



*We embrace the process of transformation in Christ both in ourselves and in others, through the practice of Centering Prayer.*

*Contemplative Outreach is a network of communities and individuals seeking the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit and to contribute to the renewal of the Christian contemplative tradition through the practice of Centering Prayer.* Vision Theological Principal 1

Dear Fellow Mystics,

Greetings from my hermitage, now day 217. Thanks to the clear sight that flows from Centering Prayer, we find wisdom and strength in this current chaos. “We shall no longer be children, or tossed one way and another, and carried hither and thither by every new gust of teaching, at their unscrupulousness in deliberate deception. If we live by the truth and love, we shall grow completely into Christ, who is the head by whom the whole Body is fitted and joined together.” Ephesians 4:14-16

Mirabai Starr challenges us to “leap from the lip of the vessel and dive into the unknown... sacred scriptures of all faiths call us to love as we have never loved before. This requires effort, vigilance, and radical humility. Violence is easier than nonviolence, yet hate only perpetuates hate. The wisdom teachings remind us that love—active, engaged, fearless love—is the only way to save ourselves and each other from the firestorm of war that rages around us. There is a renewed urgency to this task now. We are asked not only to tolerate the other, but also to actively engage the love that transmutes the lead of ignorance and hatred into the gold of authentic connection. This is the “narrow gate” Christ speaks of in the Gospels [Matthew 7:13]. Don’t come this way unless you’re willing to stretch, bend, and transform for the sake of love.” Mirabai Starr, *God of Love: A Guide to the Heart of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Monkfish Book Publishing: 2012), 4–5, 6–7.

Desmond Tutu advises “Soon after church and business leaders helped to broker a National Peace Accord in South Africa in 1991, I talked to my fellow bishops about the need for contemplation as well as activism during the transition to democracy. I talked about the importance of the hidden, the inner life, of pouring oil and balm on wounds, of nurturing our people for the tasks of transformation. This was not being pietistic. I knew that it was important to cultivate an authentic spirituality of transformation in that transition period of much flux, bewilderment, violence, and turbulence. This authentic spirituality of transformation is the basis for any true and lasting transfiguration in our world. Discovering stillness, hearing God's voice, is not . . . a luxury of a few contemplatives. It is the basis for real peace and real justice.” *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time* (Image Books: 2004), 108-109.

Richard Rohr recommends several good practices we can do [here](#). As we increase our Centering Prayer practice, let us limit time to less than an hour paying attention to media sources of news and commentary. Let us tune away from angry dialogue on media and focus instead on the multiple, excellent, inspiring programs listed on our Calendar and Resources pages that follow. Make a 5-day Centering Prayer Zoom retreat with us Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>, the week before the election. Some of us will continue to center until November 5<sup>th</sup>, and you are welcome to join us after the retreat. Sign up [here](#).

We are looking for a website builder with professional experience. Email [Maggie](#) with your qualifications.

Peace, love, and prayer,

*Maggie*

## Events Calendar

### Tuesday October 13, 2020

7 pm CT [Tuesdays with Merton](#), sponsored by the ITMS, will feature founding member and past president **Bonnie Thurston** at 7 pm. Central Standard Time Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020. Her topic: "...almost as if I had a sister": *Thomas Merton & Etta Gullick*. Please click the link for more information and to register.

### Wednesday October 14, 2020

11 am -1 pm ET - A McDonald Lecture webinar with support from Aquinas Center at Emory University's Candler School of Theology presents "The Political Imagination of Jesus" by Professor Emerita Dr. M. Shawn Copeland from Boston College. [Register here](#)

7 – 8 pm PDT Thomas Merton Society of Canada presents A Dialogue with Ron Dart and Joel Weishaus Thomas Merton's *Woods, Shore, Desert* Wed. Oct. 14 from 7 – 8 pm by Zoom Free— please register to attend by emailing [tmssc@telus.net](mailto:tmssc@telus.net) or calling 604-988-8835.

### Saturday October 17, 2020

9:30 – 11:30 am MDT (NM) Contemplative Outreach New Mexico invites you to a morning reflection on Zoom "Join our solitudes in communion: (Levertov), reflection, Lectio Divina and chant, free of charge, email [conm2016@gmail.com](mailto:conm2016@gmail.com) to register.

### Sunday October 18, 2020

The Chicago Chapter-ITMS, in cooperation with [Contemplative Outreach Chicago](#), will present **Steve Millies**, associate professor of public theology and director of The Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, discussing "[A Gorilla with a Smart Phone - Mertonian Reflections on Political Life in 2020](#)" from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Central Time Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020. For more information about the talk, [click here](#).

### Monday – Tuesday, October 19-22, 2020

Every year the **World Community for Christian Meditation** comes together to honor the memory of Fr. John Main and his legacy to broaden and deepen the teaching of Christian Meditation. The 2020 John Main Seminar will focus on the theme "**One Heart, One Hope Indigenous wisdom, and the future of humanity**", It is organized by the Community in Mexico and will be held fully online, from 19 to 22 October 2020. Register [here](#).

**Saturday October 24, 2020**

**10 am-12 pm MT- Everything is Adrift: A Conversation with Richard Rohr-** How do we rebuild in a time of crisis and liminality? In the midst of a global time of disorder, shifting into reorder requires stretching into personal and collective transformation. Richard Rohr tackles this challenging and complex topic in [Everything Is Adrift](#), an online presentation with Contemplative Outreach Ltd. As we stand together in a time many describe as major regression, denial of the past and even collapse, Fr. Richard can help us rebuild the foundation through radical compassion. Please note, this event is offered by Contemplative Outreach. \$75 Please direct all questions and inquiries to their [support team](#).

**Saturday October 31, 2020**

**10– 11:30 am ET Keith Kristich** of Contemplative Outreach in Buffalo, New York, will be offering the workshop [Contemplation and the Way of Ease](#). It is free. [Register here](#).

**11 am – 3 pm ET Barbara Hotz** will present a socially-distanced **Dia de los Muertos Day of Reflection Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> in the courtyard of East Decatur Station**. \$35 Information and registration [here](#).

**Sunday November 1, 2020**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm ET Barbara Hotz** will present a **Dia de los Muertos Virtual** hands-on exploration of the Dia de los Muertos tradition. \$35 Information and registration [here](#).

**Tuesday November 10, 2020**

Thomas Merton Society of Chicago presents Christopher Pramuk - **What Does God's Gender Have to Do with It? Merton's Awakening to the Feminine Divine**-November 10, 2020, 8 pm ET.

**Mondays November 16 – Dec 7**

**10:00 – 11:30 am Greenhouse Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop** by Zoom. Four follow-up sessions will begin in January 2021. [Register here](#).

**Sunday November 22, 2020**

**3 – 5 pm ET Revolutionary Contemplatives** will be offering a reflection panel. Lerita Coleman Brown, Stuart Higginbotham, Rebecca Parker, Carl McColman, Maggie Winfrey. Details in next newsletter.

## Friday December 4, 2020

**Friday December 4th - Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>** - Omega Center has changed its name to **Center for Christogenesis** offering their Third Annual Conference "**The Infinite Within: Who we are and what we are called to be**" - An *online* conference with innovative talks, hands-on workshops, and spiritual practice. *Join us as we seek to meet the infinite within, explore these depths together toward the future of our world and our God. Register [here](#).*

## Tuesday December 8, 2020

8 pm ET [Tuesdays with Merton](#), sponsored by the ITMS Jonathan Montaldo

## On-Line and Virtual Resources and Opportunities

Aquinas Center at Emory University published Leslye Colvin's Blog: "To my Catholic Brothers and Sisters with White Bodies" [here](#).

Fr. Carl Arico's talk on the "Fruits of the Holy Spirit": [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)

Center for Action and Contemplation presents **Learning How to See: A Special Limited Podcast Series** with **Brian McLaren, Jacqui Lewis and Richard Rohr**- How do we transform and transcend our biases? From the judgments made unconsciously to complacency in systemic evil, we must learn how to see if we are to learn how to transform. Center for Action and Contemplation faculty members Brian McLaren and Richard Rohr join Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis of New York's Middle Church for this special six-episode podcast series [Learning How to See](#). Listen as these three powerful public theologians discuss how seeing is social, political and contemplative.

**Center for Action and Contemplation: free [20-video series](#)** featuring our five faculty Brian McLaren, Barbara Holmes, Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, James Finley speaking on the pandemic [here](#).

[The Call to Unite](#) Videos & recordings from Unite event of religious leaders & artists around the world calling the human population to unite & find a new vision for our world, Richard Rohr et.al.

The International **Contemplative Outreach Ltd** April 30<sup>th</sup> - May 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference with **Cynthia Bourgeault** featuring "**Oneness: The Secret Embrace, Fr. Thomas Keating's Final Gift to the World**" video recordings are now public for all to enjoy. [Session 1:](#) [Session 2:](#) [Session 3:](#)  
The book, *The Secret Embrace* [You may order it here in our store](#)

[Encountering Silence](#) Podcast by Carl McColman, Cassidy Hall, and Kevin Johnson

James Finley Podcasts: “[Sink into the Taproot of Your Heart](#)” & “[Turning to the Mystics](#)”

The Franciscan Center on the Hillsborough River in Tampa offers many opportunities of retreats, conferences on the mystics, and interfaith worship [click here](#).

Ignatius House is open for socially-distanced retreats – [info here](#).

Gratefulness [video](#) “A Grateful Day” by Br. David Steindl-Rast featured on their [website](#).

Br. Elias Marechal OCSO presented by Zoom “Our Inner Beauty” June 24, 2020, hosted by Tallahassee Contemplative Outreach, now posted on YouTube. [Click here](#) for the recording.

Fr. William Meninger is on YouTube! [click here](#) for *Julian of Norwich, Cloud of Unknowing, Ox Herder, St. Bernard of Clairvaux and What Is a Mystic?* and many others

Over 2500 people watched Fr. Dan Horan, OFM present “Thomas Merton and Black Lives Matter” on the first Tuesdays with Merton talk sponsored by ITMS and the Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union, on September 8th. You can now view the presentation [here](#).

Monastery of Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA Zoom Retreats - [Click here](#)

#### Welcoming Prayer Resources:

Description of [Welcoming Prayer](#), Review of human condition with a [link to Welcoming Prayer](#)

The [Welcoming Prayer Practice](#) itself, [Nuances of the Welcoming Prayer](#) practice:

[Welcoming Prayer 4](#): Fruits of the Welcoming Prayer, with Therese Saulnier

[Welcoming Prayer 5](#): The Dance between Forgiveness and Welcoming, with Mary Dwyer

[Welcoming Prayer 6](#): The Squirm Point, with Cherry Haisten

[Welcoming Prayer 7](#): The Relationship between Welcoming Prayer & Centering Prayer, T.Saulnier

[Welcoming Prayer 8](#): The Transformative Power of Welcoming Prayer, with Jim McElroy  
WP by C. Bourgeault-Mary Mrozowski's devel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bClyhR2ZPc>

Find a Centering Prayer Group meeting online [here](#).

Join the online Meditation Chapel at Contemplative Outreach Ltd [here](#).

Several times available

Contemplative Outreach Ltd.’s monthly e-bulletin is available here. To receive your own, sign up by creating an account on the website [here](#).

## Group Meetings and Coordinating Team Gatherings

*We will continue to suspend physical gatherings indefinitely. Details will be developed as we receive more information.*

Centering Prayer groups will be only meeting virtually. Find a group [here](#).

Quarterly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2020 will be on Zoom until further notice.

Sundays – 1-3 pm Nov 8, Feb. 21, May 16. Everyone is a member of our Coordinating Team. Your gifts of service spread and support transformation of our community through Centering Prayer.

Join us for our **5-Day Zoom Centering Prayer Retreat** October 26 to Oct 30, 2020 [Register here](#).

**Greenhouse Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop** - Mondays 10 am November 16 – December 7<sup>th</sup>. Four follow-up session will begin in January. [Register here](#).

**St. Luke’s Atlanta Zoom Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop** details coming in Advent. Watch our website for its posting under calendar.

Be still and know that I am God. Ps 46:10

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

*In God alone is my soul at rest.  
God is the source of my hope.  
In God I find shelter, my rock, and my safety.  
Men are but a puff of wind,  
Men who think themselves important are a delusion.  
Put them on a scale,  
They are gone in a puff of wind.  
—Psalm 62:5–9*



Contemplative  
Outreach

**Contemplative Outreach**  
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Contemplative  
Outreach *Atlanta*

Contact us at

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Find a Centering Prayer group, read our newsletters, and see what is coming soon.



Contemplative  
Outreach *Atlanta*

*is excited to offer a*

## **5-Day Centering Prayer Retreat**

**Monday, October 26, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020**

*Come to Me, all who are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Mt. 11:28*

Join us for a wonderful opportunity to experience God's radical love in silence during this challenging time. *"I who am not love can become love because Love fills me... and I shall become transformed."*

Thomas Merton's *New Seeds of Contemplation*

Our retreat includes five days of Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, and inspirational conferences. Participants will be able to retreat with us from home using Zoom.

Facilitators: Vernon Dixon, Ken Hatcher,  
Carl McColman, & Maggie Winfrey

Free of charge

Donations to

Contemplative Outreach Atlanta  
may be mailed to  
Marion Kaple,  
4101 Whitehall Way  
Alpharetta, Georgia 30004

**Register [here](#).**



Contemplative  
Outreach *Atlanta*

*is excited to offer an*

## **Introduction to**

### **Centering Prayer Workshop**

**10–11:30 am Monday, Nov 16, 2020**

**10–11:30 am Monday, Nov 23, 2020**

**10–11:30 am Monday, Nov 30, 2020**

**10–11:30 am Monday, Dec 7, 2020**

*Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46*

**This 8-session program includes four weekly follow-up sessions that begin in January 2021. (Approximately 1½ hours each)**

*“Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to cooperate with this gift. It is an attempt to present the teaching of earlier times (e.g. the 14<sup>th</sup> century book The Cloud of Unknowing) in an updated form and to put a certain order and regularity into it. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; it simply puts other kinds of prayer into a new and fuller perspective. During the time of prayer we consent to God’s presence and action within. At other times, our attention moves outward to discover God’s presence everywhere.”*

*Father Thomas Keating*

**For more information** Contact Coordinator Maggie Winfrey

**[Register here.](#)**