

## *LIVING THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT*



### 1. **Welcome** —Bill George

### 2. **Song**—Bridget George *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* Words by American Quaker Poet— John Greenleaf Whittier 1872

Dear Lord and Father of mankind  
Forgive our foolish ways!  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind;  
In purer lives Thy service find  
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian Sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm.  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.

### 3. **Circle introductions**

### 4. **Poem**—*Prayers Like Shoes* by Ruth Foreman

I wear prayers like shoes.  
Pull them on quiet each morning  
Take me through the uncertain day  
Don't know what might knock me off course.  
Sit up in bed,  
Pull on the right, then the left,  
Before shower, before teeth.  
They were my mama's gift to walk  
me through this life.  
She was strong once.  
The kind steady your ankles.  
I know 'cause when her man left,  
Her children gone,  
Her eldest son without goodbye,  
They're the only ones keep her standing.  
I saw her still standing.  
Mama passed on some things to me,  
My smile, sense of discipline, my  
Subtle behind.  
But best she passed on "Girl, you go to  
God and get you some good shoes,  
'cause this life aint steady ground.  
Now I don't wear hers.  
You take them with you, you know.  
But I suspect they made by the same company.  
Pull them on each morning,  
First the right, then the left.  
Best piece of dress I got.

### 5. **Reading from the writings of Abdu'l Baha**

Every Human Creature is the servant of God. All have been created and reared by the power and favour of God; all have been blessed with the bounties of the same Sun of divine truth; all have quaffed from the fountain of the infinite mercy of God; and all in His estimation and love are equal as servants. He is beneficent and kind to all. Therefore, no one should glorify himself over another; no one should manifest pride or superiority towards another; no one should look upon another with scorn or contempt; and no one should deprive or oppress A fellow creature. All must be considered as Submerged in the ocean of God's mercy.

### 6. **Reading from *Speaking of Faith*** By Krista Tippet

Human relationship—which begins with seeing an "other" as human—is the context in which virtue happens, the context in which character

is formed. It is an elemental piece of truth, against

which individualistic American culture struggles, That we human beings need others from our first breath—at first to stay alive and in the end to be alive in spirit...I hold as one of my favorite writings in the world, a paragraph by Reinhold Niebuhr about love—as an impossible yet necessary ideal in the lives of nations as well as human beings...

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime, therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true, or beautiful, or good, makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, could be accomplished alone; therefore, we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our own standpoint; therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness.”

**7. Reading from the writings of Baha’ullah**

This is the Day whereon the Ocean of God’s mercy hath been manifested...the Day in which the Daystar of His loving-kindness hath shed its radiance upon them, the Day in which the clouds of His bountiful favor have overshadowed the whole of mankind. Now is the time to cheer and refresh the down-cast through the invigorating breeze of love and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness and charity

**8. Song—Bill George**

*Stand by Me* by Ben E. King

Stand by Me  
Stand by Me  
Oh Darlin’ won’t you stand by me?

When the night has come  
And the land is dark  
And the moon is the only light you see.  
I won’t be afraid,  
No I won’t be afraid,  
Just as long as you stand by me.  
Stand by me  
Oh, Stand by me,  
Just as long as you stand by me.

If the stars that you look upon  
Should tumble and fall,  
Or the mountain should crumble into the sea.  
I won’t cry, I won’t cry at all,  
No, I won’t shed a tear  
Just as long as you stand by me.

Stand by me,  
Oh, Stand by me,  
Just as long as you stand by me.

**9. 5-15 minute talk by Greg Tapler**

**10. Circle sharing and discussion.**

**11. Closing circle prayers**

**12. Final Song/Benediction—Bridget George**

May the blessings of God rest upon you, may God’s Peace abide with you. May God’s presence illuminate your heart, now and forever more.