

Dear Friends,

Since the decision that the NWYM was splitting I (Lynn) have been called to intentional prayer regarding this transition. It became clear that a part of my process of letting go and healing would be to assist in the planning of worship during our last NWYM together. At the very core of our understanding as Christ-centered Friends is our testimony of community and our dependence on Christ, our present Teacher, to lead and guide us. In worship, we come with a posture of humility and acknowledge, God is God and we are not, and agree we each need God's gift of grace.

While we all have a wide range of thoughts and emotions regarding the split, I am committed to the knowledge and intention that each of us must do our own individual and communal work of confessing, healing and grieving. Regardless of whether one is staying in the current NWYM or going to something new I believe each foundation must be laid on Christ-like attitudes and behaviors.

Many may be weary and disillusioned and wonder the reason for gathering together for worship. It is messy and sacramental work that invites us to trust in the promised transforming work of God in the wide range of emotions & interactions in our current transition. We must be committed to reflecting & holding Christ's Light for each other as we close our last NWYM together to establish a good and strong foundation as we all move ahead.

It is for this reason, the worship planning team wants to share a vision for our evening worship gatherings around our theme of "When Grace happens. . .we relinquish, remember our story, and say our good-byes." In evening worship, we desire to host a safe and spacious place to encounter Christ and the themes of the evenings are similar invitations one would find in a memorial service. There will not be a main speaker but an evening meditation or theme and each service will include silence and opportunity for private personal response if one feels led. A small team will be providing the music. Sitting in worship together – regardless of what label we wear or whether we stay or go – invites us to trust God with one another and exposes us to currents of grace which thankfully are not limited by human division.

Irrespective of our current feelings and experiences, we have been shaped by our NWYM relationships – past and present, and by years of participating in worship and service together. I invite you to attend each service and hope you will encourage others to come and worship together as well.

May God's Peace Rest Upon Us,

Lynn Clouser Holt

(on behalf of the YM worship planning team: Retha McCutchen, Nate Macy, Rob Willoughby & Martha Wood)