

COMMUNION

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT, MY LIGHT AND SALVATION
IN GOD I TRUST, IN GOD I TRUST

UNION

"At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us. It is so to speak His name written in us, as our poverty, as our indigence, as our dependence, as our sonship. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely ... I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is everywhere."
~Thomas Merton

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU
MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU
AND GRANT YOU PEACE, AND GRANT YOU PEACE

If you would like to receive the Imago Dei email meditations to encourage your life of prayer, you can sign up on the website, or email imago@shaw.ca

Check our website for information about groups meeting locally. Rob Des Cotes' books are available online and at the front of the sanctuary.

Our next **Contemplative Communion Service** will be **February 11 @ 7 pm.**

Imago Dei Christian Community

www.imagodeicommunity.ca

Contemplative Liturgy

January 14, 2023



with meditations on Light and Darkness

Contemplative Liturgy

AWAKENING

2 Corinthians 4 ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

It is impossible to perceive one's darkneses without the divine light focusing on them ~John of the Cross

YOU O LORD ARE THE ONE WHO KEEPS MY LAMP BURNING
GOD TURNS MY DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

ILLUMINATION

...God may, perhaps, send out a shaft of spiritual light, which pierces this cloud of unknowing between you, and show you some of his secrets... then will you feel your affection flame with the fire of his love, far more than I can possibly say now... ~The Cloud of Unknowing

SEND FORTH YOUR LIGHT AND YOUR TRUTH
LET THEM GUIDE ME
LET THEM BRING ME TO YOUR HOLY MOUNTAIN
TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU DWELL

When light shines on a clean and pure crystal, we find that the more intense the degree of light, the more light the crystal has concentrated within it and the brighter it becomes; it can become so brilliant from the abundance of light received that it seems to be all light. And then the crystal is undistinguishable from the light, since it is illumined according to its full capacity, which is to appear to be light." ~John of the Cross

WITH UNVEILED FACES WE REFLECT YOUR GLORY
WITH UNVEILED FACES, INTO YOUR LIKENESS
WITH UNVEILED FACES, FROM GLORY TO GLORY
WE ARE CHANGED,
INTO YOUR LIKENESS WE ARE CHANGED

The higher point of the contemplative life consists entirely in this darkness & cloud of unknowing. It is an impulse of love, a dark gazing to the pure being of God

~The Cloud of Unknowing

BY NIGHT WE HASTEN, IN DARKNESS,
TO SEEK FOR THE LIVING WATER,
ONLY OUR THIRST LIGHTS US ONWARDS,
ONLY OUR THIRST LIGHTS US ONWARDS.

CONFESSION

Psalms 139 11...If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

OUR DARKNESS IS NEVER DARKNESS IN YOUR SIGHT
THE DEEPEST NIGHT IS CLEAR AS THE DAY LIGHT

Never let us be discouraged with ourselves. It is not when we are conscious of our faults that we are the most wicked; on the contrary, we are less so. We see by a brighter light; ~Francois Fenelon

O GOD MY HEART IS OPEN TO YOU
YOU PERCEIVE ALL MY DESIRES
NOTHING CAN I HIDE FROM YOU
YOUR TRUE LIGHT IS MY DESIRE

PURIFY THE THOUGHTS OF MY HEART
THAT I MAY LOVE YOU WITH THE LOVE YOU DESERVE