On a snowy day in early May, five of us met during worship sharing to write our State of Society report. It seemed a small group, with some regulars gone for the weekend, but we were also mindful of two dear friends who have died in the past year. Their quiet male presence, so regular in attendance, is missed amongst those of us left. We also mourn the absence of five former regular attenders and a member. We find our anxiety rising. Did we not meet their needs in one way or another? Their contributions to our worshipping community were so appreciated. As we have reached out to them, we find that other paths have better met what they were looking for. We have added two new members to our small community who bring great energy and love.

Still, we are reminded of the promise that where two or more are gathered, there am I also. The depth of our sharing both in Worship, and Worship Sharing has provided one Friend, who speaks out to the world as a state legislator, a way to speak truth from her heart. She is bearing witness and hears from those around her that her messages carry a deep sense of truth. We are reminded that we each can carry seeds from our Centered Worship that will heal our world, both at home, and amongst those in our community.

In addition, there is spiritual energy not only for supporting people who speak to the broader political world, but also for those who support the structure of our larger Quaker community, who write letters to the editor, who help young people find their voices, who participate with other church groups in aiding the homeless, and who nourish the seeds in each of us of love, simplicity, honesty and integrity.

A recent Quaker visitor to worship remarked in a note back to the group, that she had felt so welcome and at peace with her short time with us. Another attender shared that she always enjoys the welcome she receives on attending. In our second year in the library of New Hope Lutheran Church, our members have volunteered to be part time secretaries for New Hope, to provide for needs of that church and to contribute monetarily to the upkeep of the church structure.

Gratitude came down like Presence and swept around us. Gratitude for each person in attendance this morning, gratitude for those that have gone beyond, gratitude for those that have journeyed with us over the years and left behind their gifts of Spirit. Gratitude for the challenges we live with, such as a nuclear missile base. Gratitude for those who won’t give up. Grateful for this time to stop, and hear one another’s hearts.