

Mediation from the Altar Within

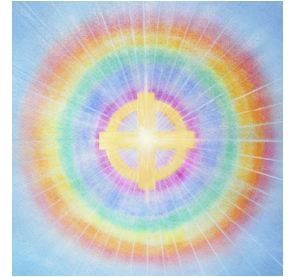
IT IS A MINISTRY of exquisite dignity even to understand a flower and interpret it to those who do not understand it, who do not see the beauty and the glory of the FATHER-MOTHER in its form, its colour, its radiance, its motion, its breath, its purpose. That is a great mediation.

To reveal through an Art which is beautiful, and make the exposition embody a thought of GOD; to reveal through rhythm of music with its sublime intonations, the very music begotten of the motion of the Heavens; these are also great mediations.

To be able to speak to a Soul concerning itself and its attributes, encouraging it in the way by unveiling to it GOD's Mystery within itself, is likewise high mediation.

Such mediation is a far greater thing than many imagine. So may you mediate as truly as before the Altar. The Altar mediation is one aspect. It relates to the innermost where there is the unveiling of the Mysteries of GOD. It relates to the realm of prayer and to the Soul's aspiration in the individual and communal life. But the Altar is also within you and relates to prayer, to your vision and sacrifice. And from that Altar, go forth to mediate in every avenue of life, and make everything you do a service for the Divine. If there be anything in it that cannot be associated with the Divine, cast it out. Make all you do become beautiful. Let your actions be harmonious in every relative part, that it may be said of you that your service is done for the Divine.

Thus through your ministry will you generate the Kingdom of Heaven in the Earth. You will bring the Kingdom of Heaven to the Earth because the Kingdom of GOD in you is actively manifesting itself, keeping you up whilst also letting you down here for service. And always remember that you are upheld



Spiritual Reflections

The Order of the Cross

**September
October
November
2019**

by the power that is there. Therefore, never walk in your own strength. Pray and serve for the day to come when you will walk in the consciousness of HIM Who is all strength to you, all light, and all glory.

Ezekiel, pp96-97-98

Thoughts on the Teachings

John Pignéguy

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE is a wonderful repository, rich in beauty, wisdom and inspiration. It gives us so much to think about if we can only give ourselves the time and space to allow it to do so. Inspired writers down the centuries, especially people like William Shakespeare, have helped to bring the many aspects of 'life' (and particularly our own individual lives) into a much sharper focus. Artists and musicians have also made similar vital contributions in this process, and continue to do so. Through these and other channels, we are thus enabled to develop an awareness and an increasing ability to see things more clearly, a process that of necessity is always a gradual one. Nevertheless, we are on the path to a greater understanding of the things that really matter. In times of uncertainty, these concepts reveal themselves to be vital points-of-reference, thus enabling the individual to see the way ahead with greater clarity. This of course is only one aspect of our spiritual progress, with another important one being how we are then able to 'live it' in our daily lives, as well as sharing (as appropriate) with those who we encounter on life's journey.

Our Friend's writings are always a potent source of inspiration and comfort, and we see much of these qualities in this cover extract. There is a real sense of 'creativity' of many sorts in the extract, all of which help to bring to us a much sharper focus of the spiritual realities of life. Maybe we underestimate ourselves sometimes and feel that these matters are outside our abilities – at these times, we need to always to remember the vital necessity of turning inwards to our own Altar to seek more of the truth. Sometimes we may have fleeting moments when we think of the Altar as being more of an external feature, rather as it is in conventional religion, but Our Friend clearly tells us otherwise: "But the Altar is also within you and relates to prayer, to your vision and sacrifice."

GOD's presence is with us always, which is a real comfort and inspiration, something that is reflected in the final lines of this extract: "Therefore, never walk in your own strength. Pray and serve for the day to come when you will walk in the

consciousness of HIM Who is all strength to you, all light, and all glory.”

**Dance and Families Gathering,
Ammerdown 2019
Reflections of a Grandparent
Richard Ashley**

IT WAS EVIDENT that all the children present had really looked forward to coming together as part of the greater Order Family at Ammerdown, some for a whole year. Ammerdown really is a special place to them with its welcoming ambience and opportunity to meet up with old friends.

2

One feature of this year's gathering was that it was extremely well organised thanks to the hard work and preparation put into it by the organising committee. While there was ample opportunity for running around in the open air, there was a full programme of spiritual, creative, scientific and mathematical activities. Full use was made of the Art Room where, as well as other forms of drawing and painting, the children learned about surface tension through the delights of marbling by floating oil-based inks on water before applying paper. This was followed by bubble blowing out on the lawn. The size of the bubbles that could be produced was amazing although the really big ones were not spherical. A bubble is an ephemeral thing but while they lasted it was a delight to see them floating upwards with the colours of the Elohe clearly visible. The bubble mixture used was made from a fairly concentrated solution of washing up liquid with added sugar.

The days started with Morning Prayers or a Service for which the children attended at least the first part. It was my privilege to lead Morning Prayers on one of the days and talk about the importance of giving thanks to the FATHER-MOTHER for all the Love that He-She gives to us and for the Love that surrounds us from our birth and the importance of us all sending on the Love we receive from GOD to others and indeed the whole planet. This at a very basic level is what the Order of the Cross is all about.

I have not said much about the Gathering from a Dancer's perspective, as I was not directly involved in this side of things and hope that someone else will write about it. I would, however, like to congratulate Dawn Burnham on qualifying as a Natural Movement and Dance Teacher after what seemed to be a strenuous series of examinations.

It was so nice to be altogether as one family and we really missed those who for some reason or other were not able to come. It was a really happy time.

Some photographs of activities at the Gathering appear below.







PORTRAIT

I am held in my frame
By a single silver cord
It loosens at the time of the
Changing of frames

A thousand changes
And always the same search
For the Artist who signs me
“Beloved”

By Pamela Jenkins

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 8 and 9.

We welcome you to join us as a reader or a listener; call as often as suits your schedule and your needs. Readings taken from the books are referenced on the schedule; others require a service document. To request documents or inquire about call times for your local area, please contact the Coordinator (page 8).

SCHEDULE

7

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 1 | I & III | Worship Service – Ministrant: Turid Nelson
<i>The Planes of Heaven</i> [document] |
| 8 | III | Ongoing Study taken from <i>Ezekiel</i>
Ministrant: Esther Gowan |
| 15 | II & III | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Janet Ristic
<i>Herald 18</i> , p. 147-159 – <i>The Place of Music in Life</i> |
| 22 | III | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Lindajeane Stewart
<i>Herald 31</i> , p. 2-12 – <i>The Triune GOD</i> |

OCTOBER

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 6 | I & III | Worship Service – Ministrant: Jan Holmes
<i>An Understanding of Karma</i> [document] |
| 13 | III | Ongoing Study taken from <i>Ezekiel</i>
Ministrant: Sophia Howard |
| 20 | II & III | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
<i>Herald 29</i> , p. 85-99 – <i>The Four Arks of GOD</i> |

- 27 III Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Anne Candlin
Daniel, p. 204-211 – *The Archangel Michael*

NOVEMBER

- 3 I & III Worship Service – Ministrant: Patrick Barnes
Obadiah & The Field of Armageddon [document]
- 10 III Ongoing Study taken from *Ezekiel*
Ministrant: Lindajeane Stewart
- 17 II & III Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Patricia Sherwood
H.18, p.117 – White Light & Its Sevenfold Distribution
- 24 III Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson
Recovery [document]

FELLOWSHIP CALLS on the 1st or 2nd Saturday – September 7, October 12, November 9 – help us get to know each other and consider ways to improve our Sunday calls. Calls are held year-round at 8 am Pacific, 11 am Eastern, 4 pm for friends in the UK.

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 (next page) according to whether your area is currently observing Standard or Daylight Saving Time. Clocks will reset from A to B on September 29 in New Zealand; October 6 in eastern Australia; October 27 in the UK/Europe; and November 3 in North America.

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)

9

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)	

Spiritual Linking Christopher Nye

THE READING FOR SEPTEMBER IS

“The Place of Music in Life “

Herald 18 pages 147-159

It will take place on Sunday 15th

The Ministrant will be Janet Ristic, Australia.

Music is full of healing, it is full of redeeming influences.

The two Readings for September and are **08h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 9am BST in the UK, 4pm AWST in Western Australia, 6pm AEST in Eastern Australia and 8pm NZST in New Zealand; the second is **16h00 GMT** that is 5pm BST in the UK, 9am PDT, 12 noon EDT in North America. *For phone-in numbers please see the Communal Sharing Circle pages.*

10

THE READING FOR OCTOBER IS

“The Four Arks “

Herald 22 pages 85-99

It will take place on Sunday 20th

Have ye forgotten the Ark of the Covenant, the consciousness of
His presence within you, and the testimony of your divinity?

The two Readings for October are **08h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 9am BST in the UK, 4pm AWST in Western Australia, 7pm AEDT in Eastern Australia and 9pm NZDT in New Zealand; the second is **16h00 GMT** that is 5pm BST in the UK, 9am PDT, 12 noon EDT in North America. **Please note**, at this time of year, different places change their clocks at different times. It would seem sensible to check your local time against GMT or UTC to be sure you have the correct hour.

THE READING FOR NOVEMBER IS

“White Light and Its Sevenfold Distribution”

Herald 18 pages 117-126

It will take place on Sunday 17th

The Ministrant will be Patricia Sherwood, Australia.

The Mystery of the Love of the FATHER MOTHER is beyond telling.

His Love in its exquisite spectra is full of His Own Mystery...

The two Readings for November are **08h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 8am in the UK, 4pm AWST in Western Australia, 7pm AEDT in Eastern Australia and 9pm NZDT in New Zealand; the second is **16h00 GMT** that is 4pm in the UK, 8am PST, 11am EST in North America. *For phone-in numbers please see the Communal Sharing Circle pages.*

11

GATHERINGS AND EVENTS 2019

S, SE and W Areas Gathering, Charney Manor, Oxfordshire

Fri 4th - Tues 8th Oct

Australia/New Zealand Gathering,

Ferguson Valley, South-West Australia

Mon 14th - Sun 20th Oct

Glenthorne Open Gathering, Grasmere, Cumbria

Thurs 28th Nov - Mon 2nd Dec

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 13.

Literature Secretaries

UK and Fellowship: Margaret Jack –

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msjack@uwclub.net

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74 Daley Cres., FRASER, ACT 2615 Tel: 61281 977011

Email: claireede@gmail.com

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address or any of your contact details, please notify Ian Heathcote 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.

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Email: editor@orderofthecross.org

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13

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 December
2018