

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 Two Thomases' Hermitage, now day 351. We sorrowfully mourn the passing of our beloved Fr. William Meninger, OCSO, who died peacefully on February 14th at age 88 at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Mass. The day before his death he led an international [Zoom talk](#) on the gospel of Mark. Born in 1932 in Malden, Mass., he entered St. Joseph's Abbey in 1963, made his solemn profession in 1970, changed stability to Snowmass in 1982 and changed his stability back to Spencer in 2020. He had been ordained a priest of the Diocese of Yakima, Washington in 1958. He had been in monastic vows for 55 years and 63 years a priest. Fr. William was our last living of the three principal architects of the Centering Prayer method and movement. His bright spirit and delight in the love of God beckoned us to follow him with Fr. Thomas Keating and Fr. Basil Pennington to Centering Prayer as the way for our transformation into the Love of God. His books include *St. John of the Cross for Beginners*, *Julian of Norwich: A Mystic for Today*, *The Loving Search for God: Contemplative Prayer and the Cloud of Unknowing*, and his latest, *The Process of Forgiveness*, found in Contemplative Outreach Ltd.'s store [here](#). His down to earth, approachable, humble, direct personality emanated joy in his love for God right to the end. Thanks to CO Tallahassee, who this past year have been hosting his talks available on their YouTube Channel [here](#). Fr. William's Burial Mass was celebrated at Spencer Abbey, Monday, February 22nd. Check the [Abbey's website](#) or Fr. William's [YouTube channel](#) for a possible later posting of the recording.



Our first ever **We Gather Together "Big Sit" on Saturday, February 13th** welcomed 73 centering together in unity. Many positive comments are on page 2. Plan to attend our next one at 10 am ET, **Saturday, April 10th**. It is free, but you need to [register here](#) to get the Zoom link.

Pray with us on March 6th for our 29th annual United in Prayer Day! In global unity in silence as God's first language, we honor of Fr. Thomas' birthday on March 7th with a 24-hour day of prayer, hosted on a Zoom chapel by international Contemplative Outreach Ltd. to unite countries, languages, groups, and chapters worldwide. Each one-hour segment begins at the top of the hour with 20 minutes of Centering Prayer, including Lectio Divina, a video, or readings. **To attend an hour, go [here](#)** for the 24-hour schedule. **Click the join button at the bottom: "Enter chapel [here](#)."** We missed the window to host an hour, so many of our Atlanta groups will be joining Contemplative Outreach Tallahassee at 1:00 pm ET. Join in silence as much as you are able.

We would like to hear from you. Please send your comments, suggestions, and any reflections on what Centering Prayer means to you at coatlantageorgia@gmail.com.

Love draws us closer,

Maggie

By the Grace of God...

I am still
 I am calm
 I am quiet
 I am whole
 I am loving
 I am gentle
 I am earthy
 I am serene
 I am faithful
 I am blessed
 I am relaxed
 I am trusting
 I am humble
 I am beloved
 I am forgiven
 I am mystical
 I am merciful
 I am prayerful
 I am visionary
 I am conscious
 I am embodied
 I am meditative
 I am undistracted
 I am contemplative
 I am compassionate

I am Presence
 I am Wisdom
 I am Delight
 I am Silence
 I am Peace
 I am Love
 I am Joy

I am



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Participants from our We Gather Together Big Sit on February 13th commented:

Practicing CP with a larger group is reaffirming.

With daily infusions of division pumped into our communities, it is healing for me to be in a group that recognizes that ALL are ONE even with those who disagree. I felt as ONE.

I thought it was lovely, and appreciated how well planned it was, and welcoming. Thank you very much.

I enjoyed being part of the larger community of prayer and particularly felt the lectio experience meaningful....the chat was somewhat distracting but recognize our limitations at this time of COVID.

Lovely and healing.

The opening song "Christ Shine in Our Hearts" was very welcome and inspirational--it really resonated with folks. I think having a hymn like that at the beginning and end was healing and wonderful for participants. Thank you, Maggie! A connecting event for the living body of Christ.

Wonderful gathering and contemplation. Lectio resonated.

This was my first experience with the contemplative outreach community. I was a great time to "step aside for awhile" to have a group centering prayer experience. Thank You!

I thought yesterday's service was so inspirational . I loved the video, "Christ Be Our Light." I thought the liturgy was woven together beautifully into a rich tapestry. I loved how the theme of Light flowed through the whole service. I think the people who put the service together are very gifted people.





On-Line Opportunities and Virtual Resources

Center for Christogenesis offers a Zoom conversation with Patrick Carolan exploring how to use Church teachings to change systemic injustices: **“How Does Our Sacred Story Affect Our Call to Justice”** Thursday, February 25th, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm ET. \$25 [Register here](#).



Contemplative Outreach Chicago presents **“Hearing the Sound of the Genuine with Howard Thurman**, 6 to 7:30 pm CT, Thursday February 25 via Zoom with Rev. Christopher D. Ringer PhD \$10, Scholarships available, [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](#).



Zeitgeist presents **Carl McColman on Integral Theory** Saturday, March 6, 9:30 - 2:30 pm (with lunch break) online via ZG Zoom \$40 non-members \$32 ZG Members \$5 option if you need it [Register here](#). **Carl’s interview “Eating the Chocolate Elephant”** explains Integral Theory [here](#).



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



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](#).



Monastery of the Holy Spirit is offering a **Lenten challenge**: a daily virtual Lenten activity from February 17 to April 1, for \$49 contribution to the Monastery. [Check it out here](#). To register, email retreat@trappist.net or call 770-760-0959 Mon-Fri 8 am – 1 pm ET. Find virtual retreats on the [Website here](#).



Our Lady of the Assumption Church sponsors **Fr. Greg Boyle SJ Live Online: “Just Us: The Call to Kinship and Love” March 8 at 7-8p ET**. Fr. Greg will speak about the power of kinship and inclusion and how Homeboy Industries provides hope and job training for formerly gang involved and previously incarcerated men and women. Free. Must [Register to receive Zoom link here](#).

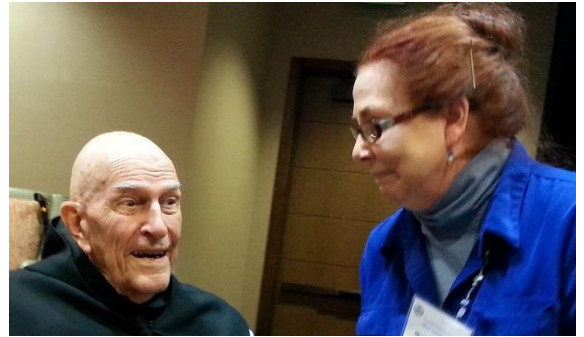
Group Meetings and Coordinating Team Gatherings

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](#).

Monthly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2021 will be on Zoom. A Doodle Poll will help us find our next best meeting day and time.

“We surrender to the attraction of interior silence, tranquility, and peace. We do not try to feel anything, reflect about anything. Without effort, without trying, we sink into this Presence, letting everything else go by. Let Love alone speak: the simple desire to be one with the Presence, to forget self, and to rest in the Ultimate Mystery.



This Presence is immense, yet so humble; awe-inspiring, yet so gentle; limitless, yet so intimate, tender and personal. I *know* that I am *known*. Everything in my life is transparent in this Presence. It knows everything about me—all my weakness, brokenness, sinfulness--and still loves me infinitely. This Presence is healing, strengthening, refreshing—just by its Presence. It is nonjudgmental, self-giving, seeking no reward, boundless in compassion. It is like coming home to a place I should never have left, to an awareness that was somehow always there, but which I did not recognize. I cannot force this awareness, or bring it about. A door opens within me, but from the other side. I seem to have tasted before the mysterious sweetness of this enveloping, permeating Presence. It is both emptiness and fullness at once.

We wait patiently; in silence, in openness, and quiet attentiveness; motionless within and without. We surrender to the attraction to be still, to be loved, just to *be*.”

Thomas Keating, *Open Mind, Open Heart*, page 129-130

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

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