Communitas: Finding and Living the Community of Love

A retreat with Emma Churchman, Ken Jacobsen, Margery Post-Abbott, and Allison Randall

Communitas, the community of Love, was joyfully rediscovered by early Friends in their 17th century religious revival, and it can be found and lived among us today — in our meetings, churches, and other circles of friendship. The mistrust and division of our times cry out for communitas.

Led by four friends who have found communitas as a peer group for ten years, we will explore how communitas can happen among us today, how we may enter and grow into communities of Love together, communities that receive us as we are, with all our human hurts and hopes, and help us become the thriving child of God each of us is uniquely meant to be.

We will consider various dimensions of accompaniment. How do we learn to enter into another’s spiritual space, being with them without being intrusive, judgmental, or directive? How might we continue to walk in the dark, when our flashlight has gone out and we can only feel the mud and drear? Can we learn to trust God and others enough to allow them to offer the Light they carry? How might we better teach one another to know/find the Life that leads us to live more fully than we ever thought possible and share it with the world?

We will focus on examples of accompaniment: through grief, through anger and depression, into ministry, in discernment, through doubt and confusion, and accompaniment that draws us together even when we seek to hide.

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