



THE CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

More Than a Question: Do You Want to Be Whole?

8:45 a.m. + May 22, 2022

*Living oriented by the Angel means that "every verb is mentally conjugated in the middle voice."
The person is neither entirely autonomous and active, nor entirely passive and acted upon.
Rather, she acts upon herself in such a way as to make herself be in the image of the archetypal Angel.
Finding the middle voice is the key to recovering the Lost Speech.
There is neither victimization of the individual by the impersonal forces of society,
nor the blind abandonment of the person to an authoritarian Master.
Finding the middle voice is a choice, a consciously chosen orientation,
and a profoundly personal, intimate and individualizing stance towards the reality of the Angel.
It is action of exquisitely sensitive response, and profound responsibility.
Tom Cheetham,
Imaginal Love*

Welcome

Entering the House of Mercy

John 5:1-2

After his second miracle, Jesus went up to Jerusalem when there was a Jewish Feast. And there is in Jerusalem, by the Place of the Sheep, a pool called in Aramaic, "Beth-hesda," meaning "House of Mercy," which has five covered porches...

Entering The Holy Place

"Better is One Day"

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
My soul longs and even faints for you.
For here my heart is satisfied, within your presence,
I sing beneath the shadow of your wings.*

*Better is one day in your courts,
Better is one day in your house
Better is one day in your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
(repeat)
Than thousands elsewhere.*

*One thing I ask, and I would seek, to see your beauty,
To find you in the place your glory dwells.*

*Better is one day in your courts,
Better is one day in your house
Better is one day in your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
(repeat)*

*My heart and flesh cry out, for you the living God
Your Spirit's water for my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to you. I will draw near to you.*

The Story We Tell Ourselves

John 5:3,5-7

In these five covered porches lay a great number of people - the weak, blind, lame, and withered...

*And there was one man there, who had been in his weakness for thirty-eight years.
When Jesus saw him laying there, he knew that the man had been like that for a long
time. He said to him, "Do you want to be whole?"*

*The weak man answered, "Sir, I have no person to put me into the pool when the water is
stirred by the Angel. And while I am coming, someone else descends into the pool before me."*

Meditation

Singing with the Psalmist

"Where Are You Hiding, Lord? (Psalm 22)"

*Have you abandoned me?
Darkness is all around.
I raise my voice to heaven,
You do not make a sound.*

*Have you abandoned me?
See the storm rages on.
I look to you for shelter,
It feels like you have gone.*

*Where are you hiding, Lord?
Do not be far from me.
You are my strength and shield,
Come rescue me!*

*Still I believe in you,
Let me not trust in vain.
Still I will sing your praises,
Rather than curse your name.*

Where are you hiding...

*Have you abandoned me?
Darkness is all around.
I raise my voice to heaven,
Waiting on holy ground.*

Moving and Healing

John 5:8-9

Jesus said to him, "Wake up. Rise up. Take your mat and be walking."

Immediately, it came to pass the man was whole. He took up his mat and walked. And it was a Sabbath day.

Meditation

Song of Response

"Ask with Your Body"

Ask with your body.

Seek with your mind.

Knock on the door of your heart.

Ask with your body.

Seek with your mind.

Knock on the door of your heart.

Keep on asking and you will receive.

Keep on seeking and you will find.

Keep on knocking, the door will be opened.

The kingdom of God is within your heart.

Centering in 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 Christ and Christ is in you. 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 Christ, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Holy Communion

Communion Song

"You Are Still Holy"

Holy, you are still holy, even when the darkness surrounds my life.

Sovereign, you are still sovereign, even when confusion has blinded my eyes.

Lord I don't deserve your kind affections,

When my unbelief has kept me from your touch.

I want my life to be a pure reflection,

Of your love.

So I come into your chambers,

And I dance at your feet, Lord.

You are my Savior and I'm at your mercy.

All that has been in my life up to now,

Belongs to you,

For you are still holy.

Holy, you are still holy, even when I don't understand your ways.

Sovereign, you are still sovereign, even when my circumstances don't change.

Lord I don't deserve your tender patience,

When my unbelief has kept me from your truth.

I want my life to be a sweet devotion, to you.

Responding to 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.



Enneagram Groups

Today | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

Take a next step on our Enneagram Pathway. In these groups we will gather with folks from our primary center of intelligence (body, heart, or mind) to reflect on our past week in light of our Type - when we were "asleep," when we were more "awake," and when we were able to embody our "virtue."

Community Gathering

Today | Texadelphia or Treebeards | 11:30 a.m.

*Join us for our monthly community gathering, and this time you have two places to pick from! We will meet on the patio in front of Treebeards and Texadelphia, then you choose where you'd like to get food from.
9655 Katy Fwy, Unit 3110, Houston, Tx 77024*

A Discerning Heart: The Course

Wednesday | Zoom | 6:30 p.m.

*This Wednesday we are exploring the teachings and practices related to the Songs from The Center "All Shall Be Well" and "We Sing An Alleluia." **Online at www.zoom.us/my/the.center.***