

Minutes, First Month 2009

Barbara Esther, Clerk

Jen Rhode, Co-Recording Clerk

Attendance

Gary Briggs, Bobby Carter, Jim Cavener, David Clements, Tom Edelston (visiting from Raleigh Monthly Meeting), Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Rusty Maynard, Phil Neal, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship at 12:24 p.m.

Reading

Effective prophecy energises and encourages people. It acknowledges their failures and inadequacies, but it doesn't blame - it comforts and consoles. It believes in people. It is an invitation to return to God. . . So what do we need in prophecy that will enable people to hear the voice of God? It is very simple. Jean Leclerq, a Benedictine, has said:

We must love the age we live in. From the point of view of faith, the best age for each of us is the one God has placed us in, the one he has given us, and which we must give back to him.

We must love the age we live in. Sometimes this is very hard to do, but it is our

task.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (1 Cor. 13)

Effective prophets work from a place of love. They nurture us, they inspire us to engage with our faith in deeper and deeper ways. We are inspired, we lead committed lives which return us always to our spiritual core. It is circular. Our outward lives are shaped from within, our actions bring us closer to God, and we live God's truth in the world.

From An Orientation to Prophecy by Marion McNaughton

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