

The Coming of Immanuel

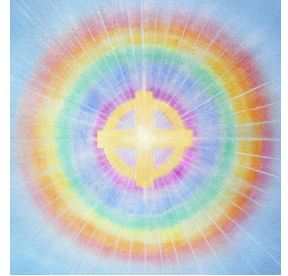
HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING! The LORD Presence comes, comes with Heavenly Accompaniment. They sing – “Glory to GOD in the Highest!”Their Message is one of triumph, hope, gladness. Their Wine is the Wine of Joy. They speak to you in this hour of the Divine Advent. They herald unto you, and would through you unto all the Earth, herald the coming of Immanuel.

Remember that you are not alone at any time. If you make your home a Sanctuary, the Angels will cross your threshold and tread your Sanctuary and bow with you before your Altar. Make your home sweet with the sweet Breaths of Angelic fellowship and they will share with you all that they can communicate. It is a glorious Day. Rejoice in it. Let it be a time of joy, whatever the sorrow the world may reflect back because of its state. You can have sorrow over the World and yet have Divine Joy with HIM Who is your LORD. ...

Remember in your journey that the Angels walk with you. They accompany those within whom the Sacred Flame is burning, those whose hearts are making music contributing to the healing of life. They walk with you even as in the Edenic Days. Though you are not able to realise their presence to the extent that you did then, yet that will come; it will increase with you as you commune with Them and talk with HIM Who is your FATHER-MOTHER.

Remember this: that what happens in the Heavens on the approach of the Heavenly Hosts is reflected on the Earth-planes.... Embody it. There is no other way of preaching it. Though we have to speak of it from time to time, the real way of revealing it is in embodiment, and your life will become as HIS Star within the World.

Herald XXXII, pp112-113



Spiritual Reflections

The Order of the Cross

**December
2018
January
2019**

Thoughts on the Teachings John Pignéguy

THE SEASON OF ADVENT, with its onward focus directed towards the celebration of the Christmas story itself, is one of quiet thought and preparation. The use and the meaning of these terms can, in the popular understanding of them, sometimes lead to something of a simplification as to their true significance, thus almost making them just familiar 'figures of speech.' There is, of course, nothing wrong with that at all – the 'familiar' often gives comfort as well as inspiration, and thus serves its purpose well in this particular context.

One of the aspects of *The Coming of Immanuel* that can initially elude us is that we may think that it is the 'Christ Presence' which is coming to us, and that if we are in the right spiritual state to receive this 'Presence,' then that is indeed what will happen. Which of course is all quite true – except that that is not the full picture. Our Friend writes in the cover-extract: "Remember in your journey that the Angels walk with you." That quiet sentence is worth reading more than once, because it is our journey, our individual journey that connects us to the reality of *The Coming of Immanuel*, and all that that means for us in our inner and outer lives.

Of all the distinctive features of the traditional Christmas story, and our annual involvement in it, the singing of carols has to be one of the main ones whether in a church setting or in a concert, or perhaps outdoors around a Christmas tree. The dictionary gives us a charming definition of 'carol': "Joyous song, human or of birds, esp. Christmas hymn." We can all relate to this aspect of the Christmas celebrations, and it is interesting to see in some works-of-art depicting the Christmas scene that there are indeed birds of all sorts, along with the radiant Star, the Angels and the customary creatures and figures surrounding the crib in which the Christ-child is laid.

As we reflect on *The Coming of Immanuel* in our approach to a New Year, let us go forward as best we may as "those within whom the Sacred Flame is burning, those whose hearts are making music contributing to the healing of life."

**South, South East and Western Areas
Gathering
Charney Manor, October 2018
From the Ministrants and Leaders**

**Opening Service
Friday 19th, Margaret Jack**

HOW GOOD it felt to be together again! - Friends old and new, from as far afield as France and the North Midlands, and as near as one hour's drive away. We were all embarking on a long Journey together: The Highway to ZION!

We considered whether we were properly prepared? Had we the right shoes, – the right Understanding? The most suitable clothes, – the most beautiful Robes? ... Did we have the right maps, – did we know the right PATH? We must know that our destination is our Real GOAL! We must be patient with ourselves, yet nevertheless keen and determined to get there! So we read from *Isaiah*, pp59-60, about the Restoration of Zion, which is *The sacred Temple of Solomon, the Temple of the Cosmic Christhood*:

... the Temple of the radiant Life, wherein the fashion of the Soul is of the very radiance of GOD, and in which Life becomes one in and with the Eternal FATHER-MOTHER.

This we thought about as we sang Hymn 6, “FATHER-MOTHER, praising, singing, joyfully we come to THEE!”

Readings from *Herald of the Cross*, XV pp53, 55, 61-2 followed, in which Our Friend encourages us in our Return Journey; telling us that we “are to bring back into manifestation, as GOD's Adorned Children, the Likeness of HIMSELF.”

After a time of silence, when we sent our love and blessings to the stricken Earth and all her struggling children, and winged our way Heavenwards, we sang Hymn 67, asking the FATHER-MOTHER that we “may make THY POWER manifest” ...

The Service closed with the singing of Hymn 181: “Everlasting Arms of Love”, which we prayed would uphold us as we sought to find our way up the hill to ZION.

Silent Retreat **Saturday 20th, Sarah Palmer**

IT IS A RARE AND PRECIOUS GIFT to be able to dwell in the Silence, even more rare to be in the Silence in communion with others for an extended time. As we moved quietly in and out of the Sanctuary we gathered ourselves, our attributes, our lives and gently brought them in Silence to the place where all healing awaits. To dwell in the Silence does not mean merely being silent. You can be silent without being in the Silence. To be in the Silence is to ascend the spiral staircase of our Being, enter the Upper Room, our inmost sanctuary where all earthly life is transcended, and come into the Presence. We can even speak whilst dwelling in the Silence and our words will vibrate and echo the quality of stillness within. So the invitation came to remain in the atmosphere of the Silence throughout the morning of Retreat which had three sessions and two twenty minute breaks.

Readings were largely taken from *The Mystery of the Light Within Us* concerning the Magnetic Light of the Inner Worlds expressed in and through The Luminous Cross. Firstly it is expressed as the Macrocosmic Cross, which lies at the Heart of the Divine and at the Centre of the Universe. This Mystery is fully expressed through ADONAI as the Sign of the Cross upon the Solar World and was the most sacred sign for the Sons of GOD who knew and understood the hidden, ever mysterious name: I H V H expressed as JEHOVAH.

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When the Luminous Cross reveals the seven rays it becomes known as the Cross of Elohim touching sevenfold realms, spheres and kingdoms. It was the insignia of the Immortals and revealed that they had attained to some degree of Divine Christhood. It became the Sign and Symbol of the Sons of GOD and later became the Cross of Redemption, healing us, illumining us, restoring us bearing us back along the paths of purity, devotion and love until we regain the radiance we once had.

The Auric Light that radiates from Stars is the same in miniature as the Elohist light that shines from Souls. We are made up of the same elements. When our life becomes so filled with Divine Light and Divine Energy it also becomes filled with Divine Passion and thus the Cross becomes the vehicle for the healing,

redeeming, transmutory Passion of the LORD. As we touched on the depths of this mystery our most inward prayer mingled with the Heavens, filling our Souls with silent awe, eternal love and gratitude.

And as our Souls soared again into the Solar Heavens, deep unspoken memories of once known kinship with the Gods and with each other were reawakened. Can we trust its reality? Oh yes, and so much more. The Call of the Message echoes through the ages and reverberates through our Being with unmistakable familiarity. The more we understand, embrace and embody all that the Cross signifies, so we become One with the Gold of Divine Love and the Balance of Divine Wisdom expressed in uprightness and majesty, gentleness and humility, patience and trust.

HE would set HIS Cross within you in motion again; HE would make it radiate HIS Glory; HE would empower it to attract unto itself and to gather up into its very bosom all that it stands for; and HE would make you living Crosses, living Epistles, living Crosses for HIM, embodiments of THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Herald XIX, p245

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Extracts were taken from;-

The Mystery of the Light Within Us, p3-8

Herald XXVII, p56-58

Herald XIV, p84-85

Herald XXV, p201-202

Life's Mysteries Unveiled, p222

Opening Prayer Herald X, p170

Worship Service

Sunday 21st, Jaqueline Baillie

THE THEME OF THE GATHERING at Charney Manor was the inspiration for the subject of the Sunday Morning Worship Service: *The Highway to Zion*.

After the joyful opening Hymn, *LORD of all Being* the Service continued with a reading from *Herald XXX* pages 87-89, *The Pilgrimage of the Order of the Cross Pilgrims*.

Surely it is none other than the House of GOD and the Gateway into the Heavenly Things!

Earthly buildings and rooms can be transformed into the House of GOD, not only by the raising of an Altar but also because we carry HIS House in ourselves, and through the power of such a possession, we are able to turn an earthly house into a Sanctuary.

When Israel travelled then and now, they bore the Tabernacle with them.

We have to make the Tabernacle vibrant through the outflowing of vibrant forces from each one of us, and make the Altar a Shrine.

A short reading from *Isaiah* pages 246-7 completed the theme of the pilgrimage and why it had to take place.

The City of GOD has been the quest of the true pilgrim through all ages of spiritual story.

After the singing of the Pilgrim Hymn "He who would valiant be", the Service continued with readings from the unfoldment, *The Way into the Holiest* from *Herald* XXXII pages 19-32 for surely that is the ultimate goal of our pilgrimage, to reach the High Altar of the Presence within us.

The purpose of an earthly Temple, a human Sanctuary external to one's self is to help the Soul in its processional, degree by degree, to enter into the experience of all that the inner Sanctuary signifies.

Our processional takes place without our being aware of it through growth so that ultimately it begins to function on more inward realms."

Now, to enter within the Sanctuary where HIS Presence is, is to gradually come into the vision of HIM thus [and there is no other way, none] through the Soul's devotion, devotion to HIM. ... What is devotion? It is the attitude of the Being towards an idea. Here the idea is GOD.

In your Soul's processional HE leads you, HE who is our FATHER-MOTHER is represented in every true Altar, in every

true Sanctuary, in every true sacrifice, and of course in the Soul's motion from devotion to consecration.

What is it to be consecrate? It is to be apart, not necessarily apart from the world, except in purpose and outlook and in ambition; but apart in state until the whole Being is consecrate unto the FATHER-MOTHER.

Following on from consecration there is illumination and reverence.

Now as the Soul processes in the Sanctuary of its Being it comes to the Altars of Devotion, Consecration, Illumination, Reverence, Worship, Adoration and Vision. ... These seven aspect the Mystery. ... Each Altar represents an Elohe.

Oh, the joy the Soul may meet on its way in the processional! ... Have joy in this Message the FATHER-MOTHER has caused to come to you again.

As the Soul passes before each Altar it is led to the Altar of Oblation. The Altar of Oblation is that Altar on which we lay our life to be absolutely HIS.

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Yet the sacrifice upon the Altar of Oblation is the only way through the gates unto the perfect vision of HIM, the realisation of HIM. All that you have been receiving tends unto this end, it is meant to upgather you. It is meant to bring you into the Sanctuary.

Beloved ones, live in the Sanctuary of your Being and look upon the Altar of Oblation and come to it as speedily as you are able and lay yourself sacrificially on that Altar for HIM.

The Service ended with the singing of Hymn 79, "Be THOU my vision O LORD of my Heart."

Valedictory Service **Monday 22nd, Pamela Jenkins**

TO CLOSE this lovely Gathering we shared again the sacred term "Mizpah". In the Bible it is given as the name of a place: in Genesis, Judges and Samuel, Mizpah is the place where the Children of Israel came together before the LORD and built their Altar unto HIM. And at this level of meaning, it is most beautiful.

Yet we understand from the Teachings that what is named a sacred place is in reality a state, – a state of consciousness. It is a Mystery term. Our Founder tells us, "it is rarely that important names of persons and places are used in the Old Testament which had not their origin in the Ancient Mysteries."

"Mizpah" is a state, and a prayer, and a blessing. It means, "The LORD watch between thee and me when we are absent one from another. It signifies the Overshadowing." (Herald IX, p208). Mizpah is the watchtower, or that part whence the Soul in its outlook sees the approach of the Divine, and wherein it can hear the Divine Voice.

The LORD watch between thee and me, ... so that nothing shall come between us of shadow, of wrong thought, wrong feeling, wrong judgement, wrong action; that we be each Overshadowed from the Divine World by the Blessed Presence.

Herald XXIV, p115; Herald IX, p209

We may not tell how often in our age-long journey we have met with one another before the LORD, and how often we have parted, nor how long we have been apart, how many lives apart, how many Ages; nor how many Altars we have raised in the way. For yes, we have raised many Altars; we have to raise our Altars, our vision of GOD, our love, our consecration, our prayer, our sacrifice.

The Soul moved from GOD must ever build its Altar. We must carry it. It is in us. We need not carry the outer Altars. Wherever we are we shall erect an Altar in our Being.

Herald XXIV, p114

Oh, when you know something more of the Story of this World, and the way of the Divine Love and Wisdom, you will adore the FATHER-MOTHER in a way you have never yet realized, even in the days of the unfallen state.

Herald XIX, p33

Children of the Cross, – Remember whence ye are. Remember Whom ye came for.

May the LORD watch between thee and me.

Illumination

Agnes Buist

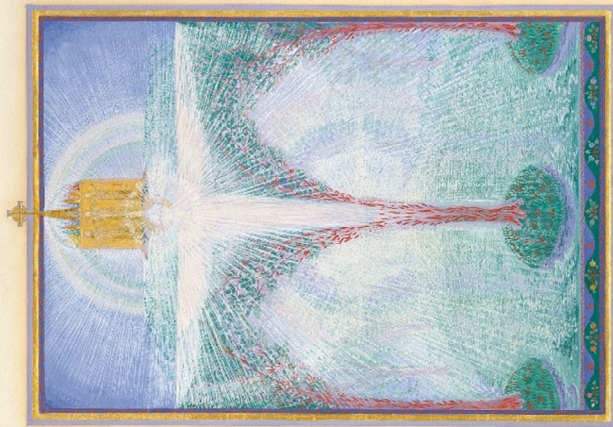
THERE IS A GOOD CHOICE of Frank Buist's illuminated manuscripts available from our Literature store; but being privileged to see another original one in my room every day, I have decided to get prints made of an early Illumination, should you be interested in having your own copy on your walls. You will see that the text, giving the last paragraphs of the Apocalypse from *The Logia*, is easily legible.

It will be possible to obtain prints of approximately A4, A3 or A2 size – without mount or frame. The costs per print – using the highest quality paper – are estimated according to size, at £18, £25 and £30. Postage may vary.

If you are interested, please get in touch with me: Agnes Buist, 16 Scizdons Climb, GODALMING, Surrey GU7 1NL, UK; or via email: agnesbuist@btinternet.com

I should mention, the excellent quality of the prints is thanks to our own professional photographer, Bruce Bowden!

AND THE ANGEL
OF HIS PRESENCE
showed unto me a river
of pure clear Water of Life,
which reflected the light
of the Heavens like a
perfect crystal as it pro-
ceeded from the Throne
of God and of the Lamb.
In the midst of the
stream of it, and upon
each side of it, there
grew the Tree of Life,
whose fruits were twelve,
each in its season, and
whose leaves were for
the healing of the people.
And wheresoever the
river floweth there shall
be no more anything
accursed; but the throne
of God and of the Lamb
shall be there, and all
His Servants shall enter
unto His service.



And they shall behold
His Face, and the sign
of His Name shall be
upon their foreheads.
There shall be no night
there in which the light
of the candle is needed;
for wheresoever the
river floweth there shall
be the Light of Life,
which proceedeth from
the Lord as their Sun;
and they shall reign
evermore with Him.
And His Angel saith:
These Sayings are
from the Faithful and
True One who hath
sent His Angel to
speak of them unto
His Servants.

**"BEHOLD ! HE
COMETH."**

From the "Apocalypse of John" by the Master of the Book of Hours

Dates of Gatherings at Swanage

Richard Palmer

WE LOOK FORWARD to another Spring Gathering in Swanage.

Please note the new dates: Wednesday 27th February to Monday 4th March.

We are so fortunate to be able to meet together amidst the beauty of the Purbeck Hills and coastline and in the beautiful home of Annie and Hamish, whose generosity of spirit and willingness to serve provide the opportunity for a very informal, intimate, and yet real opportunity to share profoundly in insights and atmosphere of the wonderful Message brought through by Our Founder.

Please also note that this year the Dance Week will be before Easter: Thursday 11 April to Thursday 18 April. This Gathering affords the opportunity to meet every day in Worship and Study, and to express ourselves centrifugally in dance and walking in the beautiful countryside.

We look forward to seeing many of the friends there.

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Price Reduction on Order of the Cross Books

You may be interested to know that all our hard-backed books have been reduced to £5.00, UK, (\$5 N. America, \$5 Australia), paper-back *Life's Mystery Unveiled*, £4, if purchased from any of our Literature Secretaries. Their contact details can be found on page 11 below.

Our booklets can be purchased for £1. You are reminded that some of our booklets can be downloaded, free of charge, from our website.

Spiritual Linking **Christopher Nye**

THE READING FOR DECEMBER IS

“The Angelic Vision and Song “

The Master pages 105-118

It will take place on Sunday 16th

“The Angelic Vision, Song and Message are for all Souls who can behold, hear and receive them.”

THE READING FOR JANUARY IS

“The Dawn “

Herald XX pages 68-78

It will take place on Sunday 20thth

“The Dawn has broken.”

The two Readings are 08h00 UTC (=GMT) that is 8am GMT in the UK, 4pm in Western Australia, 7pm in Eastern Australia and 9pm in New Zealand; the second is **16h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 4pm in the UK, 8am PST, 11am EST in North America.

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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

For local times and dial-in numbers, see pages 13 and 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.

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FELLOWSHIP CALLS on 2nd Saturdays – December 8, January 12, February 9 – help us get to know each other better and consider ways to improve our Sunday calls. Fellowship calls begin in North America at 8 am Pacific time, 11 am Eastern, and 4 pm in the UK.

SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 2 | I & III | Worship Service – Ministrant: Janet Ristic
<i>Divine Creation</i> [document] |
| 9 | III | Ongoing Study taken from <i>Divine Renaissance II</i>
Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson |
| 16 | II & III | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
<i>Master</i> , p.105-118 – <i>The Angelic Vision and Song</i> |
| 23 | III | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Anne Candlin
<i>The Shepherds of Bethlehem</i> [document] |

JANUARY

- 6 I & III Worship Service – Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson
RA—Light of the Radiant One [document]
- 13 III Ongoing Study taken from *Divine Renaissance II*
Ministrant: Douglas Hudson
- 20 II & III Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
Herald 20, p. 68-78 – *The Dawn*
- 27 III Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Michael Arcese
Lowliness [document]

FEBRUARY

- 3 I & III Worship Service – Ministrant: Patrick Barnes
The Great Silence [document]
- 10 III Ongoing Study taken from *Divine Renaissance II*
Ministrant: Esther Gowan
- 17 II & III Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
LMU, p. 423 – *Theosophia of Divine Love & Wisdom*
- 24 III Communal Sharing – Ministrant: TBA
Theme to be announced [document]

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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 (UTC = GMT). To find your local call-in time, refer to schedule A or B according to whether your area is currently observing Standard or Daylight Saving Time. Schedule B will be in effect in all areas throughout the months of December, January and February.

A – Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere	B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere;
I A: 00:00 UTC 5 pm PDT (Sat. eve.) 8 pm EDT (Sat. eve.) 8 am AWST 10 am AEST 12 pm NZST	I B: 00:00 UTC 4 pm PST (Sat. eve.) 7 pm EST (Sat. eve.) 8 am AWST 11 am AEDT 1 pm NZDT
II A: 08:00 UTC 9 am BST (U.K.) 4 pm AWST 6 pm AEST 8 pm NZST (1 am PDT) (USA)	II B: 08:00 UTC 8 am GMT (U.K.) 4 pm AWST 7 pm AEDT 9 pm NZDT (12 am PST) (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)	III B: 16:00 UTC 8 am PST 11 am EST 4 pm GMT (U.K.) (12 am next day AWST) (5 am next day NZDT)

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INTERNATIONAL PHONE NUMBERS FOR COMMUNAL SHARING CALLS	
COUNTRY	PHONE NUMBER
Australia	(0) 2 8355 1039
Canada	(1) 647-497-9379
France	(0) 1 70 95 05 85
Ireland	(0) 19 030 050
New Zealand	(0) 9 925 0481
Sweden	(0) 853 527 817
United Kingdom	(0) 330 221 0099
United States	(1) 646-749-3117
ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 # # (same for all areas)	

GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

2019

UC Spring Gathering, "Seashells", Swanage

Wed 27th February – Mon 4th March

Dance Week, "Seashells", Swanage

Thurs 11th – Thurs 18th April

Easter Gathering, Sarum College, Salisbury

Thurs 18th – Sun 21st April

If you are interested in joining us at any of the above gatherings please get in touch with us. Our contact details can be found on page 16.

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, WC1N 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.

If anyone wishes to reproduce a portion of Spiritual Reflections, permission should be sought from the Editor in advance, at the above address, or:

Email: editor@orderofthecross.org

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All articles are the individual responsibility of the writers and should not be taken as authoritative.

The Order of the Cross Website

www.orderofthecross.org

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 February
2019