

LAMB OF GOD  
YOU TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD  
HAVE MERCY ON US, HAVE MERCY ON US  
(rpt)

LAMB OF GOD,  
YOU TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD  
GRANT US PEACE, GRANT US PEACE

## UNION

It is good for the soul to be in solitude much of the time. But if it should seek solitude for its own comfort and consolation it will have to endure more darkness and more anguish and more trial. Pure prayer only takes possession of our hearts for good when we no longer desire any special light or grace or consolation for ourselves, and pray without any thought of our own satisfaction.

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR  
UBI CARITAS  
DEUS IBI EST

LIVE IN CHARITY AND STEADFAST LOVE  
LIVE IN CHARITY, GOD WILL DWELL WITH YOU  
(Taize)

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

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

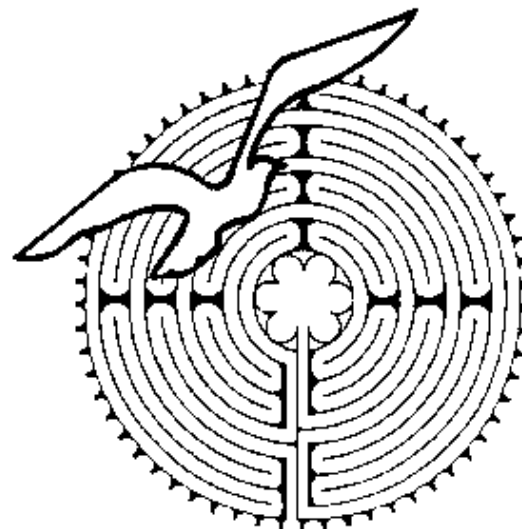
Our next **Contemplative Communion Service** will be **Saturday, February 6 @ 7 pm.**

**Imago Dei Christian Community**

*www.imagodeicommunity.ca*

# *Contemplative Liturgy*

## *January 9, 2021*



with meditations from Thomas Merton\*

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*\*No Man is an Island*

# *Contemplative Liturgy*

LORD YOU HAVE ASSIGNED TO ME  
MY PORTION AND MY CUP  
THE BOUNDARIES SURROUNDING ME  
ARE PLEASANT AND SECURE  
LORD YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME  
THE RIGHTEOUS PATHS OF LIFE  
YOU FILL ME WITH YOUR JOY  
IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR LIGHT

I WILL PRAISE THE LORD WHO COUNSELS ME  
EVEN AT NIGHT HE INSTRUCTS ME  
BECAUSE HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND  
I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN  
(rpt)

Deep interior prayer comes to us of its own accord, that is, by the secret movement of the Spirit of God, at all times and in all places, whether we be praying or not. It can come at work, in the middle of our daily business, at a meal, on a silent road or in a busy thoroughfare, or in church.

HOW GENTLY AND LOVINGLY  
YOU AWAKEN MY HEART  
WHERE IN SECRET YOU DWELL WITH ME (rpt)

AND IN YOUR SWEET BREATH  
FILLED WITH GOOD AND GLORY  
HOW TENDERLY YOU FILL MY HEART WITH LOVE (rpt)

## **AWAKENING**

One of the most important-and most neglected elements in the beginnings of the interior life is the ability to respond to reality, to see the value and the beauty in ordinary things, to come alive to the splendor that is all around us in the creatures of God.

HOW LOVELY IS THY DWELLING PLACE  
O LORD OF HOSTS TO ME  
MY SOUL IS LONGING AND FAINTING  
THE COURTS OF THE LORD TO SEE  
MY HEART AND FLESH THEY ARE SINGING  
FOR JOY TO THE LIVING GOD  
HOW LOVELY IS THY DWELLING PLACE,  
O LORD OF HOSTS TO ME.

EVEN A SPARROW FINDS A HOME  
WHERE HE CAN SETTLE DOWN  
AND THE SWALLOW SHE CAN BUILD A NEST  
WHERE SHE MAY LAY HER YOUNG  
WITHIN THE COURTS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS  
MY KING, MY LORD AND MY GOD  
AND HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO ARE DWELLING WHERE  
THE SONG OF PRAISE IS SUNG

AND I'D RATHER BE A DOORKEEPER  
AND ONLY STAY A DAY  
THAN LIVE THE LIFE OF A SINNER  
AND HAVE TO STAY AWAY  
FOR THE LORD IS SHINING AS THE SUN  
AND THE LORD IS LIKE A SHIELD  
AND NO GOOD THING DOES HE WITHHOLD  
FROM THOSE WHO WALK HIS WAY

## **ILLUMINATION**

There is a prayer that is well used: words or thoughts serve their purpose and lead our minds and hearts to God, and in our prayers we receive light to apply these thoughts to our own problems and difficulties, to those of friends, or to those of the church. But sometimes this prayer, which is of course valid, leaves our hearts unsatisfied because it is more concerned with our problems, with our friends, and ourselves, than it is with God. However, if we are humble, we will be thankful for ever so little light in our prayer. It is a great thing to receive even a little light from so great a God.

3.

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

## **CONFESSION**

Prayer is inspired by God in the depth of our own nothingness. It is a movement of trust, of gratitude, of adoration, or sorrow that places us before God, seeing both Him and ourselves in the light of His infinite truth, and moves us to ask Him for mercy, the spiritual strength, the material help that we all need. The person whose prayer is so pure that he never asks God for anything does not know who God is, and does not know who he is himself, for he does not know his own need for God.

COME TO MY HELP O GOD  
LORD COME TO MY RESCUE  
COME TO MY HELP O GOD  
LORD COME TO MY RESCUE

## **COMMUNION**

There is a better way of prayer, a greater gift from God, in which we pass through our prayer to Him, and love Him. We taste the goodness of His infinite mercy. We know that we are indeed His children, although we know our unworthiness to be called His children. We know His infinite mercy in Jesus, and we know the meaning of the fact that we, who are sinners, indeed have a savior. And we learn what it is to know the Father in this Savior, Jesus, His Son.