



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Following Jesus, Becoming Christ

The Way | The Truth | The Life

8:45 a.m. + January 23, 2022 + Third Sunday after the Epiphany

*The Holy Truth includes everything – including the guilt and self-blame.
It is all-inclusive and all-encompassing; otherwise it would not be holy.
The belief that some manifestations are holy and others are not,
or that some people are chosen by God and others are not, is not the Holy Truth.
The Holy Truth chooses all people – they are its life.
Holy Truth...elucidates the fundamental nature of the universe
when it is seen objectively, that is, with no subjective filters.*

A.H. Almaas

Welcome

Bearing the Image

*O Enlightened One,
Life-giving Spirit,
May I bear Your Image,
And be a child of Light.*

*O God, you are my God,
And I will ever praise you.
O God, you are my God,
And I will ever praise you.
And I will seek you in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you lead me.
And I will follow you all of my days.*

“O Enlightened One / Step by Step”

Prayer to the Beloved

*You, O Beloved,
are known by those who are true to the Promise.
You are the Light of the saints;
You hide yourself in every soul.
Light dawns for the just,
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice in the Most High, O People of the light,
And give thanks to the Radiant One, the Bestower of Life!*

Nan Merrill, based on Psalm 97

Bearing the Image

*O Enlightened One,
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"O Enlightened One"

Opening to Holy Truth

Luke 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
release to the captives and
recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Meditation

Song of Response

"Come As You Are"

*Come out of sadness from wherever you've been.
Come, brokenhearted, let rescue being.
Come find your mercy, O sinner, come kneel;
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal,
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.*

*Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.
All who are broken, lift up your face.
O wanderer come home; you're not too far.
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart.
Come as you are.*

*There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed:
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure.*

Opening to Holy Truth

Luke 4:22-30

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Meditation

Song of Response

"Transform Me"

*Help me to see you in what I despise.
Speak through my fears and transform me.
Though I am fearful of what I may learn.
Speak through my fears and transform me.*

*I know I love imperfectly.
Help me love more. Help me love more.
I know I judge so frequently.
Help me love more. Help me love more.*

*Help me surrender the judgments within.
Speak through my fears and transform me.
Show me my prejudice till I am free.
Speak through my fears and transform me.*

Silence

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. You are in the Love of God. Christ is your Divine Center. There is nothing you need to do. Just be and relax. Center your attention in your heart, or breathe deeply down into your belly. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Mercy, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Holy Communion

Bearing the Image

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And I will seek you in the morning,
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And step by step you lead me.
And I will follow you all of my days.*

Receiving a Good Word

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.
If you are worshipping online, please text the word **center** to (844) 474-0707
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to (844) 474-0707*

For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit: www.TheCenterFCS.org.

To further explore themes from this Contemplative Worship service,
join the conversation on our online platform Epiphany Today:
<https://epiphanytoday.mn.co/landing>

“O Enlightened One / Step by Step”