

COMMUNION

IN THE CLEFT OF THE ROCK, IN THE HIDING PLACE
SHOW ME YOUR FACE
IN THE WHISPER OF THE WIND, IN THE SILENCE OF PRAYER
LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE

FOR YOUR VOICE IS SWEET AND YOUR FACE IS LOVELY
I WILL SEARCH FOR THE ONE MY HEART LOVES
YOUR VOICE IS SWEET AND YOUR FACE IS LOVELY
I WILL SEARCH FOR THE ONE I LOVE

UNION

The truly contemplative soul is not one that has the most exalted visions but the one who is most closely united to God in the purity of love and allows itself to be absorbed and transformed into Him by that love. To such a soul everything becomes a source and occasion for love. Praise and glorify God, you have tasted the first fruits of this great grace and pray to Him to continue his great work in your souls.

MAY THE LOVE OF THE FATHER, THE LOVE OF THE SON
THE SPIRIT OF LIFE, THE BREATH OF THE LORD
MAY GOD'S PRESENCE FILL YOUR HEART
ABIDING IN YOU AS YOUR LIGHT AND LIFE
ABIDING IN YOU AS YOUR LIGHT

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 idchristiancommunity@gmail.com

Check our website for information about groups meeting locally. Rob Des Cotes' books are available online.

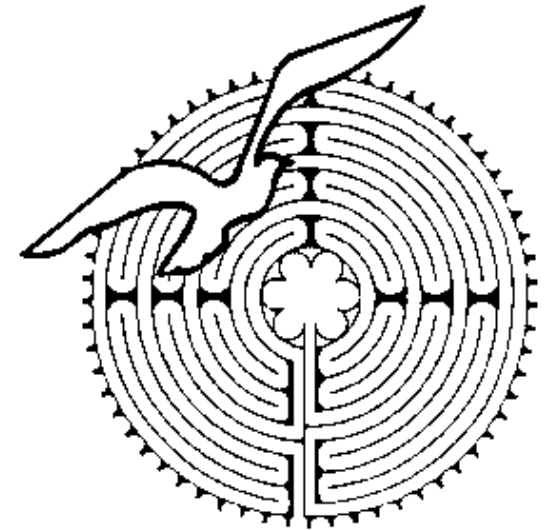
Our next **Contemplative Communion Service** will be **February 14!! @ 7 pm.**

Imago Dei Christian Community

www.imagodeicommunity.ca

Contemplative Liturgy

January 10, 2026



Meditations from Thomas Merton on love and contemplation

Contemplative Liturgy

COME LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN
LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD OUR GOD AND MAKER
COME LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN
LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD OUR GOD AND MAKER

FOR HE IS OUR GOD
AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE
AND THE SHEEP OF HIS HAND
AND THE SHEEP OF HIS HAND

AWAKENING

The function of contemplation is to awaken and prepare the mind, to turn the heart towards God, to arouse a desire to know God better. It introduces the soul to the joys of the spiritual life. It bestows a healthy taste for the things of the supernatural order and weans one away from the satisfactions of the body and of merely natural knowledge. Above all, contemplation prepares the way for love.

TO KEEP YOUR LOVELY FACE
EVER BEFORE MY EYES
THIS IS MY PRAYER
MAKE IT MY STRONG DESIRE
THAT IN MY SECRET HEART
NO OTHER LOVE COMPETES
NO RIVAL THRONE SURVIVES
THAT I SERVE ONLY YOU

ILLUMINATION

Mystical contemplation is an intuition of God born of pure love. It is a gift of God that absolutely transcends all natural capacities of the soul and which no man can acquire by any effort of his own. But God gives it to the soul in proportion as it is clean and emptied of all affections for things outside of Himself. In other words, it is God manifesting Himself,

according to the promise of Christ to those who love Him. Yet the love with which they love Him is also a gift; we only love Him because He has first loved us.

CHRIST LOVE OF ALL LOVING
FIRE THAT BURNS WITHIN ME
MY HEART LIVES ONCE MORE
HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH

There is no true spiritual life outside the love of Christ. If we know how great the love of Jesus is for us we will never be afraid to go to him in all our poverty, all our weakness, all our spiritual wretchedness and infirmity. Indeed, when we understand the true nature of his love for us we will prefer to come to him poor and helpless. We will never be ashamed of our distress. Distress is to our advantage when we have nothing to seek but mercy.

JESUS YOUR LOVE IS SHINING WITHIN US
MY HEART WELCOMES YOUR LOVE
JESUS YOUR LOVE IS SHINING WITHIN US
MY HEART WELCOMES YOUR LOVE
MY HEART WELCOMES YOUR LOVE

CONFESSION

We must love our own poverty as Jesus loves it. It is so valuable to him that he died on the cross to present our poverty to his Father and endow us with the riches of his own infinite mercy. We must love the poverty of others as Jesus loves it. We must see them in the eyes of his own compassion. But we cannot have true compassion on others unless we are willing to accept pity and receive forgiveness for our own sins.

LIVING WATER (see insert)

LIVING WATER, FILL MY THIRSTY SOUL
HOLY SPIRIT COME
BREAD OF LIFE, FILL MY ACHING NEED
HOLY SPIRIT COME
FOR I AM NOTHING WITHOUT YOUR LOVE
BREATHE NEW LIFE IN ME

THEN WILL MY LIFE
BRING GLORY UNTO YOU
HOLY SPIRIT COME (HOLY SPIRIT COME)
HOLY SPIRIT COME (HOLY SPIRIT COME)
HOLY SPIRIT COME
REFRESH MY SOUL IN DEATH