

A life of prayer naturally leads to full consecration. It is satisfied with nothing else than an entire dedication of one's self to God. Never are we to be contented until we are fully and entirely the Lord's. Praying naturally leads to this act of full consent.

COMMUNION

HOLY HOLY IS THE NAME OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST

UNION

It takes prayer to bring a person to a consecrated life of holiness to the Lord, and it takes prayer to maintain such a life. Without much prayer, such a life of holiness will break down. Prayer helps consecrated Christians to maintain their attitude of consecration. It keeps them alive to God and aids them in doing the work to which they are called and to which they have given themselves.

I LIVE NOW NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME (RPT.)

VIVO, IAM NON EGO, VIVIT VERO IN ME CHRISTUS (RPT)

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.

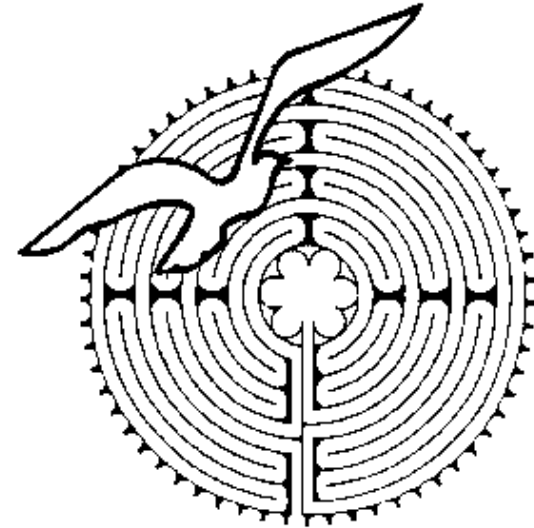
Our next **Contemplative Communion Service** will be **April 13 @ 7 pm.**

Imago Dei Christian Community

www.imagodeicommunity.ca

Contemplative Liturgy

March 9, 2024



with meditations by EM Bounds

*all quotes are from E.M. Bounds', *Prayer*

Contemplative Liturgy

AWAKENING

Desire precedes prayer, accompanies it, is followed by it. Lack of spiritual desire should grieve us and lead us to mourn its absence. We should seek earnestly that it be given so that our praying from then on will be an expression of the 'the soul's sincere desire.'

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

It is not in our power, perhaps, to create fervency of spirit at will, but we can ask God to implant it. Then it is ours to nourish and cherish, to guard against extinction, to prevent its reduction in amount or decline in quality. It is never out of place to ask God to create within us and keep alive the spirit of fervent prayer.

YOU ARE EVERYTHING
MY SOUL LONGS FOR
YOU ARE EVERYTHING
MY HEART DESIRES

Prayer must be habitual, but much more than a habit. It is duty, yet one that rises far above and goes beyond the ordinary meaning of the word. It is the expression of a relation to God, a yearning for divine communion. It is the outward and upward flow of the inward life towards its original fountain. It is an assertion of the soul's paternity, a claiming of the daughter and sonship that links a Christian to the eternal Father.

WE HAVE RECEIVED, THE SPIRIT AS A CHILD OF GOD
AND BY HIM WE CRY "ABBA, FATHER"

ILLUMINATION

Persistent prayer is a mighty movement of the soul toward God. It is a stirring of the deepest forces of the soul toward the throne of heavenly grace. It is the ability to hold on, press on, and wait that expresses not a half-needed want, but the sheer necessity we have discerned.

IT IS GOOD TO WAIT IN SILENCE
FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LORD

BONUM EST PRAESTOLARI
CUM SILENTIO SALUTARE DEI

CONFESSION

Prayer must come out of a clean heart and be presented and urged with the "lifting up of holy hands." It must be fortified by a life that aims unceasingly to obey God, to attain conformity to the divine law, and to come into submission to the divine will. For it is the 'prayer of the righteous that avails much.'

PSALM 3 Refrain: GOD LET YOUR MERCY BE ON US
AS WE PLACE OUR TRUST IN YOU

O God, how my enemies have multiplied.
How many there are who rise up against me.

**How many there who say of me:
"There is no help for you in God."**



But you, O God, are a shield about me,
You are my glory, the one who lifts my head.

**I cry aloud to you
And you answer me from your holy hill**



I lie down and sleep

I wake again, for you sustain me.

**I will not be afraid of the many forces
Thou they be gathered on every side**

