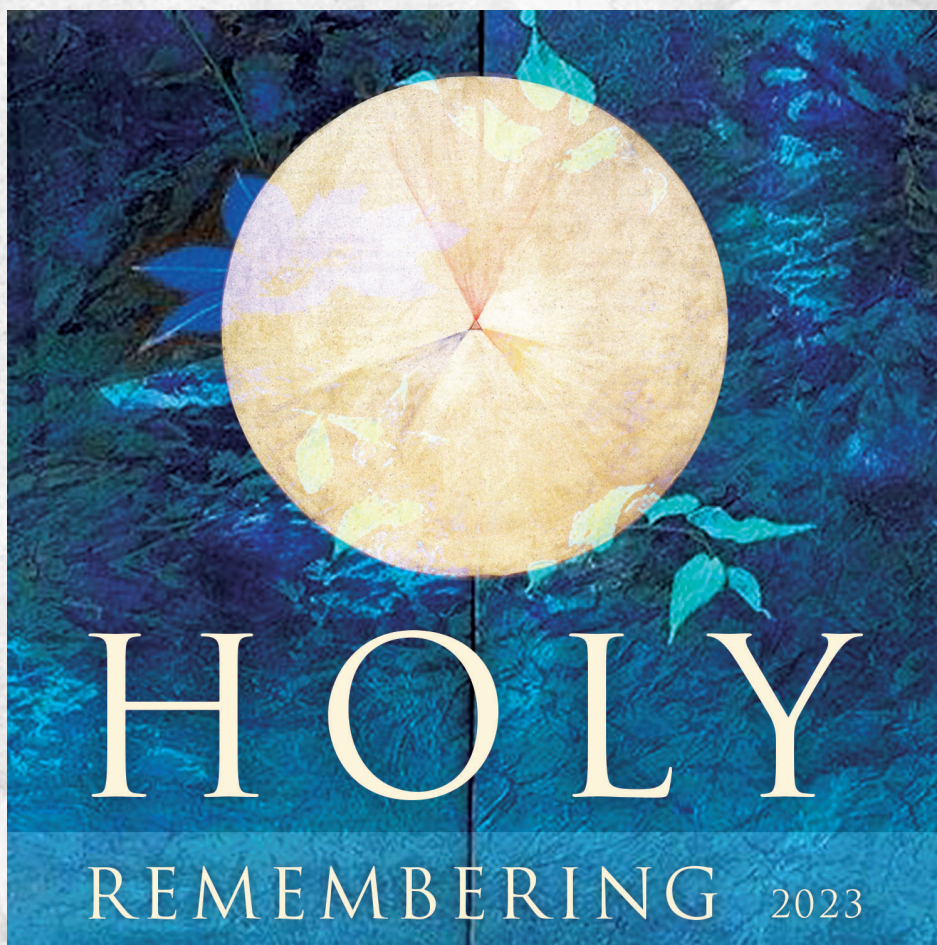


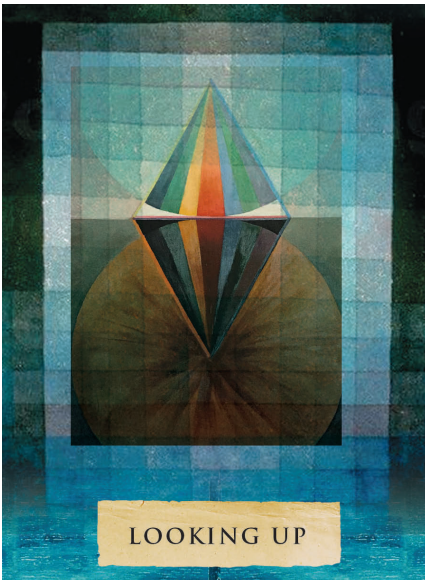
January 2023
Volume 35
Number 1



The Mark

A Publication of The Church of Conscious Harmony ❖ A Contemplative Christian Community





Holy, holy, holy ... the whole earth is filled with God's glory! Isaiah 6:3

ANNUAL AIM: HOLY REMEMBERING

LOOKING UP BY PETER HAAS

The universe is threefold: a small world, which is Man, the greatest world which is God and the great world which is called the universe.
The small world is the likeness of the great world, and the great a likeness of the greatest.
... In all the parts shines the whole, then a part is part of the whole.

Raimon Panikkar, quoting Nicholas of Cusa, *The Rhythm of Being*

Each of us is a conscious and responsible unit in a universe in progress.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *Human Energy*, cited in *Reconciliation in Christ*

*I lift up my eyes on high and see who has created the stars,
the One who leads forth ... calls all by name ...
Not one of them is missing.*

Isaiah 40:26

We begin 2023 with a wish to deepen our understanding, experience and valuation of a state and quality of being that the Work of Inner Christianity calls Self-Remembering. However, we are accessing this profound and important idea through the lens of Christian faith and contemplative practice. And so, to expand our scope of study, we have taken as our theme this year the compelling aspiration of “Holy Remembering.”

Under this banner, we will traverse the heights and depths of the wisdom of the Work teachings,

wedding them faithfully to truths embedded within the foundations of our Christian faith, even more illuminated by common experiences on the contemplative journey, especially grounded in the practice of Centering Prayer.

To help us on this journey in 2023, we are re-tooling our articles in *The Mark* to articulate more precisely what we refer to as the two-legs of the Church: the Work of Inner Christianity and the practice of Centering Prayer. So, each month God willing, in addition to other resources, the main newsletter articles

will provide three reflections: the first on the monthly theme, the second on the Work and the third on an aspect of Centering Prayer. To begin this new octave, I have provided my own reflections with the Work and Centering Prayer as related to our monthly theme.

35th Anniversary: Looking Back, Remembering From Where We Have Come

This is an intentional way to serve our community in both looking up to higher sources and also to looking up toward our primary sources. We find

this to be a timely approach to *The Mark*, given that 2023 marks the 35th anniversary year of the founding of The Church of Conscious Harmony. This joyful occasion also colors our annual aim theme of Holy Remembering. At 35 years old, The Church of Conscious Harmony is maturing, firmly grounded, but also expanding and evolving. For such a time as this, it is perhaps even more important to remember where we have come from even as we wish for where we might yet journey.

The first thing to remember as it relates to the Church's past, is that Tim and Barbara Cook, encouraged by Bernadette Roberts, founded this church first and foremost as a spiritual community and school for the study and application of the ideas of the Work conveyed by Maurice Nicoll's *Psychological Commentaries on the Teaching of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky*. Holding this deep wish, Tim, flowing with inspiration, penned the enduring words that begin the by-laws, words that still guide the life and direction of everything that occurs at the Church: The Church of Conscious Harmony exists for the sole purpose for those who wish to make God devotion the center of their lives.

The second thing to remember is that the Church was never the same once Tim and Barbara met Fr. Thomas Keating. Though Tim and Barbara were devoted meditators, something opened in a new way as their friendship with Fr. Thomas bloomed. That was the early 1990s and Fr. Thomas was traveling far and wide sharing what he termed the method of Centering Prayer – a contemplative manner of consenting

to God's presence and action in silent prayer.

Combined, the Work and Centering Prayer formed the backbone of all that would unfold through Tim and Barbara's ministry. As the church grew, it did so, one can humbly conclude, to the degree members and visitors began to put into practice, in personal and devoted ways, the ideas of the Work and the method of Centering Prayer.

A Holy Remembering that Draws Us Further Up and In


Perhaps the simplest gesture that helps us remember God is tilting the head up toward the heavens and in toward the heart – higher up and deeper in. With this simple embodied gesture of devotion, we orientate our body's attention and gaze upward to the heavens above and all around us in the cosmos, and inward to the heart of our humanity, the temple of the Spirit, the abode of Spirit within and through us.

It is appropriate to begin this new year, this new *Do* in the octave of our journey, with the wish to remember by looking up. We look up the Ray of Creation, past the Sun, center of our local solar system and planetary neighbors, upward past the regional galaxies, upward beyond the visible universe, upward and beyond the very moment of creation to that great mystery beyond, Beloved Source, breather of the universe, ground of the Absolute and giver of the whole Ray of Creation.

The One we name Abba and the one revealed to us in the face and ministry of Jesus the Christ. The One for whom our hearts are restless for until they rest in Thee O Lord our

God Creator of the Heavens and Earth. The One to whom we belong and return to, because, as St. Paul envisions, *We are God's children, and God has sent the Spirit of the son into our hearts, prompting us all to cry out, Abba, Father.* Galatians 4.6

In addition to looking up and in, we can also explore the feeling quality of longing as a part of Holy Remembering. In different ways and at different times on our life journey, we each are awakened by goodness, beauty and truth, and as we are magnetized by these influences, our Emotional Center can be activated to long for the very giver of life, the very source of love, in inexplicable ways. When that happens, the silence of prayer can become a chamber of communion, I to Thou, and me to we. We should not avoid or be afraid of this wellspring of longing that leads to deeper communion and union. We are created with this capacity for union. This gift of longing lifts us up out of ourselves and into the presence of worship and the acquisition of wisdom.

Holy longing may be the one common language of the human heart that unites every human being beyond the babel of culture and differences. Let us first speak it, so to be spoken through. Then let us sing it, with hymns of adoration and anthems of praise, to the One who calls us by name, draws us deeper into the fullness of life here and beyond, and unites us as a community of brothers and sisters of Spirit, attuned to the call of grace that bids us Work and Pray for the glory of God and for our overflowing with the fullness of God. 

REFLECTIONS ON THE PRACTICE OF CENTERING PRAYER

STILLNESS IN PRAYER

BY PETER HAAS

I have been practicing the method of Centering Prayer for nearly three decades. Through all those years and the various experiences related to the practice, there is one constant. Whether alone or on retreat, daily or sporadic, there is one constant that weaves together many of my experiences of meditative prayer: the sensation of stillness in my body. It's presence or absence.

By stillness, I don't mean non-thinking. Thoughts might be occurring, but there can still be a deep stillness in the body, a deep gravity or density of presence within the body.

For instance, I have observed that when I begin a multi-day Centering Prayer retreat, my body may not feel stillness. Perhaps I rushed up to Cedarbrake, navigating heavy traffic on I-35. Perhaps I left work or home in a stressful way, knowing that there were tasks left undone. All this is normal life stuff and contributes to me not feeling stillness. But as the retreat begins and the first few days unfold, I can feel my body entering into that sweet stillness. On my walks in the

woods or to dinner, I observe my pace has slowed down. By the end of the retreat, I will be walking even more slowly – absorbed in stillness.

The stillness also occurs during prayer time. In Centering Prayer, I often come in and out of deep stillness. Thoughts tend to disrupt the stillness of mind, like a pebble in the pond, but the deeper the stillness the easier it seems I return to that absorbing silence and the mind chatter drops away again. What is most tangible though, is the stillness of the body. The deep rest the body feels deep into the retreat. This kind of stillness seems to arise only after extended time in the Silence, thus the vital importance I've placed on the need for taking multi-day retreats at least annually.

Stillness and Prayer

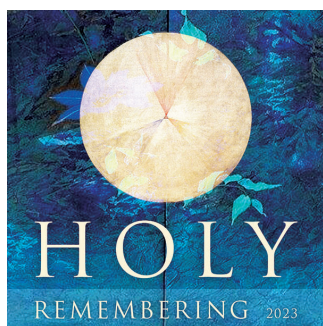
It turns out that among the many different methods of meditations, stillness is a common denominator. For example, in the third and fourth century, the desert monks in Egypt began to experience this stillness and

teach and write about it. The stillness was essential for their prayer. They even had a name for the stillness. They called it *hesychia*. The definition of *hesychia* meant quiet or still, particularly referring to interior quiet and stillness that could arise during what they called "the prayer of the heart," literally being centered in the heart, and what we call today Centering Prayer.

I've also learned that, as in Centering Prayer, stillness or *hesychia*, is not mindless passivity, but more like an intentional waiting upon God. *Hesychia* is an attitude of listening-consent to God's word and presence, what Fr. Thomas Keating called, "the presence and action of the Holy Spirit."

Through the teachings of The Church of Conscious Harmony, especially through Robin Amis' book *A Different Christianity*, I've since learned, that Eastern monastic Christianity taught that several spiritual practices helped one cultivate *hesychia*. They were: 1) Self-Observation 2)

continued on page 7



OUR ANNUAL AIM

You are invited to join in community

... to renew your consent and will to God,
... to participate fully in a year dedicated to *Holy Remembering*
... to move ever deeper together as a community
of intention, practice and devotion.

All glory to God!

We are seeking to approach the unknown,
to open the door to what is hidden in us and pass beyond.
It is necessary to submit entirely to an inner voice,
to a feeling of the Divine, of the sacred in us.
But we can do it only in part. We can ask for help ... We can say,
“Lord, have mercy,” in order to *Be*.

Jeanne de Salzman, *The Reality of Being: The Fourth Way of Gurdjieff*

*Remember what you have received and heard;
keep it and come to yourself...*

*The holy one, the true, who holds the key of David,
who opens and no one shall close, who closes and no one shall open.
“Behold, I have left an open door before you, which no one can close.”*

Revelation 3:3, 3:7-8

Holy, holy, holy ... the whole earth is filled with God's glory!

Isaiah 6:3

All are welcome to participate in The Church of Conscious Harmony's yearlong
aim: *Holy Remembering*.

To RSVP to the Church's annual aim invitation and register
for any or all of The Journey School offerings described on pages 8-9.

please go to consciousharmony.org by **January 29th**.

After registration, you will receive a beautiful packet of cards
featuring our monthly themes.

WE BELIEVE...

- ✘ God is all in all. God is eternally revealing as the Trinity – Transcendent Father, Omnipresent Son and Immanent Holy Spirit – active within us as the Divine Indwelling.
- ✘ Christ remains eternally present in every human being – past, present and to come. We are all one in the Body of Christ.
- ✘ Transformation into Christ, unity with the Living God, and participation in the evolution of all creation is possible in this life. Indeed, it is the design and purpose of every human life.
- ✘ We open ourselves to transforming grace through our consent in Centering Prayer, the Eucharist, the Word and spiritual community.
- ✘ God is Love. Love is eternally present. We are called to participate in the dynamism of this love, for God, for one another and for all creation.

Excerpted from Statement of Beliefs,
The Church of Conscious Harmony

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORK OF INNER CHRISTIANITY

REMEMBERING GOD

BY PETER HAAS

I started attending Wednesday night worship services at The Church of Conscious Harmony in Lent of 2008. Through Tim Cook's profound teaching, I slowly began to hear and understand ancient Christian truths in new, refreshing, and practical ways. I was educated that the new ideas and terms I was hearing in Tim's teaching, were a part of a system of teaching(s) called the Work, which was interpreted and taught at The Church of Conscious Harmony as the Work of Inner Christianity.

At that time, there was a weekly class on Thursday nights called the Work of Inner Christianity. I decided to begin attending that class in September 2008. It took at least six months of weekly attendance to begin to have the courage to report on the homework or ask a question publicly in the group.

My verbal participation in class became more frequent, and I began to look forward to each week's class with a kind of three-centered hunger. In my first two years attending the class, I only missed when I was sick or traveling. It was the epicenter of my week, and was feeding my spiritual life, infusing

my Christian faith with a whole new and deeper understanding. In fact, in many ways, the ideas of the Work kept me engaged with Christianity, just when I was tempted to abandon the faith altogether.

Today, The Journey School carries on the impulse of the Work of Inner Christianity Thursday class. Though, different, there is much the same. I continue to be grateful and well fed by the ideas of the Work. And I feel grateful for the opportunity to meet brothers and sisters around the country and world online, who also wish to grow in faith, love and understanding.

One area I am focusing my Work this year is in deepening my knowledge of the ways the Work and Christian faith intersect. My aim here is to share three ways I am growing in my understanding. Each of these ways is related to this month's Work theme of Remembering God and its connection to our Annual Aim of Holy Remembering. Perhaps in my sharing, you will be encouraged on your own journey and exploration of how the Work and Christian faith can nourish one another.

The Ray of Creation

The first Work idea that helps me Remember God is The Ray of Creation. What I find helpful about this idea is that it conceptualizes the Whole and the parts – like a Russian nesting doll. In one simple graphic, I can see the All and Everything and our planet's relationship to the Whole as a one of its parts. This helps me feel the feelings called reverence, awe, and worship. I can feel into the truth that the Source of this Ray of Creation is beyond all comprehension, though has revealed itself to us through the Ray, through higher influences and especially through divine messengers like Christ.

When I look up at the night sky, I can feel and participate consciously with love as a member of the Ray looking at the Ray. While I can't see all of the Ray, I can see enough to be lifted up, to feel the Ray ministering to me, and helping me feel and remember the great privilege it is to be alive and to use my lifetime more consciously to understand the Ray, to contribute to the good of others and their journey of Remembering too.

The Sun and Son

The second Work idea that helps me Remember God is the role of the Sun in the Side Octave. When I look at the image of the Ray of Creation and see the Sun and our solar system including the Earth and Moon as a kind of side branch off the main trunk of the living tree, I remember how important the Sun is to all life on our planet and this serves as an analogy to understand and remember the role Jesus the Christ plays in my life. What the Sun is to the Earth, so too Christ is to humankind.

Laws

The third Work idea that helps

me Remember God is gradations of energy or laws that the Work calls Hydrogens. It's a complex subject, but the main take away for me is that the "higher" up the Ray of Creation, the fewer "laws" there are. This helps me understand why things are, in part, the way they are on planet Earth. I understand this idea better by way of analogy. For example, in the military service, a Private is under many laws and under many higher authorities. A Colonel is under fewer laws, and a five-star General is under even fewer laws. In fact, one could say that at the highest level, there is only one law, what the Work calls the Absolute. These things are a mystery to me, but this simple

idea helps me remember that I am under laws – the law of cause and effect, the law of gravity, the law of fate, and so on. This too helps me Remember God and ask for help and increasing freedom from sleep by way of increasing consciousness and love.

These three ideas are a part of what the Work calls its Cosmological teaching. But I can easily see how the Cosmological interweaves with the Psychological, especially when we put the ideas on practically and engage with them, and practice their meaning, such as by looking up at the sky and Remembering these ideas. That is my wish more and more, especially in this year focused on Holy Remembering. (A)

continued from page 4

Watchfulness 3) Remembering God 4) Guarding the heart. I find it instructive to see that there was a practice called "Remembering God" and that partaking in this practice could help one enter more deeply into the stillness.

I've also learned through CCH that there is a collection of writings on this subject called *The Philokalia*, a four-volume set of monastic wisdom that wisely teaches us that, "Stillness [hesychia] gives birth to ascesis, ascesis gives birth to tears, tears

to fear, fear to humility, humility to the gift of wisdom, and wisdom to charity. Charity makes the soul healthy and free of passion, and then [one] may realize that [they are] not far from God."

In my experience, stillness can be hard to cultivate in our modern, busy life, and more challenging to practice in a church community. Yet that is where the method of Centering Prayer, practiced twice daily is so helpful. Retreats are also so helpful, as are related practices, such as *Lectio Divina*.

Taken together, these practices over time begin to infuse us with the qualities and fruits of stillness, such as: peace, gentleness, patience, kindness, wisdom and joy, to name a few.

On my journey, I've experienced that stillness also goes hand in hand with helping me remember myself and remember God. If remembering God seems to evade you, focus on cultivating stillness. Stillness births awareness; and awareness births remembering. (A)

THREE SPECIAL INVITATIONS FOR 2023...

The Journey School

The Journey School is a school of transformative spiritual psychology and practice of The Church of Conscious Harmony. It aims to be a spiritual resource for anyone, anywhere, who wishes to more deeply recognize, receive and respond to God as the center of their lives and participate consciously in the transformational spiritual journey into Christ. As such, The Journey School provides the community, structure, teaching, practices and support for the spiritual journey deeper into God's love. The Journey School offerings consist of:

- ❑ **An annual, yearlong curriculum consisting of a weekly email** sent each Thursday morning which includes art, Scripture, teachings from the Work of Inner Christianity integrated with contemplative Christianity, exercises, links to a glossary, and archived emails and classes. Participants in The Journey School are expected to read, reflect and engage the contents, suggested practices and exercises of the weekly email.
- ❑ **A weekly online Thursday evening class** that explores the ideas and practices of the Work of Inner Christianity integrated with wisdom from the contemplative Christian tradition, a Zoom gathering of sharing and discovery in a community of high intention and purpose.
- ❑ **Weekly Journey Groups**, the primary place for the processing of our Work on the spiritual journey and the nurturing of spiritual community in a small group setting. Discussion is shaped by the weekly curriculum content and how participants are engaging with it in their daily lives.
- ❑ **Work Partners**, one-on-one Work relationships supporting one another, setting daily aims, and holding one another accountable.
- ❑ **Gurdjieff Movements**, exercises and sacred dances having as their aim equilibrium and unity of being, balancing the three centers, working in all three lines of the Work.

Oblates

An Oblate of The Church of Conscious Harmony consents to journey deeper into Christ, what theologians call *Theosis*, what Jesus called “abiding with him,” and what St. Paul called “union with Christ” or “putting on the mind of Christ.” Participation as an Oblate is a declaration of intentional relationship to the Divine Mystery that is God and to all creation.

To become an Oblate, a vow is taken, renewable each January. The vow is born of a personal hunger and commitment for transformation into Christ and a wish to live a committed life in service of this aim. In making their vow, Oblates commit themselves to God and to living the Oblate *Rule of Life* so to actively participate in the spiritual journey while engaging the transformative process as “monks in the world.” Oblates also fully participate in The Journey School programs by receiving the weekly email, attending the Thursday class, and participating in a Journey Group (with the option of having a Work Partner and participating in the Gurdjieff Movements). One's vow is to God alone, yet lived out through and with the Church community.

In addition, the Oblate *Rule of Life* consists of the following practices:

1. Twice daily Centering Prayer practice
2. Daily reading of Scripture
3. Daily study and application of the ideas of the Work of Inner Christianity
4. Daily conscious movement (e.g., tai chi, yoga, walking)
5. Weekly immersion in a Eucharistic worship service
6. Sacred service for the Church community, such as Sunday Seva, Youth Educational Services (YES), the daily Centering Prayer service team, audio/visual team, Communion Committee, Floral Committee, et al.
7. Commitment to attend a multi-day Centering Prayer retreat
8. Attendance at the annual weekend Oblate retreat
9. Meeting with the Minister or the Abbess at least annually
10. Tithing

Circle of Devotion Oblate

A Circle of Devotion Oblate of CCH consents to journey ever deeper into Christ, what theologians call *Theosis*, or simply, Love. A Circle of Devotion Oblate is ordinarily a community elder who has been practicing silent contemplative prayer for many years and wishes to move deeper into the stillness and simplicity of silence and prayer, perhaps in expanded solitude. They commit oneself totally to God and to living a personalized expression of the Oblate *Rule of Life*, tailored by the Holy Spirit and supportive to their life state and stage. Their work is prayer: prayer for the community, with an ethic of accompaniment; keeping vigil for the world, in solidarity with the suffering; abiding in peace, surrendered to God, freely giving and receiving love. The intention of a Circle of Devotion Oblate is to affirm that the spiritual journey leads many to a deep interior quiet, where all of life becomes prayer and prayer becomes life in self-emptying love for all and everything. They lead and bless the community through their Being and prayer. Commitments may be discerned in conversation with the Abbess.

Remember yourself always and everywhere.

A Work aphorism inscribed in a special script above the walls of the Study House at the Prieuré

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come.

Revelation 4:8

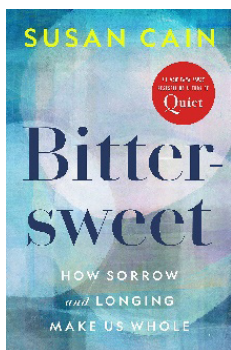
In the Name of God Transcendent, God Omnipresent, God Immanent, the Holy Living Trinity. Amen.

Please prayerfully consider these invitations to participate in The Journey School and/or to be an Oblate.


Reference consciousharmony.org for additional details on the various ways to participate.

Registration closes January 29th. ☉

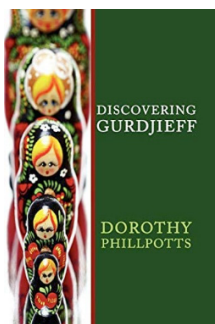
COMMUNITY READING: JAN-APR



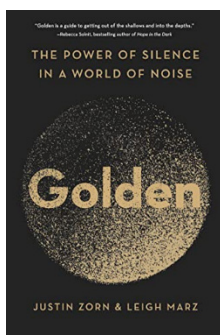
This year we aim to focus on three community readings. The first is Susan Cain’s masterful book, *Bittersweet*. You may be familiar with Susan Cain’s first book *Quiet*, which celebrated the gift of contemplative life, and the importance of silence and stillness, especially for the creative arts and culture.


In *Bittersweet*, Cain explores the power of human longing, especially as it relates to all the aspects of our life that have been touched by sadness, loss and grief. As we do our Work, these places can become fruitful wounds. In a culture that celebrates instant gratification, there is wisdom in the gift of Holy Longing – that helps us remember what is truly meaningful in a lifetime of complex choices and diverse possibilities. 

BOOK LOOK: GURDJIEFF AND SILENCE




Dorothy Phillpotts was a student of Ouspensky and Mr. Gurdjieff. *Discovering Gurdjieff* is an exceptional and accessible first hand account of the Work ideas and the relationship of her fellow Work students, and enchanting stories of her time visiting Mr. Gurdjieff at his Paris apartment. Such historical accounts of students who met with Gurdjieff help us feel into the Work at an emotional level, and feed our longing for contact with conscious beings who can help us grow and develop.



Similarly, if you are looking for a fascinating read that articulates the science and sociology of why silence is so important for the well-being of humanity, Justin Zorn and Leigh Marz’s new book *Golden*, is a lovely, non-religious (though spiritual) approach and resource to the gift of silence and stillness. Certainly, *Golden* will bring you up to speed on the important scientific, social and psychological advances that have occurred in understanding the benefits of silence for the brain and body. 

COMMUNITY PRACTICE JAN-FEB

Learn two names of winter constellations

This winter, for the months of January and February, our community practice is in support of Looking Up and Holy Longing. We are invited to look up and identify two winter constellations – and remember their names (or name them yourself!). As you gaze upon them, connect with them. Nurture a relationship with them. Speak to them. Listen to them. Watch for their arising and turning across the sky. Even their disappearance as the night fades to light. 

SERMON SERIES HOLY REMEMBERING

January 1
Holy Wish

January 8
Holy Remembering

January 15
Holy Longing

January 22
Holy God

January 29
Holy Creation

JANUARY CALENDAR

For more details, visit <https://consciousharmony.org/> or call 512-347-9673

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Journey School enrollment for 2023
begins Jan 2-29 online

Exploring G.I. Gurdjieff's Beelzebub's Tales to His Grandson
Mondays, Feb 6-May 22 7-8:15pm Zoom only \$160
Facilitated by Robin Bloor Prerequisites Register online

Introduction to The Journey School Informational Class
Jan 12 7-8pm

5-Day Centering Prayer Retreat
Jan 13-17 at Cedarbrake \$650 Register online

Intro to the Work Class
Jan 25-Mar 1, Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm
In person only Register online

Women's Lodge
Jan 28 9am-4pm at CCH
Register online

MONTHLY

Caritas Donations
1st Sundays
Bring non-perishables to CCH or donate to caritasofaustin.org

WEEKLY

Sundays
❖ Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina 8-9am
*Intercessory Prayer 9am
†Worship Service 10-11:30am
❖ Youth Program (preK-12) 10-11:30am

Wednesdays
❖ Contemplative Lunch noon-1pm

Thursdays
*The Journey School Class 7-8:30pm

DAILY

†Centering Prayer Service 7-7:35am
*Centering Prayer 6pm

*Please join these services, groups, and classes via online video options.
Contact the website for accessible links and more information.
†In person and online
❖In-person only at CCH



THE CHURCH of CONSCIOUS HARMONY

7406 Newhall Lane
Austin, Texas 78746
512-347-9673
512-347-9675 fax
www.consciousharmony.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Anne Best
Ken Ely
Martin Field
Donald Genung
Peter Haas
Mary Lea McAnally
Lisa Morgan
Tracey Stephens
Stephen Utts

MINISTER

Peter Haas
minister@consciousharmony.org

EMERITUS MINISTERS

Tim & Barbara Cook

MUSIC

Billie Woods, Director
musicdir@consciousharmony.org
Sue Young

THE JOURNEY SCHOOL

Mary Anne Best, Abbess
tjs@consciousharmony.org

YOUTH EDUCATION SERVICES

Deborah Hale, Children's Director
childmin@consciousharmony.org
Jacque Botto, Asst to the Children's Director
Don Hale, Youth Director
youthdir@consciousharmony.org
David Jenkins, Asst to the Youth Director

OFFICE

Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm
Donald Genung, Business Manager
bizmgr@consciousharmony.org
Lisa Genung, Office Manager
officemgr@consciousharmony.org
Jill Frank, Program Director
programdir@consciousharmony.org
Mark Cadell, Media Producer
mediapro@consciousharmony.org

NEWSLETTER

Sandra Ely, Editor
garzaely@swbell.net
Carol Hagar, Design
carol.hagar@austintennisacademy.com



THE CHURCH *of*
CONSCIOUS HARMONY

A Contemplative Christian Community

7406 Newhall Lane Austin TX 78746

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN TX
PERMIT # 3386

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

EPIPHANY: THE UNFOLDING OF THE LIGHT



*Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
Upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears His glory.*

Isaiah 60:1

Epiphany is the crowning feast of Christmas.
We tend to think of Christmas as the greater feast,
but in actual fact, it is only the beginning.

It whets our appetite for the treasures
to be revealed in the feasts to come.

The great enlightenment of the Christmas-Epiphany Mystery
is when we perceive that the divine light manifests not only
that the Son of God has become a human being,
but that we are incorporated as living members into His body.

This is the special grace of Epiphany.

In view of His divine dignity and power,
the Son of God gathers into Himself
the entire human family past, present and future.
... Epiphany, then, is the manifestation of all that is
contained in the light of Christmas;
it is the invitation to become divine.

Thomas Keating, *The Mystery of Christ*

