

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,

Blessed Easter greetings! from Two Thomases' Hermitage, now day 388. As we pass one year of the pandemic shutdown, we honor and grieve with all who have suffered, died, and lost loved ones. Our continued Centering Prayer practice is our lifeline through these challenging times.



On March 6th many of us joined Contemplative Outreach Tallahassee for our **International United in Prayer Day**. They beautifully presented an inspiring hour of Centering Prayer, Visio Divina, and reflections on grace. Their hope in creating this event was that all who attended would take away something that comforted, deepened, and enhanced their Faith and supported their Journey. We certainly did!!



Today, Good Friday, Tampa Bay Contemplative Outreach presented a deeply inspiring **Ecumenical Good Friday Centering Prayer Vigil** with Christ's Seven Last Words. Many different ecumenical leaders from both sides of the Atlantic read the seven last words with reflections on each from Julian of Norwich. Each reading was followed by a 20-minute Centering Prayer session.

Celebrate Easter with Cynthia Bourgeault! The Aspen Chapel hosts her Easter Sunday April 4th at 10:30 am Central time. Her message will be "The Relevance of Easter to the Current World Situation." You are invited to join this live-streamed celebration at www.aspenchapel.org.



Only one more week to register for our next **We Gather Together Big Sit** at 10 am ET, **Saturday, April 10th**. It is free, but you [need to register](#) for the Zoom link. **Last day to register is April 9th**.

Our **COAtlanta Coordinating Team** will meet on **Monday, April 12th from 10 am to 11 am ET**. All are welcome to attend. We plan and set the calendar for our next events. If you would like to be part of our team, email [here](#).

Hope to see you at the many valuable events are planned for April, some beginning this weekend. Check them out on page 2.

We would like to hear from you. Please send your comments, suggestions, and any reflections on what Centering Prayer means to you [here](#).

Love draws us closer,

Maggie

April - May Activities

Apr 3 Sat- Dr Jerome Lubbe- "One. Deep. Breath." 9:30-noon Zeitgeist – [details and registration here](#)

Apr 10 Sat We Gather Together Big Sit at 10 am ET, **Saturday, April 10th**. It is free, but you [need to register](#) for the Zoom link. **Last day to register is April 9th**.

April 11th Sunday 2-5 pm CDT Contemplative Outreach Chicago presents "Contemplation and Anti-Racism" a Zoom workshop with the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate Anti-Racism Committee Free [Info about presenters here](#). [Register here](#).

April 13, 2021, 8 pm EST- ITMS and The Bernardin Center at CTU present Kathleen Deignan, CND – "Overshadowed: Thomas Merton and The Cloud of Unknowing" [Register here](#)

April 14th Via Lumen presents **Sophronia Scott** with "The Humanity of Thomas Merton and the Key to Grace for an Impossible World" by Zoom 7-9 pm ET, April 14. [Register here](#).

April 16-18 Contemplative Outreach of Pensacola is offering a **12 Step Outreach Weekend Zoom retreat** "Deepening Our Experience of the 11th Step" Fri Apr 16th 4:30-8:30 CST, Sat Apr 17th 8 am – 8 pm CST, Sun Apr 18th 9 am – 12 noon CST \$25 [To register email here](#)

April 17th at 9:00 am-11:00 am CST-St. Mary's of Sewanee offers a free event: **Reflection on the Spiritual Journey–Centering Prayer Retreat** – [Register here](#).

April 19th Monday Charles Absher and others from **All Saints Episcopal** will resume their **Taize Prayers**. [Here is the Zoom link](#) Passcode: taize

Sat April 24 9 am – 12 noon MT CO Colorado presents online **Fr. Martin Laird "Awakened Awareness: Contemplation in a Commodity Culture"** addressing subtler obstacles to radical decluttering of the mind like judging our practice, boredom, trying to make spiritual happen, commodification of contemplation. [Register here](#)

April 24 One Day Retreat 1:00 pm–7:00 pm EDT "Thomas Merton's Epiphanies: A Spiritual Journey in Three Acts" by **Carl McColman** through Vallombrosa Center. [Register here](#).

Saturday, May 15th - "Two Thomases: Merton and Keating Leading Us to Transformation" [Register here](#). A flyer with more information is on page 5.

May 21-23, 2021 - Merton and Women - Bonnie Thurston, Merton Scholar, will explore women and the feminine in the life and teaching of Thomas Merton. Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center, 916 Convent Rd NE, Cullman, AL 35055 [Register here](#).



On-Line Opportunities and Virtual Resources

The International Thomas Merton Society and The Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union present:

- Kathleen Deignan, CND - Overshadowed: Thomas Merton and The Cloud of Unknowing
April 13, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Michael W. Higgins - Merton and David Jones: Visionaries Both
May 11, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Jim Forest - An Army that Sheds No Blood: Thomas Merton's Response to War
June 8, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Lynn R. Szabo - Poetry as Spiritual Direction with Thomas Merton and Denise Levertov
July 13, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Judith Valente - Why We Still Read and Need Thomas Merton: A Personal Journey
August 10, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)



Center for Action and Contemplation presents *Wisdom in Times of Crisis*, a free series of videos featuring all five of our core faculty and **Learning How to See: Podcast Series**-Brian McLaren, Jacqui Lewis and Richard Rohr- six-episode podcast series *Learning How to See*. Brian McLaren, Barbara Holmes, Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, James Finley speaking [here](#).



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



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



Br. Elias Marechal OCSO is on YouTube. [Find him here](#).



Find Fr. William Meninger on YouTube! [click here](#) to find his many videos.



Monastery of the Holy Spirit Zoom Retreats can be found at www.trappist.net.
To register, please call their office at 770-760-0959 Mon-Fri 8 am – 1 pm. Retreat donation is \$45.



Save the date International Conference of Contemplative Outreach in-person and via Zoom hosts “**The Global Embrace: Our Widening Reach, Our Deepening Connection**” on **September 16-19, 2021** Denver, Colorado, USA details forthcoming

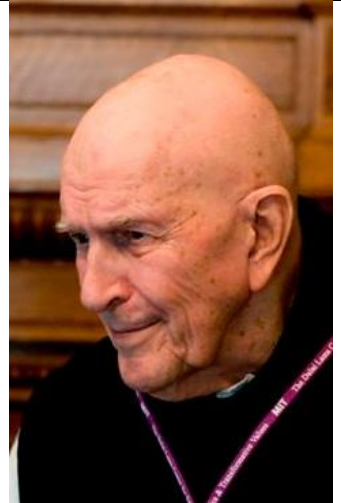
Group Meetings and Coordinating Team Gatherings

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

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

Our monthly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2021 will be on Zoom.

“Transformation takes place through the total dispossessing of everything we own, including our body, mind, and spirit. God has no self. So He can be everybody with the greatest of ease and can enrich us in every way insofar as we are capable and willing. He is longing to do so. In the Christian tradition, we believe that Christ sacrificed Himself on the cross not just to redeem us from our sins and false selves, but to invite us into an intimacy with the divine reality that is inconceivable. To accept is to participate in God’s own life, and to experience as our own, God’s humility, compassion, forgiveness, and utter self-surrender.” Thomas Keating, *World without End*, page 104



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

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

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



Contemplative Outreach

Contemplative Outreach Atlanta

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Contemplative Outreach Ltd.’s monthly e-bulletin is available [subscribe here](#).



Contemplative Outreach Atlanta

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<https://www.contemplativeoutreachatlanta.com/home-1>

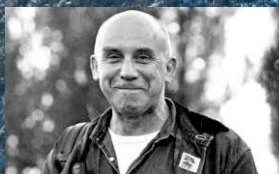
Maggie Winfrey, Coordinator

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is excited to offer

Two Thomases: Merton and Keating Leading Us to Transformation



Presented by Maggie Winfrey

on Zoom 10 am ET Saturday, May 15, 2021

Devotee of both Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating, Maggie Winfrey will share her reflections how these two have guided her spiritual journey simply as an ordinary seeker.

[Register here.](#)

"To pray 'in spirit and in truth' enables us to enter into contact with that infinite love, that inscrutable freedom which is at work behind the complexities and the intricacies of human existence." Thomas Merton, *Contemplative Prayer*, 112

"The fundamental theological principle of the spiritual journey is the divine indwelling. The Trinity is present within us as the source of our being on every level. Each level of life from the most physical to the most spiritual is sustained by divine presence." Thomas Keating, *The Divine Indwelling*, 3

A contemplative for over four decades, Maggie Winfrey taught kids to read as well as led adult spiritual enrichment for over 35 years. A commissioned presenter of Contemplative Outreach Introductory Workshops, she is coordinator for Contemplative Outreach Atlanta. Her current writing projects draw from Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating.

