June 15, 2020

Hello Member of the Class of 2024,

I join many in welcoming you to campus and to our community.

Please fill out the linked Religious Interest Form (https://aisapps.vassar.edu/rsl). Whether you consider yourself religious, spiritual, or neither, I ask you to complete this simple form so we can better serve Vassar’s diverse student community.

Our goal in the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices is to be a hub of connection and growth where every student can be joyful, messy, and whole. This year, we are excited to share that we anticipate the opening of Pratt House, a re-purposed space of hospitality on campus where all will be welcome to drop by for tea, sit quietly in our meditation/prayer space, cook a meal with friends, or join one of many student-imagined gatherings. You can follow us on Instagram (@rslvassar) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/OfficeOfReligiousAndSpiritualLife).

The quotes above and below are some of the many voices we have been turning to over the unprecedented past few months, and we hope they will give you a glimpse of the company we keep.

Thank you for your help in filling out this short form (https://aisapps.vassar.edu/rsl). A remarkable diversity of communities here awaits you, and we look forward to getting to know you—messy, joyful, and whole!

In community,

Rev. Sam Speers
Associate Dean, Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices

I know there is tragedy here, unfolding, the scale of which we cannot, will never, measure in terms of heartache. But I’m also aware of us moving towards things we have needed to move towards. How do we widen the space within us for the grief and wonder? Fear and vision? The surrender, and the creativity, the relief, the humor, the possibility?
—adrienne maree brown

The fundamental delusion of humanity is to suppose that I am here and you are out there.
—Yasutani Roshi

“Contemplation is the highest expression of [human] intellectual and spiritual life. It is that life itself, fully awake, fully active, fully aware that it is alive. It is spiritual wonder.”
—Thomas Merton

What would you bring along on a trek like this? What is bringing you along?
—Adrienne Rich