The Herald of the LORD

THE LORD IS SPEAKING to us even amidst nature and heralding the spring. We are as yet but witnessing and, in the witnessing, through the very breaths, tasting of the goodness of the LORD in the coming of spring. Most men and women delight in spring. It seems to yield hope to them, as well as to bring beauty. For the sunshine is a living force; its action upon human life would seem to be of such a nature that it penetrates beyond the outer, even to the inner parts of our Being. The early flowers have burst through the earth. They have penetrated the over-soil, and are revealing the hidden beauty that no one in passing by would have dreamed was there. Even the humble crocus is a miracle of grace and beauty. No man could make one, though he may help those that appear through giving them conditions. The almond trees have begun to sing their song. Though to the outer ear it is a silent song, to the inner ear there is a music all the tree's own. These are early voices of the Herald of GOD proclaiming the coming of spring.

Spring seems such an earthly thing that few would associate it with GOD, except in a very general and indefinite way. The Infinite and Eternal is over all, yes; but how few definitely associate the outburst of spring with HIM in HIS Love and HIS Wisdom. Even those who admire the flowers love them for their beauty, their grace, their adornment, their power to adorn, and the fragrance they pour forth. How comparatively few relate them to the Spiritual Universe! ...

Spring ... heralds the coming of our LORD. It is a herald for all of us concerning HIS Coming. The spiritual things we associate with the inner life... When you think beautifully, your thought is reflected upon the magnetic plane of your own Being, and the reflection is transmitted to the magnetic plane of the Planet. Thus you become a



Spiritual Reflections

The Order of the Cross

April May 2018 Garden of the LORD. Your thoughts produce flowers, flowers of sweet desire, of noble purpose, prophetic of great fruitage in the days to come.

Herald XXX, pp23,24,28,29 extracts

Thoughts on the Teachings John Pignéguy

PRING IS POSSIBLY everybody's favourite season of the year. Admittedly, we all quite like Summer when things have warmed up and a sense of freedom is in the air, but without Spring there would be no Summer, a fact that illustrates the processional nature of the natural world. The symbolism of that processional is interesting - Spring leads us out of the season of Winter, where the feeling of darkness and coldness can sometimes seem a bit overwhelming, and as if it is never going to go away. This can be a shame, given the sometimes gaunt beauty of that time-of-year. But Spring has a truly miraculous 'feel' to it and never fails to astonish and move us on more than one level. Our sense of the unfolding newness of life, the re-awakening of life from what can seem rather bleak conditions, will give us an increasing awareness (and a spiritual one at that) that there is definitely 'something going on' all of this does not just happen by itself, and Our Friend's words in the opening sentence of the cover-extract do indeed speak of a different reality: 'The LORD is speaking to us even amidst nature and the heralding of Spring.' That is quite a thought for us to meditate upon.

It also speaks to us of the processional nature of 'Life' and of our individual lives in particular — enlightenment comes to us in various ways and in different guises, sometimes surprising, and while we may well feel that progress as a whole is slow, it is that very measured quality that is so important. Of course, things can sometimes feel as if they are actually going backwards, but that sense, frustrating as it can be to say the very least, is an indication of how the awareness of 'how things can be' is in itself a measure of the quiet progress that is being made.

This 'quiet progress' is something that is exemplified in the coming of Spring, and the inspirational nature of this realisation is something that gives us a real 'lift.' We feel ourselves to be a part of the burgeoning life that is all around us. Our uplifting thoughts in this connection can inspire us and lead us to reflect them in our lives, in all that we do, and with all those we meet. As Our Friend puts it in the closing sentences of the cover extract: "Thus you become a Garden of the LORD ... prophetic of great fruitage in the days to come."

Fellowship from Edinburgh Alison Muirhead

2018 HAS BEGUN with challenging circumstances individually and nationally.

At the Fellowship meeting of the Edinburgh group, we were exploring the meaning of the current astrological configurations. This New Year began with two eclipses, one of the Moon followed by one of the Sun. This is unusual both astronomically and astrologically. Great changes are in progress. What is the Universe trying to tell us and how is it we can we pick up the meaning? Experience shows that astrological insights are informative and helpful for our minds but how does it come about?

A worship service on the unfoldment in *Herald* XXI entitled The Realm of Radiance helped me to this understanding.

The astronomical positions and movements of the stars and planets and worlds in our cosmos can be calculated. They form a framework, which moves like clockwork following God's Laws. The mediation from these bodies is sent to us in the breaths which blow to uphold and overshadow. The constant motion of orbit and cycles creates wonderful opportunities for change and evolution. Past, present and future can be accounted for and all worlds, planets, stars and suns are included in the ministry which flows. Astrology is one way of interpreting these breaths as they relate to the returning path of souls and the redemption of the planet.

From the teachings we read about the purpose of life.

Help us to know THEE in this way; to behold THEE within the Sanctuary where THY Presence abideth and THY Glory is made manifest, where the Life-stream of THY gracious Love floweth and the Bread of Life is broken unto the Soul: to be of those who know THY Will and the service of life unto which THY Holy Love constrains.

Herald IV, p95, reprinted in Herald XXI, p77

In the unfoldment the Realm of Radiance from *Herald* XXI, p79 it is stated:

You will remember these three terms: Lebanon, Sharon, Carmel. They present the sequence of glorious Mystery

brought through into vision, into realization, into manifestation. Along with these three names familiar to you as terms, I would give you these also, that in after days you may remember and apply them – *Light; Balance; Sacrifice*.

Further to this on p80, Herald XXI

Lebanon is the land of *perfect* vision. With perfect vision there is perfect understanding, where the light is the Light of the Eternal within the Being so that there is perfect understanding of Souls, of GOD's ways.

Astrology can provide insights through the birth chart, from the land of perfect vision. The transits of the planets offer the opportunity to glimpse a path to the heights of Lebanon through bringing an understanding of the present moment in time. The aspects which are made as they inter-relate illustrate choices which are to be faced along the way to reaching the Balance of the Beauty of Sharon. This is where free will has its role to play. The motion of the Sun through the zodiac, as seen from Earth, can provide guidance on navigating the daily travail. Thus our lives can be an exposition of the living sacrifice on Carmel.

HE asks you to make of your whole Being a living sacrifice. because in making of the whole Being a living sacrifice, the streams of the life flow to the Divine Centre, and your attributes are touched from the Divine; and the coming into equipoise of the Being tends to perfect balance - balance within the Temple of Being; balance within the Sanctuary of the Soul – in the understanding, in the perception, in the reason; balanced in its understanding of the Vision that comes to it; balanced in the mind as the understanding has to reflect into the mind, to pass into the objective World; balanced in its observation of things, so that it does not mistake the meaning of anything; balanced as to what it sees and interprets; balanced to that estate wherein HE becomes even in the objective life, the First and the Last, the Centre and the Circumference of all. There is no other way. Why, it is a blessed way and there is no other way! Do not be afraid to try it.

Herald XXI, p87,88

What a wonderful gift astrology is as a tool to aid the understanding of a returning life. Its insights can inform individual freedom of choice, opportunities for repetition and growth and ultimately the attainment of Lebanon.

What is the inheritance that HE has given me? What does it contain? All the riches of HIS Own Mystery in the degree in which it can be discovered and realised within an individuated life. 'To what height may I climb as a HIS Child?' To the summits even of Lebanon, the Realm of the Radiance; the Radiance that is HIS Own Resplendence of HIS Own Mystery. You have power so to climb. That is the pathway which every Soul who would climb must tread; nor can there be deviation from that pathway, or there can be no attainment.

Herald XXI, p82

What a wonderful inheritance indeed; all the help and time that is needed for the outworking of Karma and attainment on the return journey to reach the Realm of Radiance.

4 The Pure Lands Andrew Wilson

The true seeker will soon learn that purity is of the Heart first, in its intent; and then of the mind in its outlook; and then of the attributes and potencies in their uses. For it is in the purpose and motive and intent that all feeling and action have their true value.

Divine Renaissance I, p29,30

IN MANY RELIGIONS and certain Buddhist traditions the Pure Land, is often out of reach to the many or even unreachable unless fully enlightened. For the Pure Land cannot be found in this World, as this World is too corrupt and can it only be found through re-birth into another plane. It is described as a land of beauty that surpasses all the other realms, inhabited by Buddhas and those who are enlightened. Are these lands so far away? Or are they here and now, and it is only a perversion of the Truth that holds them from our grasp. How can these Pure Lands be with us and around us in today's climate, and how can that Land be trod?

We are counselled in the Message to 'keep our Vision from the Mountain Tops'. What does that truly mean, and why is that? The way we hold our vision, our Inner Vision, upon the World is what shapes and creates the land before us. To see everyone in the beauty and regnancy of the Christ Light, holding every step and every breath as sacred, realizing the world around is, no matter how it may appear, always as a part of the Father-Mother, and is always flowing. This is what will bring about the healing of the conditions, and the return of the Pure Land.

For, these lands are the Pure Lands, those lands are not some far off distant place, they are here now. Everything around us is so gentle, delicate and susceptible to our attitude, our response, our inner motion, our Vision, for this formulates and creates the conditions in the World. For how we behold the World around us creates a vibration that affects every living thing.

Embodying Love and Purity is the beautiful vibration of Jesushood. Purifying the vehicle is the easy part; the mind takes a little longer (though it must follow from the purification of the vehicle). Our Friend says how the garment of Love is Purity:

Love is ever radiant, it is always beautiful, its manifestations have a glory of their own; in garments of Purity are they manifested

Life's Mysteries Unveiled, p424

and how we should walk:

the ways of purity upon every sphere of experience

The Master, p88

Is-Ra-El are asked to ride the white horse, the Pure mind. That does not mean just controlling our negative thoughts, but that our Vision is held. By that we bear witness unto the world, always responsive to the gentle vibrations that are held in every molecule, always aware of our influence. There is a piece of advice that is often given to walkers to take only pictures and leave only footprints, well that advice carries through on our inward journey too. For the path we tread with our Vision of the World creates footprints within every molecule, every aspect of Life. These are the most Holy Sacred Lands, they must be trodden with gentle feet. For the Mind is the reflector of the Soul, and to see all with a Pure Vision is where the healing takes place.

Science now shows us how water holds memory; a flower placed into a glass of water will change the molecules in the water so that they take on the pattern of that flower. So therefore, as a river flows from its source to the sea it collects all the information from everything that it has passed by. Then it evaporates and falls as rain spreading that information network wherever it lands. This shows us the delicate and susceptible nature of the elements that surround us. However your Vision is held, directed, it carries forth that energy that is given to it. That is why Love is always the healer, for Love is Life, Love is Pure Vision

The reward cometh only to those who pass through those Portals whose path leadeth unto the purified Life

Life's Mysteries Unveiled, p13

Everything we come into contact with from the tiniest droplet of water, each breath of air, every blade of grass, each flower, tree, rock, insect, creature, person, is held by our Vision. And in just the same way that the trees of the forest are connected one to each other, through mycorrhizal roots*, so are we connected to everything and everywhere.

In the measure of its purity we ascend into the Heavens

Divine Renaissance II, p482

If our vision is Pure and we see all in its Highest that is what will come. These are now the pure lands the Land of Pure Love. Don't let the media, the news, and politics make you see it any other way. It is all so gentle, so subtle, and susceptible to our energies if our Vision is not of the highest it will remain. See the Divinity in everything, His Holy Presence, Life is Now. Let it be, create Love, become Love, be Love Now. These are the Pure Lands, the FATHER-MOTHER, LIFE.

To save the world men and women must be brought back to rectitude, purity of thought and feeling, pity, compassion and Love.

The Logia, p75

Mycorrhizal roots are formed as a result of a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and the normal roots of the tree. It has been demonstrated that mycorrhizal roots take up nutrients better than uninfected roots and some of these nutrients such as Phosphate and water are passed on to the host. In return the fungus receives sugars and vitamins produced by the tree. There is some evidence that information can be passed from one tree to another through these roots and that they may be a means by which a tree that is in distress can be sustained by its neighbours.

I WILL GO DANCING OUT OF THIS LIFE Elisabeth Heathcote, September 2017

I will go dancing out of this life, Feet softly springing, face turned to the sun. Paths stretch before me, the mountains ahead Enticing me onwards then upwards at last.

Flower-decked hillsides with streams tumbling down, Colour and beauty, wide blue-vaulted skies, Bless my way onwards to where I must go With joy in my footsteps, a light in my eyes.

Adventure awaits me. At last I will know
What waits round the corner, beyond the next hill.
My cares are behind me; a new life awaits.
I dance to it joyfully, heart full of song.

Home is before me, a land I know well. Loved ones await me with arms open wide. And when you come dancing out of this life, There I will be waiting to welcome you home.

How We May Help in Healing the World Conditions John Pignéguy

TYTORLD CONDITIONS' are probably not all that we would like them to be. While there is most certainly much of goodness/beauty/ truth in action in the world, there are also the contrasting pressures, notably from the various media, that are very much a part of modern life. The media-approach seems generally to be that of 'Good news is no news,' which of course is a bit of an oversimplification, but it can often mean, in that famous saying, that 'the Devil has all the best tunes.' We hear and read much about what is going on in the world (and we do need to be reasonably well-informed) and we can feel overwhelmed at times if we allow ourselves to be so. Sometimes the various media may seem to exist to just bring us 'the worst of things' simply because it sells more copies or makes for much better television. This in itself creates a curious and not-so-subtle addiction which is corrosive to the human spirit and the experience of life as a whole. This in turn can cause us to ask how we fit into all of this. and what we can do in the way of a positive contribution through the way that we lead our lives. Our Friend writes perceptively on this subject in the supplement of Herald XV, s63 under the heading 'Sharing in the Redemption':

Our first work amidst the conditions which obtain is embodiment of HIM, so that our Life becomes in its degree a manifestation of HIM. To be a manifestation of HIM is to be like HIM. HE loves all. HE forgets none, and in HIS passing by never fails to bless. HIS very Atmosphere bears Blessing to those who can receive; but it is with the Soul, individually, nationally, and racially, as with the dweller in a house. The glorious Sol is always radiating; but the conditions generated within the atmospheria may even prevent him getting his full radiations through. There are some Rays that pass through anything; but there are some that cannot do that, and must have the right elemental states for transmission. Even when he gets through to gloriously illumine the Earth, or our parts of it for the time being, if the Children of Men keep their blinds down, their windows closed, their doors shut, his glory cannot enter. So is it as the Presence passes by; though the Atmosphere should

move everyone, if those adjacent to HIS Presence have their windows shut, their blinds down, their doors closed, they will not behold HIS Glory, nor receive HIS Radiations.

As we have seen, there is much that we can do in the way of our own individual contribution, and the real positivity which can then come about as a result of that. Multiplied countless times, progress is surely inevitable.

The writer H.G. Wells addresses this very subject in the closing sentences of his remarkable 1922 book called A Short History of the World - 'Man is still only adolescent. His troubles are not the troubles of senility or exhaustion but of increasing and still undisciplined strength. When we look at all history as one process, as we have been doing in this book, when we see the steadfast upward struggle of life towards vision and control, then we see in their true proportions the hopes and dangers of the present time. As yet we are hardly in the earliest dawn of human greatness. But in the beauty of flower and sunset, in the happy and perfect movement of young animals and in the delight of 10,000 various landscapes, we have some intimations of what life can do for us, and in some few works of plastic and pictorial art, in some great music, in a few noble buildings and happy gardens, we have an intimation of what the human will can do with material possibilities. We have dreams; we have at present undisciplined but ever-increasing power. Can we doubt that presently our race will more than realise our boldest imaginations, that it will live, the children of our blood and lives will live, in a world more splendid and lovely than any palace or garden that we know, going on from strength to strength in an ever-widening circle of adventure and achievement? What man has done, the little triumphs of his present state, and all this history we have told, form but the prelude to the things that man has yet to do.'

And Our Friend continues this theme:

What shall we do to help more effectively, the healing of the World? The greatest thing that we can do is to be one with HIM Who blesses all, Who makes none accursed, but Who works through a million avenues to restore those who have made themselves accursed by turning their back upon HIS Truth and HIS Ways. To all we send our Blessing....for we

would be like HIM Whose Love never changes in its nature,

Herald XV s65

New Year Gathering - Swanage Elizabeth Saunders-Singer

WE HAD SOME BEAUTIFUL sunny days in Swanage. In most of the services which were held in the mornings, we had to draw the curtains it was so bright. A perfect way to start each day. Our unaccompanied singing was led expertly by Annie. Studies were led all from the *Herald XXX*, by various Members every afternoon. One of which was the unfoldment, 'Tolerance, Forbearance and Patience'.

TOLERANCE. The spirit of 'toleration' is the spirit that believes that everybody is wrong except yourself, but you endure it. Now, no such thing should ever obtain in the Children of the Kingdom. They are all like minutes on a circle. Each minute contributes to the 360 degrees of that circle, and not one of the minutes can be absent without making the circle imperfect.

FORBEARANCE. That is true forbearance, through which the Soul learns more and more of that Love; that does not even use the word forbearance, but only 'bear'. Love beareth all things. The word 'bear' means 'carry'. Love carries all things. Therefore, if Love has half-a-dozen within its field of vision and action to deal with, it bears each one. Nor does it expect from each one of them the same manifestation. It understands the manifestation through all that the Soul brings to the Altar, and that gift is welcome. That is the secret of forbearance. That is the secret of revealing the Great Love that understands all Souls, that whatsoever they bring to the Altar of Service is welcomed.

PATIENCE. The word Patience is a wonderful word in our tongue. In the Divine [sense], it is even more wonderful. It really is Love in its unfalteringness, in its unchangeableness, in its anticipation... Let us take everything to the Altar and lay

everything upon the Altar. Let each Soul brings its offering. Bring your gifts to the Altar and ask for the Overshadowing One to help you to be yet more beautiful, not only in words but through the manifestation of [such words] to be more beautiful in that which you are able to give: and to give, not because it brings you joy (though you will have joy in the giving) but to give of your service with the consciousness that you are to give joy to others through your service.

Herald XXX, pp110,115,116,117

Other studies were The Herald of the LORD, The Presentation in the Temple, The Comfort of GOD.

Sharing sessions in the evening were Trees in Nature, talks on Shakespeare plays. We saw a beautiful film, Paradise Gardens. The last evening was Poetry and Music.

Very many thanks go to Annie and Hamish for their usual delightful hospitality, and the food, which Carla prepared was 'out of this world!'



Elizabeth Singer enjoying the Sea at Swanage during the New Year Gathering

Communal Sharing: Services and Studies by Phone

THE COMMUNAL SHARING CIRCLE is international and open to all. All you need to join us is a phone! Three regional calls are scheduled to serve our global community:

- I: North America, Australia and New Zealand 00:00 UTC
- II: Europe, Australia and New Zealand 08:00 UTC
- III: North America and Europe 16:00 UTC

Local times and dial-in numbers are listed on pages 14.

We welcome you to participate as a reader or a listener. Readings taken from the books are referenced on the schedule; others require service documents, which may be requested by contacting the Communal Sharing Coordinator (see page 13).

Feel free to join us as frequently or infrequently as you like. When possible, please dial in 3-5 minutes before the hour and introduce yourself when joining the call.

FELLOWSHIP CALLS on 2nd Saturdays – April 14, May 12, June 9 – help us get to know each other and consider ways to improve our Sunday calls. Fellowship calls begin in North America at 8 am PDT, 11 am EDT, and at 4 pm BST in the UK.

SCHEDULE

APRII

| I | I & III | Easter Service – Ministrants: Stephen & Claire Ede The Stations of the Cross [Document provided] | | |
|----|----------|---|--|--|
| 8 | III | Ongoing Study taken from Divine Renaissance II Ministrant: John Blossom | | |
| 15 | II & III | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye Herald 11, pp.27-34 – Immaculate Conception, pt.2 | | |
| 22 | III | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Anne Candlin Herald 31, pp.2-13 – The Messenger of the Covenant | | |

MAY

| 6 | I & III | Worship Service – Ministrant: Jan Holmes New Beginnings [Document provided] | |
|-----|----------|--|--|
| 13 | III | Ongoing Study taken from Divine Renaissance II Ministrant: Turid Nelson | |
| 20 | II & III | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye Herald 9, pp.109-121 – The Soul's Divine Ascent | |
| 27 | III | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Esther Gowan The Life Eternal [Document provided] | |
| JUN | NE . | | |
| 3 | I & III | Worship Service – Ministrants: Michael Arcese The Law of the Lord [Document provided] | |
| 10 | III | Ongoing Study taken from Divine Renaissance II Ministrant: Richard Palmer | |
| 17 | II & III | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye The Logia, pp.22-33 – Discipleship | |
| 24 | III | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Willamina Bridget The Evangel of St. John [Document provided] | |

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to receive service documents by mail or email, please contact the Communal Sharing Coordinator:

Esther Gowan • esthergowan@earthlink.net • (1) 805-542-9133

LOCAL TIMES – Communal Sharing calls are scheduled year-round on Universal Time (GMT). To find the call-in time for your locality, refer to schedule A or B according to whether your Time Zone is currently observing Standard or Daylight Saving Time.

Throughout the months of April, May and June, schedule A will be in effect in all localities.

A - Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere

IA: 00:00 UTC

5 pm PDT (Sat. eve.) 8 pm EDT (Sat. eve.)

8 am AWST 10 am AEST

12 pm NZST

II A: 08:00 UTC

9 am BST (U.K.)

4 pm AWST 6 pm AEST 8 pm NZST

(I am PDT) (USA)

III A: 16:00 UTC

9 am PDT 12 pm EDT

5 pm BST (U.K.)

(12 am next day AWST) (4 am next day NZST)

B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere;

IB: 00:00 UTC

4 pm PST (Sat. eve.)

7 pm EST (Sat. eve.)

8 am AWST
II am AEDT
I pm NZDT

II B: 08:00 UTC

8 am GMT (U.K.)

4 pm AWST 7 pm AEDT 9 pm NZDT

(12 am PST) (USA)

III B: 16:00 UTC

8 am PST

4 pm GMT (U.K.)

(12 am next day AWST) (5 am next day NZDT)

14

ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 # # (same for all areas)

Spiritual Linking Christopher Nye

THE READING FOR APRIL IS

"The Immaculate Conception" Part 2 Herald XI pages 27-34 It will take place on Sunday 15th

The Immaculate Conception is within the Soul.

THE READING FOR MAY IS

The Soul's Divine Ascent
Herald IX pages 109 - 121
It will take place on Sunday 20th

How blessed for us all that the ETERNAL LOVE never forgets

The two Readings for April and May are **08h00 GMT** that is 9am BST in the UK, 4pm in Western Australia, 6pm in Eastern Australia and 8pm in New Zealand; the second is **16h00 GMT** that is 5pm BST in the UK, 9am PDT, 12 noon EDT in North America.



Cloudscape at Congresbury - Richard Ashley

GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

There are no Gatherings or Events in April and May this year

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address or any of your contact details, please notify Roger Score at:

The Order of the Cross
27 Old Gloucester Street, LONDON, WCIN 3AX
Email: light@orderofthecross.org or
Telephone 0207 1176 059

This will ensure that Spiritual Reflections is sent to your new address and that all your contact details are updated on our database.

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Email: editor@orderofthecross.org

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Spiritual Reflections Publication Timetable

| Issues will be published in the first week of: | The two or three month period the issue will cover |
|--|--|
| February | February March |
| April | April May |
| June | June July August |
| September | September October November |
| December | December January |

You are reminded that the next issue of Spiritual Reflections will be published at the beginning of June 2018