which describes the beginnings of these extended worship experiences in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Michael Wajda's article in Friends Journal - "*A People who dwell in the Living Stream*"

Marcelle Martin's article in Friends Journal - "*Extending into the Eternal*"

Language adapted in part from Michael Wajda and Jean Rosenberg in NEYM