



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Rhythms of Grace: Keeping Company with Jesus Through Humility

8:45 a.m. + April 10, 2022 + Palm Sunday

We are about to embark on Holy Week, the most sacred and mystical passage in the Christian year, when we ritually re-live and re-claim the very epicenter of Christianity, as Jesus reveals the depth of love and wagers his very life for the reality of the premise he has staked his whole ministry on: that love is stronger than death — love is the strongest power in the world — stronger than fear — stronger than hatred — stronger than division — stronger than violence. This is the moment, this week, when we again have the opportunity in a very special way to enter into this mystery of love with him, confront our own fears and shadows, and emerge as shareholders in his resurrection — not only through faith but through our own lived experience.... The epicenter of Christianity is Love, and this week we enter the epicenter.

May we do so in Love.

Cynthia Bourgeault

Call to Worship

Hosanna, hosanna.

Hosanna, hosanna.

“Hosanna”

Psalm of Praise

adapted from *Psalm 118, Out of the Silence*

You are my strength and my song, and have become my salvation and rescue.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Open for us the gates of the city, the city of harmony and peace.

Together, restored, we enter them, singing our songs of thanksgiving.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!

The stone which the builder rejected has become the cornerstone.

The very ones we despised are known as your specially beloved.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!

This is the festival day, the day you have made for our joy.

We shall be glad and rejoice, feasting with laughter and song

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Blessed are those who have journeyed in your Name: the light of our God has guided them.

They join in the throng in the places of praise. Indeed you are God: we adore you.

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Song of Response

Hosanna, hosanna.

Hosanna, hosanna.

“Hosanna”

Reflecting on Scripture

Philippians 2:5-9

Let this same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus:

*Though his state was that of God,
yet he did not claim equality with God
something he should cling to.*

*Rather, he emptied himself,
and assuming the state of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.*

*He was being known as one of us,
Humbled himself obedient unto death
Even death on a cross.*

For this God raised him on high....

Meditation

Song of Response

“Suscipe”

Suscipe, suscipe. Suscipe, suscipe.

All I am. All I have.

You've given all into my care:

Every single thought,

every choice I make,

The freedoms I possess.

Come fill them all with love.

Please receive all I am.

As I receive all that you are.

I return to you,

All that I hold dear,

To use as you desire,

For I believe in this:

Your grace, your love, is all that I need.

Your love, your grace, is enough for me.

Reflecting on Scripture

Philippians 2:1-5

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let this same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...

Meditation

Singing with St. Francis

"This My Soul Loves"

*Wisdom, simplicity, poverty, humility,
Holy love and surrender,
God within all.
Grant me more of these,
As I die to more of me.
Help me walk in obedience.
God over all.
Virtues transcending. Love never ending.
This I desire, this my soul loves.
This is my mission, perfect submission.
This I desire, this my soul loves.*

Surrendering in Love

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. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Grace, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Communion Prayer

adapted from Philippians 2:5-11

At this Table we gather to consider Jesus Christ, whose very being was God, yet who did not seek out the place of honor and privilege. He emptied himself of Divinity, took the place of a servant, and lived a human life in all its fullness among us.

We beheld him in human form, that in humility he went to his death, even death on a cross.

He healed the sickness by which live in tangled sin. (Silence for confession.) He did not perpetuate a life of retribution and hatred. Sin stopped in him, as he bore its agony, refusing to pass it off on us or any other group or person.

In doing so, he showed himself to be the fullness of God-created humanity, even as he fully bore Divinity within himself.

As God exalted him to the highest place, so today we lift up this Bread and Cup. As God gave him a name above all names, so today we call him Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation. Before this Bread and Cup we bow our lives.

As we eat this Bread and drink this Cup today, we confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of Almighty God. Amen.

Now together we pray as he taught us, when he said:

"Our Father, who art in heaven . . ."

Holy Communion

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within. Amen

Listening for a Good Word

Holy Week Services

Holy Wednesday, April 13

Light soup dinner at 5:30pm.

Service begins at 6:00pm in the Anchor House (and on Zoom at www.zoom.us/my/the.center)

Enter into the Holy Wednesday narrative of Mary Magdalene anointing Jesus. We will enter into a Contemplative Remembrance of this act that Jesus said, "truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." (Mark 14:9) There will be chant, readings, silence, and a time for anointing.

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Noon in The Anchor House (and on Zoom at www.zoom.us/my/the.center)

Join us for thirty minutes of Lectio Divina on a passage from Yeshua that relates to the teaching of Maundy Thursday, taken from a translation from the Aramaic, Yeshua's native language. This will be followed by 20 minutes of silence as Centering Prayer.

Maundy Thursday, April 14

6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

*Join us in person or on our **Livestream** or our **FB Page**. We will enter into the Maundy Thursday narrative of Jesus at his Last Supper as recorded in John 13 and Mark 14. After a brief time of welcome, we will contemplatively reflect on what Jesus was teaching them (and us) by example through washing their "feet" and what that can mean for us today as we see to consciously love. We will then enter into a Contemplative Remembrance of the Last Supper, this act that Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) There will be chant, readings, silence, and a time for taking Holy Communion.*

Good Friday *Lectio Divina*, April 15

Noon In The Anchor House (and on Zoom at www.zoom.us/my/the.center)

During these thirty minutes or so at the time of day that we remember when Jesus surrendered his all to God and "breathed his last" (Luke 23:46), we will have a time of contemplative chant, including chanting the words Yeshua said in Aramaic when he died, Lectio Divina on this passage as it is found in Luke 23, and 20 minutes of silence as Centering Prayer.

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.