



The Anchorage:
A Contemplative Community for All
Come away...

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

May 2020

“Make Your Home in My Love”



*anchor
deep*

“Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!”

By Catherine Powell

Who could have guessed where we would be for Easter? As strange as it was to celebrate our risen Lord at home with churches empty, we found ways to remember the extraordinary gift that Easter was and is. For me the ache of Lent was deeper, culminating in Holy Week and Good Friday, with an even deeper desire for the resurrection. The picture on the front is of a cross in a neighbor's yard about 2 blocks away. Flowers were added all week in hopeful anticipation of the resurrection. I needed that!

My prayer is that these articles bring you hope and a greater awareness of the love of God during these unusual times. Know you are in our prayer and in our hearts as we find our way together with this One who loves us.

“Where Do We Go?”

By Miyoung Paik

Life is turned upside down because of this pandemic. We all are going through chaos. It is a hard time, a frightening time, and an anxious time. We've never been through anything like this.

We have to do something we've never done or imagined. Everything changes so fast every day. We need to make wise decisions every day. We are overwhelmed.

Where do we go when we are weary and overwhelmed? Where do we go when everything changes so quickly? Where do we go at the end of a weary day of working at home and dealing with children at home at the same time? Where do we go not knowing what's going to happen tomorrow? Where do we go when we can't go anywhere? We can't even go to church to worship.

Where do we go? Please, do not go anywhere. Stay at home. Social distancing is very important now.

So today in our anxious, scary and weary time, Jesus invites us, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Jesus said, “Come to me!” Jesus wouldn't say, “Come, but stay over there 6 feet away from me.” Jesus did not say, “Solve your own problems and then come.” We don't even know how long it's going to take. Jesus did not say, “Get rid of all of your worries and burdens and then come.”

Jesus said, “Come to me all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens.” “Come” does not mean “Come tomorrow or next year.” The third verse of the hymn, “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy,” “Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.”

Come is the present tense. Come. Now, at once wherever you are. Jesus said, “Come to me.” He did not say, “Come to John; Come to Paul; Come to your friend.”

“Come to me, I will give you rest.” Jesus did not say, “I will give you partial rest. I will give you a little bit of rest and see how you do it.” The rest is a gift from God.

Augustine of Hippo prayed,
“Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.”

We don't have to carry the burden alone. We come to Jesus and learn from him. Walk with him and work with him. We are good at working and doing things. But we are not good at watching how God works. We all have to do that these days.

In overwhelming stressful times, we say “one day at a time.” But one day is too long at times like this. We need to think about what we need to do in the next 15 minutes. Maybe in that 15 minutes, we need to turn off the TV, get off Facebook, and call a friend or check on the neighbor. If we know what to do in the next 15 minutes, we can do that. In those 15 minutes as many times as we can, will we come to Jesus who will give us rest, real rest?

Jesus asks us, “When you come to me, will you bring your uncertainty about the future?” Will we come?

(The above is an excerpt from a March sermon. See her Bio. on page 3)



The Anchorage

Vision

A Contemplative Community to encourage all people in a mutual love relationship with God.

Mission

The Anchorage provides a setting for women and men to come away and be with God, as revealed in Jesus the Christ; and to come to love more deeply, this God who loves us beyond measure. Spiritual direction, “Depth Soundings” (quarterly mailing), Desert Days and a variety of contemplative retreats, are some of the ways we encourage and inspire.

Metaphor

A safe harbor in which to anchor deep in still waters as a respite from the wind and waves; where pilgrims may enjoy prayerful grace, honor the rhythm of Sabbath and open more fully to the mystery of God's love.

Core Focus

Encouraging contemplative beloved community anchored in our Triune God.

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“The Work of Being at Home in God”

By Duke Walker

Home is a difficult place to find. Not every house is a home. People can quarrel or worse abuse each other in houses. Not every person feels at home in the country they live especially these days. Some people do not even feel at home in their bodies. Often news presents polarizing and polemical commentary, which typically forces choosing one side over the other (a house divided cannot stand c.f. Matt. 12:25). Regardless of our stance on such subjects, home is a difficult place to find.

Lately, I've been reflecting on the enormous amount of information and freneticism of activity that decorates our cultural home in the West. We are feverishly distracted but we do not consider this sickness as serious as the more pressing ones of our day. We compulsively seek to produce possibly due to the fear that inactivity means death. As one Southern Writer has once observed funerals used to be held in the home while people went to the bathroom in an outhouse and now, we have moved the bathroom inside and the funeral experience out of our homes. Maybe all our information gathering and activity are symptoms of our being homeless and looking for our home everywhere but within. Eliot's words ring prophetically true today, *where is the life we have lost in living?*

All the while, God patiently invites us, as our good friend Catherine's title from John 15 suggests *Make Your Home in My Love*. Yet, we turn away toward life's wearying and fleeting externals, which threaten to gentrify the poor spirit within that is blessed and only by which acknowledging will we hear The Cry Within (c.f. James 4:5) for home. There is only one home in this world as the gates to the garden of Gethsemane Monastery have inscribed on them—God alone. The words of St. Augustine nuance well the constant tender and loving invitation from God to make our home in him alongside the treacherous temptation to make our home in anything else.

“Late have I loved you, beauty so old and so new: late have I loved you. And see, you were within and I was in the external world and sought you there, and in my unlovely state I plunged into those lovely created things which you made. *You were with me, and I was not with you.* The lovely things kept me far from you, though if they did not have their existence in you, they had no existence at all. You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant, and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.”

St. Augustine, *Confessions*

The home we pursue will either give life to a restlessness leaving us homeless or to a relentless hungering and thirsting for a feast within that always leaves us wanting more. The irony is when we find our home in God the world becomes our house and we live here with one another in reverence for The One who built it.

(Thanks to Duke for his friendship and participation with The Anchorage. He currently serves as Chaplain with Lanier Village Estates Retirement Community in Gainesville, GA, where he lives with his wife, Grace. He founded the Inner Hue Ministries while pursuing The One who has been in pursuit of him for 25 years. He's come to realize there is no Life without intimacy with God. He began focusing on knowing God intimately in the here and now, in, with and through others. This journey has led him through a variety of formational experience, including Asbury Theological Seminary, The Shalem Institute, Richard Rohr's Men's Rite of Passage, Francis MacNutt's Christian Healing Ministry, a DMin from The Graduate Theological Foundation with a focus on Spiritual Direction and Greenville Health System's CPE Residency. For 15 years from Texas to North Carolina, Duke has imparted a passion for others to know and be known in Christ with the reasonable expectation of hearing God's voice shape our lives and others.)



Upcoming Events

***Desert Days: First Fridays, even months, June 5, Aug. 7, Oct. 2, Dec. 4. 9:30-2:30**

“Leaving everything, following Christ into the desert.” Our topics will vary depending on the season. The June topic will be the last chapter of the book, *Make Your Home in My Love: Live in My Joy*. Reflection alone & together. (If a Zoom day, fee is \$20) Fee: \$40 (\$30 if BYO Lunch) Led by Catherine Powell

***Clergy Days: Second Fridays in odd months, May 8, Sept 11, and Nov 13. 9:30-2:30**

“Depending on God Alone.” Reflection alone & together. (If a Zoom day, fee is \$20) Fee: \$40 (\$30 if BYO Lunch) Led by Catherine Powell

July 5-10, Sun. – Fri., “5-day Praying Scripture Retreat,” Begins at 5 ends by 2.

Using the Ignatian method of entering scripture with the imagination, companioned by a spiritual director daily to process your prayer, the retreat provides the gift of silence including meals. We are welcome to participate fully in worship daily with the community.

Location: Ignatius House, Atlanta, GA. We hope they will be open by July. If not, fees will be refunded. Fee: \$690. Led by Catherine Powell

Scholarships are available!

If \$10 is all you can pay, then that's all you pay!

**events in Gower Estates, Greenville, SC*

(Thanks to Miyoung for her article and for her friendship and support. She was born in Seoul, Korea and came to the United States in 1977 after graduating from high school. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design in New York City, a DMin and an MDiv from Drew Theological School in NJ. She has been an ordained minister since 1990 in the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She currently serves as Senior Pastor of St. James UMC in Goose Creek, SC.)



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*“And when this has passed may we say that love spread
more quickly than any virus ever could, may we say this
was not just an ending but also a place to begin.”
—Christine Valters Paintner, Abbey of the Arts*

“Desert Day, December 2019”

By Catherine Powell

The content for our Desert Day in December fit perfectly with the Advent season. For over a year I've been working through 'the book' (I no longer call it MY book, too much for me to carry) for our content for our Desert Days. It has fit well to use one chapter for each bi-monthly gathering. The chapter for December was on John Calvin. (I've enjoyed calling him "John of Geneva" since the other 'heroes of faith' are so named: Bernard of Clairvaux, Catherine of Sienna, Ignatius of Loyola and Teresa of Avila.

The reason the content fit so well is because of the point of the book. It is about the first and greatest commandment, to love God with all of

who we are. John Calvin's love for God shows up in his *Institutes* and the hymns he wrote, but more than that, it shows up in his life. His personal crest is a picture of an open hand outstretched with a heart in the palm. He doesn't use the word love or express much emotion, but his love for God is deep; it is who he is. If you'd like to join us for our Desert Days using Zoom please just send your email address.



Desert Day participants: front row, Tony Snyder, Rosemary Goodall, 2nd row, Judi Myers, Charlotte Dyal, 3rd row, Luanne Beller, Nicole Cobb, Peggy Dulaney. (Not pictured: Jill Minasi and Catherine Powell)

Financial Status

as of April 16, 2020

(Fiscal Year is July 19 – June 20)

FY gifts budgeted	\$ 27,500
Total received	\$ 15,030
Amount needed	\$ 12,470
FY income budgeted	\$ 52,100
Total received	\$ 32,130
Amount needed*	\$ 19,970

***Grateful to God for you,
our donors and participants!***

Thank you for your financial gifts!

They provide scholarships along with covering the essential ministry needs to provide:

Undistracted time with God.

And God keeps encouraging us to 'give it away.' Lack of funds will never keep someone away.

Please prayerfully consider:

***What IS that encounter with
God worth?***

However God leads **you**, it will be just the right amount! **Thank you!**

**Also "Like" us on FaceBook and
share with your friends.**