

**Meeting for Worship
Sundays 11:00 A.M.
Riverside Church Tower
Room 12T
www.morningsidemeeting.org
(212) 787-3903**

Childcare is available in Room 13T

**Please visit the Morningside Library, located in the small room
in the northeast corner of the meeting room.**

**Members of Ministry and Counsel who are present at meeting for worship will
identify themselves at the rise (conclusion) of meeting.**

**They welcome your questions on any matter related to Quakerism in general
and Morningside in particular.**

Welcome to Quaker Meeting for Worship at Morningside

Thank you for joining us. If you are new to Quaker worship or to Morningside, we hope you will find this brief introduction to be of use. Our weekly worship adheres to the following pattern:

Worship

Unprogrammed Quaker worship follows from our belief that each of us is capable of a direct, unmediated experience of the Eternal Presence. It is characterized by a deep and expectant silence, during which each worshipper aims to free her/himself from the distractions of daily life. This “centering down” allows us to be more fully alive to the Spirit. Occasionally, out of this silence, one or more individuals may be led to rise and share a message discerned to be intended for all those gathered. Messages that do arise are not intended to provoke discussion, but further inward reflection. Hence, it is our custom to follow each message with a period of silence.

Meeting for worship begins when the first worshipper enters the room and begins to settle into the Silence. Its conclusion is signaled by a handshake initiated by the meeting coordinator.

Afterwords

Worship continues with a period called *Afterwords*, which provides an opportunity for us to build community by sharing messages of a more personal nature: joys, sorrows, and brief reflections that did not rise to the level of being shared during the main portion of worship. We ask that messages be kept brief, and that a worshipful atmosphere be maintained by allowing silence between messages, rather than lapsing into conversation.

Introductions

Following *Afterwords*, the meeting coordinator will invite members of the Morningside Ministry and Counsel Committee who are present to introduce themselves. They welcome your questions about Quakerism in general and Morningside in particular.

Welcome

At this point, visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after a prolonged absence will be invited to rise and introduce themselves, in order that they may be greeted more fully during our Fellowship Hour.

Announcements

Friends are invited to make announcements about events of interest to the community.

Fellowship

All are welcome to share refreshments and conversation.

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Morningside Monthly Meeting – A Brief Introduction:

From our origins as an informal worship group meeting on the campus of Columbia University in the winter of 1957-58, Morningside grew into a preparatory meeting under the care of New York Quarterly Meeting (1960), then blossomed into a monthly meeting in 1973, and finally became fully self-supporting in 1990. In July of 2002, we moved from the Columbia campus to the tower of Riverside Church, and have been “permanently” at home on the twelfth floor since 2007. For most of our history, we have maintained a fairly constant number of members (55-60), despite the coming and going of individuals inherent in our relatively transient, urban setting.

Unencumbered by the need to attend to the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of a physical home, we are free to devote our resources to outreach, and to concerns for peace and social justice. A significant portion of our annual budget is distributed, via our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, to a variety of organizations who work to improve the quality of life of those whom they serve. We tend to focus on small organizations, for whom our modest contributions will make a noticeable difference, and on organizations that serve the local community, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Our lack of a Meetinghouse has presented particular challenges as we have labored together to create a loving community. We have met those challenges by establishing spiritual nurture groups, conducting mid-week meetings in each others’ homes, holding periodic retreats, and forming discussion groups on a wide variety of topics. It is believed that Morningside was the first Meeting anywhere to take a same-sex marriage under its care with the marriage of John Bohne and William McCann on May 30, 1987. Other meetings had held “Ceremonies of Commitment” for same-sex couples, but Morningside was the first to affirm the right of all couples to name their relationships as they choose. Support committees for those among us who are facing personal difficulties – or are embarking on new personal, professional, or spiritual journeys – are regularly established by our Committee on Ministry and Counsel. While attendance at our First Day School has fluctuated over the years, we are always prepared to welcome children, and work together to find ways to introduce them to a life lived in the Light, in accordance with the Quaker testimonies of equality, simplicity, integrity, and peace. In these and other ways, we have sought to earn our reputation as a caring and welcoming community.

Get to know more about Morningside:

The Red Book

Please be sure to sign the “Red Book” on the inquirer’s table if you are interested in learning more about Morningside, and wish to be contacted by a member of the Committee on Ministry and Counsel.

Monthly Welcome Breakfast

Please join us – as our guest – on the fourth Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast in the Riverside Café (first floor, south elevators). These meals provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Meeting in a relaxed social setting.

After-Meeting Discussions

Ministry and Counsel sponsors after-meeting discussions – generally held on the fourth Sunday of each month from October to May – on topics related to the spiritual life of our community. Please join us for these opportunities to consider more deeply the variety of ways to live a life of faithfulness to the Spirit.

Peace and Social Concerns Speakers/Discussions

The Morningside Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets on the second Sunday of each month, at 1 p.m., and often arranges for speakers to address matters of concern to the committee and the community at large on the third Sunday of each month. All are welcome to attend both meetings and discussions. Announcements about upcoming speakers are made at the rise (conclusion) of meeting for worship.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

On the first Sunday of each month, we gather in a spirit of worship to attend to the temporal concerns of the Meeting. All are welcome to participate, and to learn more about the Quaker decision-making process – which is based on discernment of Spirit-led action and not on debate, discussion, or majority rule.

Meeting Retreat

All are welcome to participate in Morningside’s annual weekend retreat, generally held in the spring. We strive to keep the costs of the weekends low, and scholarship assistance is available to attenders and members alike. Please speak to a member of Ministry and Counsel for details.