



THE CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

The Way to Love

8:45 a.m. + April 25, 2021 + Fourth Sunday of Easter

So the rule of thumb is this: as it went for Christ, so it goes for us...

A much overlooked revelation of Christ is that his own journey was a revelation of our own, or every[one]'s journey.

Thus how it went for Christ is how it goes for all...

If we want to understand our own journey and what comes next, we need only to look to Christ.

Bernadette Roberts

Centering Ourselves

Call to Worship

*Come, worship the Lord,
For we are His people,
The flock that He shepherds.
Alleluia.*

“Come, Worship The Lord”

Psalm Reading

*O my Beloved, You are my shepherd, I shall not want;
You bring me to green pastures for rest
and lead me beside still waters, renewing my spirit,
You restore my soul.
You lead me in the path of goodness to follow Love's way.*

Psalm 23:1-3 (Nan Merrill)

Meditation with Sung Response

*Shepherd me, O God,
Beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears,
From death into life.*

“Shepherd Me, O God”

Gospel Reading

The Living Christ says,

“I – I am the Shepherd, the Good One. The Shepherd, the Good One, lays down his soul for the sheep. But the one who is just hired – and not the shepherd and so does not own the sheep – sees the wolf coming and releases the sheep and flees away. And the wolf seizes them and scatters them. The hired person flees because he is just hired and does not care about the sheep. I – I am the Shepherd, the Good One. And I know my own and my own know me. Just as the Father knows me, so I know the Father. And I lay down my soul for the sheep. Other sheep I have, which are not of this enclosure. Them also I must lead. And they shall hear my voice. And there shall be one flock, one Shepherd. Through this Self the Father loves – because I lay down my soul in order to receive it anew. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down freely, from myself. I have the inner freedom and power to lay it down. And I have the inner freedom and power to receive it anew. This principle I have received from my Father.”

John 10:11-18

From Sheep to Shepherd

Being the Bridge

"The Bridge"

*Created world, Creative world,
Between two worlds - a bridge.
Created world, Creative world,
Between two worlds - a bridge.*

*Be sure you understand this,
Be sure you understand.
Be sure you understand this.
Between two worlds a bridge.*

*You yourself, within yourself,
Between two worlds - a bridge.
You yourself, within yourself,
Between two worlds - a bridge.*

Guided Prayer with Sung Response

"Shepherd Them, O God"

*Shepherd them, O God,
Beyond their wants,
Beyond their fears,
From death into life.*

Silence as Centering Prayer

Silence is a Way to Love, a path and practice that enables us to love. In Silence as Centering Prayer we are asking for Love, to be centered in Love, to be able to receive and also give Love. We begin by asking with our own body, sensing our own body here and now. We descend into the region of the heart, with our attention directed towards our heart. From this place, we breathe deeply and pray. If it helps, use a sacred word to help you descend into this silence (such as Beloved, Shalom, Shepherd, Mercy, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit) or a breath prayer, such as "Lord" (*inhale*) "have mercy" (*exhale*). If a thought, feeling, or sensation tries to take you away from this interior place, don't "hold on" to it – simply and gently release it by returning to your sacred word or breath prayer.

Being the Shepherd

"Christ Has No Body Now But Yours"

*Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, Yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, You are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

Holy Communion

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 75787
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to 75787*

*For further Contemplative Resources please visit
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6902676>*