

The Utah Hearth Fireside, February 5th 2023

ALLISON DAYTON (HOST)

The Utah Hearth is um...our fireside event. We do this once month and we're just grateful to have everybody here. So let me just tell you a couple of things. First of all the tissues. They have rainbows. How cute. I just saw them at the store. The first person to cry has to make sure the next person Gets the tissues. And then we're gonna have a little mingle after where you can talk and have cookies, and we can get to know each other. One of the most important things we have found is just people knowing that there are other people out there with the same questions. Or the same identity. Or anything that makes you feel like you're alone and you're not. And that's what the hearth is about.

So the very last thing, we will be recording this fireside. It will live on zoom on the website liftandlove.org. So if you're not interested in being filmed, Don't walk in front of the camera. Uh, feel free to ask questions at the end, you'll be able to have a little time for that. And you can, um no one will know who you are. But just just so you know, this will be published on liftandlove.org. Um, let's see. Okay, I'm gonna introduce our special guests and I'm so excited with how this turned out - like, a small talk turned into this whole thing with the band, which is super cool. Trust Dave to get a band!

So we'll start with Peter Breinholt. He's a well known performer in Salt Lake City and, um, came that way, largely through word of mouth. I've known Pete since sometime in the 19 eighties when we went to rival high schools. Even though I went to the right high school up the street

Peter is very smart, evidenced in his choice of bandmates like Mark Ensign, who was also an East high, there in the back, also an East High Leopard the same year. Um, and a longtime friend.

Everyone knows Pete.

Everybody loves Pete and everyone knew he would be successful when they heard him play. In 2016, Gary Herbert, honored Pete with the Governor's Mansion award for achievement in the Performing Arts. For his influence as a songwriter and performing artist. His debut record became the best selling independently released CD ever in the state and was described by Salt Lake magazine as an underground classic.

Peter is married to Rebecca. and together they have four children.

Our second guest will be David Smurthwaite. I was introduced to Dave through a mutual friend and art curating genius Laura, her Tottenham. Several years ago, two or three Yeah, I'm very indebted to Laura for that. David is married to his eternal girlfriend. He calls her - hashtag like Relationship goals - right there, they have for inspiring Children Noah, Sam, Oliver and Elliot.

Dave identifies as gender expansive. Um, which is on the transgender spectrum, and I love it, He says he is a gender expansive soul.

You'll soon see why - David is very soulful.

David's a gifted writer and marketing person. He's using those gifts to educate others about LGBT people in and out of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. He is uniquely able to speak about what it means to be transgender. His hope is that with every conversation, there is a greater sense of belonging for LGBTQ members and allies, especially the young. The youth. The young adults.

I am grateful for both of these speakers.

And for the band because I think it's gonna be awesome we're gonna be treated to something really special. And I'd like to thank president behind and for allowing us to meet here in the cultural hall.

Okay?

Yes, inviting us. I love that so much more. And Shumway for putting this all on to zoom, and we're hopeful that people can find it.

I'm sure that tonight is gonna be a great night of healing. It's been a hard couple of weeks for transgender friends in the state, and, um, coming together and speaking of Christ, and the fact that we're all Children of God is one of the most healing things that I think we can do.

So with that being said, I'm gonna let these two take off and do whatever they've got planned and then after we will have let's see, Holly Holly, let's have you given an opening prayer. Then we'll go and Jenny

Naylor, which is not your name anymore.

Richards. Oh, terrible Knowing people from when we were like someone else I grew up with Jenny Richards will be giving the closing prayer, okay?

(PRAYER)

Father in heaven.

We're so grateful.

To be in this beautiful, snowy night, and we're grateful for those who organize this event and this evening together.

Father.

Um

Do you think before all these blessings that, um

We have and that especially opportunity to come and listen to David and Pete and we asked the

To bless them and

And be with them and the thoughts and feelings and

Stories they prepared and shared to share with us, and we pray that

Um

Well, listen with open hearts and that we can learn

Oh, grateful for faith. Grateful for my son. Jesus Christ.

We're grateful for all these blessings and

Back to me to be here in this

Situation with beautiful music and

We are thankful for.

And David for sharing their souls with us And we say these things, and then you have Jesus Christ AMEN.

PETER BREINHOLT:

Dave and I met. I don't even know what year it was, But Dave took a class I was teaching at the U of U Institute. It was a volunteer thing I was asked to do it was that night, wasn't it night? And he was kind of hanging out with my wife's younger sister - were you dating? Yeah. And she called him, Rico. I didn't know his name for 20 years. He was Rico. I don't even know where that came. From. What? She the only one that calls you, Rico and me because I

Um And so, Yeah, we We got to know each other family helped us move once and then 20 years passed and we did not. We totally lost track of each other. And then about maybe a year and a half ago. I think it was my sister in law Kerry forwarded an article link to an article David written where he tells his story.

And I read it, and I was like, Wow, this is this is so interesting, and it just worked out that four or five months later, um

We were we run into each other at dinner and, um, we got caught up and we realized we had a lot of catching up to do. And so Dave suggested we go to lunch. We didn't do that yet. But he called about a four weeks later, he texted me 'I'm doing a fireside and I wanted you to come and Do something at it'

And, um

I can't remember if he said to Split it or or just do the music. But like first, I haven't done a fireside and about nine years. I used to, and at a certain point, I stopped doing them and what I would tell people when they called in the beginning was, I got kids at home, and I have I have demanding callings - time consuming callings -because Elders Quorum president that turned into High Council and then bishopric, and then the most demanding of all, uh, Trek master with my wife. And anyway, that's you know, so I That's what I told people, that actually wasn't the real reason. Real reason was. I didn't want to do firesides anymore. I just, stuff was shifting for me. And the last thing I wanted to do was Sing my heart out, you know in these meetings and and just do firesides, and so that was that was the real reason.

So I told Dave that he said no, no, no, this was - this is not that. This is different. This is for Lift+Love - just that - I said, Yeah, I will absolutely do that. And I'm happy to be part of this. I'm honored. And Alison, we have known each other a long time. And I just think you're doing great work. Here we are.

Um, When I was a missionary in Santiago, you guys know Alma, It says, if you want to know if something is true good or live plants e eat. Nourish it, and if it grows its living, it's good. It's true, okay? Now, in a way that really, really resonated with me. I had not have a lot of success with the Romans 10 approach and I thought, alma 32... That how I'd heard Gandhi did it. Gandhi's method during his life seeking you know was he would take spiritual plans from whatever faith test that in the laboratory, in his own life. And out of that he Developed, but I think it's a sort of hybrid conviction faith and his autobiography he named it The story of my experiments with truth. And so anyway, that made sense to me as a missionary. I started in my mind. Kind of planting seats, trying things out - the seed of prayer, seed of Blessings, Seed of modern Day prophets, seed of forgiveness. And I and I nourish them. I was journal writer and I write my observations. Seeds started, to grow.

And by time I came home from my mission, I was on fire. I thought this This is this is alive. This is the best thing that's ever happened to me. And that's how the next 15 years in my life felt and, um I remember about, um, mid two thousands. I remember at this point thinking, um All these

seeds I planted - A lot of them have become trees. I felt like there's a forest now, but I started to notice the Forest. It doesn't look exactly like I thought it would.

There are very big trees in this forest. Prayer is prayer is a big tree and the forest of faith. I have you wanna sacrament meeting talk and we need to talk about prayer, Ask a self-employed musician. They will give you a talk about prayer. But I noticed there were other trees that were not - that stopped growing... one and only true church, the tree or whatever reason just hadn't grown. and yet the tree of of God's unconditional love, That was a big tree and my point is

It was a beautiful forest, which is my forest but wasn't forest I thought the and it got to the point where I actually started to notice it in my in my participation and I started to feel like you guys don't know the which We use a lot for good reason that If the church is a circle, people in the center of that circle just works and I was there for a lot of time. And then you have people who are out of the circle who were in the central circle long time and for whatever reason, they chose to leave the circle.

But there's a there's a third group, and that is that was in the simple And decided, um, were found themselves for whatever reason, uh, whether it's Circle circle. I didn't move. The circle moves. I have an LGBTQ Son or daughter and I had to redraw my circle. I had to redraw my circle. To make sure they were in it. And that shifted things. It could be any number of things. So I was feeling that happen. I was I didn't know where I was. And, um

I have a brother in law who is a landscape architect, and he made a comment to me once. That was interesting, he said.

Um He said you know, forest fires.

Like the ones we read about the paper. We don't want them increasing. My sister who lives in California, says the worst thing about living in California is the fire stuff. Fire. my brother in law said. If you take out all the man made forest fires, the forests still need fires, Okay, usually comes through lightning. That's nature's way of keeping them healthy and Theyre needed to clear up a lot of the deadwood.

And make space for new life to grow when he said that I thought

I think my forest of faith has had some forest fires and

They haven't always been fun.

Little bit painful connect, but

I wouldn't trade him for the world because they create some space or in my case, beautiful nutrients to grow and How so? So I love that now Flash forward and I don't even know what year I've been right now, but my Eldest son.

He was as good as they come, he said. You know, he's a He's a honest kids. Good kid, and he decides he's not serving a mission. Uh, not interested in church. My next son makes the same decision, and a year later he comes out. Okay. And so you combine all these things, and now I'm really feeling as well as Members of my family.

We're not in the sector. We are not out. But we are Inside the edges, like they say.

I brought. I was hoping I could find a quote.

From

Brigham Young or somebody about this, but I couldn't say you got to settle for Brene Brown.

She's talking about midlife.

And I read this as spiritual, my spiritual midlife.

She said. I think midlife is when the universe gently places its hands upon your shoulders pulls you close and whispers in your air. I'm not screwing around all of this pretending and performing these coping mechanisms that you developed to protect yourself from feeling inadequate. Getting hurt has to go your armor is preventing you from growing into your gifts.

I understand that you need these protections when you were small. I understand that you believed your armor could help you here.

All of the things you needed to feel worthy and lovable. But you're still searching and you're more lost than ever. Time is short.

There are unexplored adventures ahead of you. You can't live the rest of your life worried about what other people think.

You were born worthy of love and belonging.

Courage and daring coursing through your veins. You were made to live and love with your whole heart. It's time to show up and be seen.

What struck me about that quote was her use of the word armor.

She's a twice, she said.

The armor that we sometimes develop when we are young as coping mechanisms and to protect ourselves.

Can sometimes be, you know, While they're useful In one stage of black, they can become restrictive and inhibiting and another states of light. She said.

So I've got a friend who is a member of the church and she is seeker.

And she enrolled in Richard War. You guys know Richard work that's just increased to you enrolled in his school Top center for Action Contemplation down in New Mexico.

Got to know him, and she mentioned I had permission to tell this story. She said, Um, she mentioned to him I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, The Saints.

And he said, Oh, and he offered His observation and his loving and gentle way.

Yeah, he offered an outsider's perspective.

He said. Your church is really good at the first half of spiritual life.

And really bad at the second half of spiritual life.

Now.

Before I go any further. I want to say I know not everyone feels that way. Maybe people is true. We don't feel this way. Some of my favorite people. Standard and it's working. It's the It's the best thing that's ever happened. It made them and their family.

But he went on to say Here's why it's very similar with Brene Brown said said.

In the first half of spiritual life when we tend to, um Graves reduced for is, um certainty at the questions.

Clear boundaries.

The community, peer influence and

We do it beautifully.

Say, Well, we often in the second half spiritual life, lean into or crave is, um Uh huh.

Personal connection with God where we are going straight.

To God for our like owning or a moral authority.

Uh, nuance.

Sometimes uncertainty.

And he made so he made that comment and

I thought when I heard that that Well, I felt it really resonated with me. So my question then began. I'm gonna I'm only I'm going to do a song here in a second and then get to Dave. But

The question became from me. How do I continue to participate? That's which used to do and serve used my talents and at the same time

Um, make space for that deeply personal spiritual journey.

And

I have been I just gonna You know that's a whole other fireside. But I just want to say I have been

Um, really kind of fascinated by what we've seen just over the last five years.

That when we talk about that, inside edge of the circle, where many people

Find themselves for different reasons.

That space seems to be growing, and it seems to be as Holly so I talked on the phone the other day. It's getting crowded, like there are a lot of people who are finding themselves there, and they're beautiful. And they are, um, interesting and smart and and the best people and wonderful

And, uh,

I just I think I just want to

Say how important that role is David Brooks. Many guys knows David Brooks

To borrow the concept from Richard War, and he wrote a whole New York Times calm about this, said every organization

Those people inside the edge. They are very

Valuable and and we need that we actually

I wrote a list of all the reasons why, and I'm not gonna read them, too, But I'll use this.

Kind of wrap up with this way, but at least said the people in that space They see what's good about the group and what's good about rival groups.

Um, a doorkeeper Richard War competitive to a doorkeeper. A doorkeeper must love both inside and the outside of his her group.

And know how to move between those two lovebirds. And, uh, that's something that I think is very valuable.

And

That's how I'm feeling. That's where we're feeling right now. And, uh I think it's important thing so

When I mentioned in my group we were rehearsing on Wednesday night.

I'm doing aspire side. Um, you know, Brian Rock keyboardist said. Oh, were we already knew about were coming, so he's gonna be here and I mentioned it to Mike. Mike's like Mike and Alison explored his cougar Pride kicked in, he said I will be there for Alison.

Leopard high in this high school musical there, the Cougars

Right?

I guess that's the big this I could give as a highland around. You got your mascot? Uh, it was all intentional.

Um, Kevin said the same thing. They all wanted to be here. We're gonna be here whether you asked us to play or not. I'm gonna get the whole

band here. So we're going to do a song. We're gonna do a couple songs, but just one right now.

So you guys come on up right now? And let me just say about this song?

Um, songwriting is interesting, because, um, often you

You write a song and you're at a stage in your life, and you don't realize you're in a stage because you're in it.

And then But but a lots going on when you write a song, and then a few years later, five years later, even longer, you look back and use your out of that stage. But you hear the song like Oh, yeah.

I was in that stage and I see traces of that. I didn't mean to put them in there, but they're there. And this song is one of those thoughts. So this song came in 2006.

I was right about something else. But I had already begun to see

This forest that had now become a pure, beautiful for us, but a very different one. I expected

Um

It had started to really

Sort of become present for me, and it turns up in this song. So this is a song called

Bells.

....

(song)

You can clap if you want. You don't have to thank you so much. I'm gonna pass the microphone over to Dave, and we're going to hear Dave's story, and it's been an honor to gets known better and spend these last two weeks

DAVID SMURTHWAITE-

Thank you so much, Um

Uh, listen, thanks for that.

Box of Kleenex right here. I really appreciate it. Yes, it's gonna be me. It's gonna be me.

Oh, I'm so well at touched by E. Yeah community that we have here tonight so many friends and family that are either here or virtually that have come together. I love to seen the reunions that were happening.

Um

Before we started tonight. Like I just I feel intensely grateful. Um

Try and manage multiple things here at the same time.

We'll see how it works might be a disaster. That's okay. Still be beautiful disaster.

Um Hmm.

I want to start out first and foremost.

Thank you, Um

And he said.

I came to him and asked and

We didn't know this until recently. But when I moved back from my mission into the Salt Lake area, and I didn't have a single friends

I didn't know anybody. And luckily for me group of young adults and their wing and within a week invited me to Peter Brienholt concert. I just moved to Salt Lake area. I'm sorry. I had no idea who you were.

Um, and my newfound friends were not only Pete fans. They were actually Pete's merry band of volunteers that summer, probably for multiple summers, actually, and

So I got very familiar with Pete's and the highlight being that I ran into my eternal girlfriend, Marissa, um, at a peak concert. So, Pete, Thanks for that guy.

I also want to acknowledge and apologize that I have. I don't need to apologize, But I have my phone with me. I promise to only embarrass one quarter of my Children tonight. So I'm gonna embarrass Sam. Our second seminar both writers. So the words that we write are really important. And I was helping him with a talk recently and salmon written a beautiful talk. It was glorious.

And he got up in Sacrament meeting. And then I saw him pull out his phone. And then he started talking. And immediately he put his stone in his pocket. I was like, Sam, What are you doing? Like? No, Like all out, the words like this is like, and Sam hip like you would pull it out. And then you put it back. He pulled it out and put it back. Anyway, I'm gonna keep the phone with me.

Because I thought a lot about the works that I want to share tonight. And so you're going to see me.

Glancing up and down a little bit.

Um

To manage this at the same time.

Oh, my book Club sisters share this with me recently.

And it it pretty well sums up how I roll.

So forgive me, but I'd like to get very personal with you out of the gate.

And I'd like to share with you.

One of the darkest moments of my life.
I'm when I asked God
Question that I thought was an answerable.
And that question was
How can I be this?
When it goes against everything that I am
This was me letting God into my gender journey experience.
I had just let myself in to this gender journey experience. This was
probably four years ago.
Right around this time of year, and in that moment, desperation
Myriad of roles and responsibilities passed through my mind.
After all, I see in
And a brother.
I've been a full time missionary and elder mission.
I've been a bishop.
I've been a young man's president.
I've been a temple worker.
And most importantly, I've been half of an iron man.
Isn't that funny now, Um and
Most importantly,
Husband and father to the most amazing family in the world.
Um
But what I'd never let anyone else know.
But I was that I was also
An 11 year old boy.
In crisis.
My bishop's couch.
In his living room.
Confessing that I felt like a sin felt like more.
11 year old boy.
I like that Didn't define me.
And so
I carried this with me.
For years and years.
For decades.
I was the only one
Frank. My question. Do that truth.
Been a lot of time thinking about light and darkness.
Over the past four years.
One of my favorite scriptures.

Comes from the sermon on the Mount and this is the Christ said he
The light of the world.
I admit I have studied
The Scripture and the sermon on the Mount.
Probably hundreds of times.
But I've never really thought about
Jesus, his audience.
In that moment.
It is not
Temple recommend holders of a restored gospel. Nor is it a leadership
training for elite disciples.
Picture in my mind is this beautiful array
Souls.
Some believing some doubting all coming to Christ that day.
It's different life circumstances.
Passions.
Abilities.
Weaknesses. This
Yeah, mess.
Mhm Christ.
Charge and his pronouncement is the same.
For each and every one of them.
It's universal and personal. The same time he er the light of the world.
Rat your life.
So shine.
President Thomas Mosque.
Every soul who walks here's
Edit birth and Endowment of first light. Unfortunately, for many of that light
has dimmed almost to the point of being extinguished.
Outside influences have come in.
And the harsh realities of life.
I've been experienced.
Have you?
Help your soul dinning.
As outside influences, or perhaps even more painfully inside influences.
Have suggested the year lab is not worth killing.
And I never considered extinguishing your flame.
Instead of fighting against what seems like
Tsunami of opposition.
Yes. So I want you to know

And you are not alone.
You are never alone.
And those feelings.
Okay, and those influences no matter how daunting teen
And how real they may seem, cannot hold a candle.
To the ultimate authority.
The only one who knows you perfectly.
Our savior and Redeemer, man.
He says. like the world.
You were the light of your world.
An entire world.
Whether you believe it or not, you were born to radiate the glory of God.
The world needs to your world needs you.
Mashes that needs the sun.
The world craves your brilliance, your creativity your ally, ship, your love.
Even if they don't know it just yet.
Tell me mistaken takes bravery and courage.
Black your candle each day.
It's hard.
It's not easy.
Pull back to shine.
And I didn't coordinate but I also have a P. I also have a Brittanee quotes.
She says, the only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness, we
discover the infinite power of our lives. Elder Hall, Poland.
Said, Miss Life we each pass through the Garden of Gas Imani, where we
will learn God's thoughts are not our thoughts.
Neither are his ways are ways.
Going back to my darkest moment.
My moment of despair when all that I wanted
Was from my heavenly parents.
To take back that part of me.
That did not make sense.
Instead.
They answered me.
With three words that I felt
So strongly.
Because not matter.
They weren't saying that the agony
The sadness.
Or the loneliness.

Didn't matter. Of course. Worse, All of those things matter to them just as much as it mattered to them.
With Christ in the Garden of
But what they were saying to me that my age gender journey
My gender in congruence. Whatever words we want to use didn't change.
Why was
For them.
The savior taught
If any man will come after me. Let him deny himself who sliver will lose his life for my sake shall find it.
For decades as I was going through repressive cycles. What I thought that this meant
Was that losing my life?
I meant
Sacrifice seen what I felt inside.
For what? I believed to be truth.
It took priceless. It took trauma.
To me in the opposite direction.
Recognize that my divine caffe meant
The true
To what I felt inside, even if it meant reeling machine.
Some of those things that I believed to be truth.
And studying the savior's charge. Little bit of attention here.
Studying the savior's charge to be a light to the world. I found an interesting footnote. I loved footnotes in the Scriptures, Footnote hunting all the time. So familiar scripture. I'm like, I'm gonna mix it up. I'm gonna see what the pit not say.
And one of the signals the first footnotes of life and year the life of the world.
Goes to early Saints.
And in the church, early Saints pioneers or something that we re wear.
And still it made me think. Well, what is it that makes up an early saints, and I'm sure I'm positive that collectively we could come up with an amazing definition of what it is that makes an early states.
But I had to prefer the talk and I didn't have all of you as my resource, So just going to go with my best answer right now.
An early saint
Someone whose deepest hopes
And orderly, saying that someone willing to sacrifice all they have believed
What they have learned for themselves.

It is true.
And early saint is someone willing to share personal truth?
Even if the risk of public rejection or ridicule or death
That others might enjoy similar feelings.
Belonging and acceptance.
If we had time, my dad would have you all added definitions.
I hope that these definitions of what an early saints
It is my resonate with some of us in this audience this evening.
Centuries ago. Oh,
Neighbors of an early church.
Were hunted and killed.
Because their beliefs did not match the world around them.
Eight to go.
Our pioneer forefathers.
Were victimized and chased across the continent.
Because their lifestyle their beliefs.
Didn't fit the norm at the time.

Only a moment ago.
Black members of the church.
Or withheld priesthood and privileges simply because of the color of the
skin, their skin.
And yet in all of that rejection
And all of that ridicule and all of that pain and all of that death.
These early Saints pressed on
Undeterred.
Because of what they believed.
To be true what they felt.
To be true, even if they could not see it with their mortal eyes.
Pioneer anthem says. Come, Come Ye Saints
No toil nor labor fear, but with joy wend your way.
So hard to you. This journey may appear grace shall be
As your day.
I am grateful.
For The beauty of early Saints.
That I witness around me and as I work with amazing individuals and
amazing organizations.
Towards the end of the sermon on the Mount
The savior teachers.
He therefore perfect.

Even as your father in heaven is perfect.
President Nelson had this great reframing that I just came across and
comfort for me.
Where he says the term perfect was translated from the Greek till, you
know.
Which means to reach a point of completion.
Rather than a state of perfection.
Thus, instead of a charge for something we cannot attain the savior in is
instead offering an ultimate expression of hope.
I know.
That you will become whole.
I'll say it.
Even as I am
This definition makes so much more sense to me because for decades
and decades
I want third. I enjoyed the privileges of
A repressive cycle.
And I wondered. I've won over the last four years. Why?
That repression had to come to an end why I would willingly step into a
space where rejection
And fear and pain.
Lived in otherwise previously safe spaces.
Or why anyone for that an editor, which shoes
To follow what they believe is their personal truth when it results
And
Rejection bullying.
Injury or even death.
And the best answer that I haven't come up with.
So far.
Is that perhaps it is that we
Our divine center.
And our heavenly parents.
Are much less concerned.
To We think we are
Or through the world thinks we are
And are much more concerned with this process.
Of us becoming in complete or whole.
I felt this truth deeply.
In an unexpected space this past year.
I was driving with my boys somewhere. We were running errands.

And I was bringing them up to speed I was sharing with them.
Some of the complexities
Of my gender journey.
Because I never want them to be taken off guard and I always want them
to be part of the journey as much as they want to be part of the journey.
I also want to acknowledge as often as I can. How difficult
It can be for them.
It's not something that they signed up for.
It's not something that any of us believe that we signed up for and yet we
are all living together.
At some point I mentioned
That is, things were too difficult for them.
If it was too hard.
That I would be willing to give up my own journey.
So that they would have peace of mind.
This point.
Again. I am only
Mhm.
Embarrassing one quarter of my Children. So, Sam and see you again.
At this point, Sam, who was sitting in the front seat turned to me.
And he said this
About. You have always encouraged us to be our best Selves.
And told us there's nothing we can't be.
I don't know why.
We wouldn't want the same decree you
Sam in that moment was the voice of divinity.
Reminding me once again that the journey
Was not about my gender.
It was about believing and becoming
Whole list. Most complete version.
My son.
Unfortunately, in today's culture
We're often prone to minimizing or minimalize in this process of becoming
a whole.
By focusing on very narrow aspects.
Individuals.
Journey.
True, they love
How they identify
Or what they look like.

What if instead we simply in what if what if instead we simply honored
An individual's journey towards completeness.
What if instead we trusted that they were endowed.
With the same light as US
And they
Or wanting to move to the same destination as ourselves.
Last I checked.
No one refers to Christ's atonement or his mission.
It's a lifestyle choice.
And yet, unfortunately
That is what we do to ourselves or to others.
We deserve better.
We deserve to be honored.
And when I say we I mean, I deserve to honor myself and you deserve to
honor yourself and your journey to becoming complete.
Cool Arthur Riley.
Who is
Not cited correctly on this land.
Sorry I noticed those things right away.
Yes, that's fabulous Poet and author of the books that are put club fell in
love With this last year called this year, Flesh says, I've accepted that the
whole of my life will be a pilgrimage towards the sound of the genuine in
me.
My journey to the truth of God cannot be parsed from my journey because
the truth of who I am fidelity to the true self is fidelity to truth.
In my darker moments.
Which come often it's easy to assume that I'm the only one that was
asked
How can I possibly be this or hold this?
Or struggle with this when it goes against everything.
And I am, Hmm.
It has taken me my own life's greatest story problem.
To realize.
Truth that I wish I would have known.
When I was 11 years old.
Truth that I wish I would have known when I was 38 years old.
You were not a sin.
You're not intended to be masculine.
Not intended to be feminine.
You are instead all things.

That have or are or will complete you.
Because that is your ultimate journey. You are loved just as you are, and
you are so much more.
And anything you can currently imagine.
At the beginning of my remarks, I reference
My eternal girlfriend, Marissa.
just this week we were talking about the word. Namaste,
And Namaste. Indian Hindu. Many of you know, can be translated as
The light within me. Honors the light within you

I am so grateful Lights that I have in my life.
I am so grateful for this group has come together this evening.
To share our warmth and our love and compassion with one another, both
in attendance here and actually
And so
The life that I have.
On Earth.
Right that you hold and your personal journeys, recognizing that they
might not all be easy.
Very few are easy.
But they are all sacred. And I see these things in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

ALLISON DAYTON (HOST):

Okay. I wasn't gonna say anything but still so strongly say
Here in this room are people from my ward, growing up.
Or that I knew in high school people, people all know
And it just strikes me how far this reaches how we're all here together
because important things are L G B T Q siblings in the Gospel of Jesus
Christ and some of us are LGBTQ
Some of us have Children.
Who are. some of us have lost siblings.
To the despair.
And here we are together, and this is a very
Really beautiful form of devotion to the savior, and I am so grateful to each
of you.
take home the message that in your midst
In your worship in your neighborhood and in your
Classes are people who are with you.

We are tethered.
by the divine our savior
There's just no telling how many of us there are. So I love you all. And I
thank you for coming

(PRAYER)