



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

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

August 2020

“John 17: That All May Be One”

The Eternal Lover's Prayer

John 17

By Michael Fleenor

Oh Father,
I, who represent
in body, heart, and mind,
who Thou truly are,
I — whom Thou present
To all humankind —
am Thy essence,
For those both near and far.

They belong to me at last,
Two as one in Thee,
Untied from the violence
of the world,
United in Thy Love, now only
held close and fast
In Thy gracious gentleness
So that they, Thy Word fulfilléd see.

To those whom Thou hast given me,
I am Thy wedding present
— their bridegroom — even when
thence
they, as faithless lovers, flee.
Through Thy Love, we are wed and
hence,
Thy belonging and their longing
will truly consummated be.

May Thy light shine through them
As Thou hast shone through me
To be made holy by Thy Truth
That finally sets them free.

To that end, as its beginning,
May all the world believe
That they, from Thee, are sent
As Thou hast, too, sent me.

May they enter through the Door
to the chamber of joyous delight
filled full of Thy presence.
Away from the world, no more
Is their wayward allegiance
To infernal darkness,
But bathed in Thy glorious light.

And may the world, though
sinning,
By Thy Love revealed, conceive
That Thou art Love,
As we two art Love
And they too as one art We.



*anchor
deep*

“That All May Be One”

By Catherine Powell

It is a new fiscal year, so with this issue, we begin a new theme for our four quarterly issues of Depth Soundings. The theme this year is John 17, the high priestly prayer of Jesus just before he was arrested. It is a needed focus, not just with the pandemic that created a new paradigm, but also being an election year, filled with racial tension. I've heard of too many relationship that are on edge at best, downright hostile at worst, because of the emotion that is over the top, blinding us to see that the person with whom we disagree is also a child of God and deserves our respect.

With this theme, my prayer is that we can be more intentional to love each other even if we disagree. Can we agree to disagree?

All the articles came to me in such graced ways! I've never felt that God was SO much a part of a theme as I do this one. The poem on the cover is another gift of depth from the heart of Michael. Below is an email from my sister that she said I could print. I asked her if she thought it resonated with John 17. She replied “Exactly, especially from verse 20 on.”

Katie's poem was a gift to me related to the book I got to help write last year. She said I could print it, so I share it gladly. Rosemary's pastor asked her to offer a prayer during worship and I asked for a copy. Lastly, I requested Robert's article, because he has such a heart for God – and he asked me not to print his last name for his family's sake. The reason may become clear when you read his bio.

John 17 is our theme all year. May we love as one, as Christ calls us.

“God is Bigger”

Email from Carol Skinner Alexander, sister of Catherine

“Dear Cathie, I wrote the next day in my journal, ‘As I opened to God in meditation, I realized what a challenge the world is facing, maybe the biggest ever, because there are so many of us. Realized that God is bigger and more powerful than any of it. I believe God wants us to be healthy and whole and happy and to love and care for each other. This is an enormous chance to totally transform the world into the realm of God. If everyone prays and bonds together, we can not only defeat this virus, we can totally transform the world, change it to a new and better place. God is powerful, and we can become a great power for good. Wanted to go and shout it from the mountaintops. Was going to call Cathie, check email, when the power went out.’ Kind of funny, actually - writing about Power and lost power.... Anyway, just feeling real rumblings at the very heart of things and wondered what your take was on all of this. Love, Carol”
(Thanks to my sister Carol, for sending this and for her support all my life. She is a musician in our hometown of Clearwater, FL.)

“A Prayer for These Times”

By Rosemary Goodall

God, you are an awesome God. You know each one of us by name. For this we give you thanks.

You have told us many times, not to be afraid. You have told us that whatever the circumstances, you will walk with us, be with us and hold our right hand. For this we give you thanks.

As if this were not enough, you have also through your Son Jesus, given us the Holy Spirit to be our comforter. For this we give you thanks

We thank you for all that you are, for your words of comfort. We know that you will never abandon us nor let us be defeated. We pray that whatever we face, we can see your Face, and that we can trust in you to walk with us through the waters and fires which confront us.

In every breath that we breathe, every step that we take, let us feel your Presence and Peace. In Jesus Name. Amen

(Thanks to Rosemary for sharing this prayer and for her support of The Anchorage over many years. Retired Physical Therapist, former Servant Leader for the Anchorage, member of the Prayer Team at Travelers Rest UMC, homemaker.)



The Anchorage

Vision

A contemplative community to encourage all people everywhere to live in a mutual love relationship with God.

Mission

The Anchorage provides a setting in which women and men may come away to be with God, as revealed in Jesus the Christ; and to come to love more deeply, through contemplative retreats and spiritual direction, this God who loves us beyond measure.

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 a love relationship with our Triune God, especially in contemplative community.

Servant Leaders

(Board of Directors)

Christina Auch

Eric Barnhart

Peggy Dulaney, Chair

Jonathan Jones

Susan Leaphart

Susan Rice

Matt Rollins

Staff

Catherine Powell,

Founding Servant Leader

The Anchorage

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In Memoriam

Dorothy Kelly, by Sarah McCraw

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“Abide”

By Katie Mitchell

If you will abide in me
 I will abide in you
 The two of us together
 Will bear abundant fruit

Apart from me there's nothing
 Emptiness, you'll see
 I am holding onto you
 Do not let go of me

Meet me every morning
 When the day is bright and new
 Let's read my word together
 So, you can have my truth

Share with me your troubles
 Your worries and your cares
 I care so much about you
 And I always will be there

Sing songs of praise loud and bold
 For Heaven and earth to hear
 Your worship is an offering
 That's pleasing to my ear

When evening comes and time to rest
 Come talk with me once more
 With a thankful heart and humble trust
 Sleep knowing, I AM LORD

(Thanks to Katie for this poem and for her support of The Anchorage. She is a busy wife, mother and grandmother who desires a closer walk with Jesus. Retired from the Navy and working in healthcare for over 30 years, her greatest joy is serving her friends with disabilities and their families. Her desire is for the world to see her friends as the beautiful intentional handiwork of our loving Creator.)



Chronological Listing of Events

“Desert Days” 1st Fri. even months, “John 17: That All May Be One” is the underlying theme. Opening prayer, varying content, reflection time in solitude, lunch with conversation, similar afternoon. Begins at 9:30, concludes by 2:30. Arrange for a quiet place with few distractions, if possible.

Fee: \$20 if on Zoom Deposit (\$10) due a week ahead.
Led by Christina Auch, Aug. 7; Susan Rice, Oct. 4; Peggy Dulaney, Dec. 6
Location: most likely Zoom (or Gower Estates)

23rd Annual Beach Retreat: “John 17: That All May Be One”

Jan. 22-24, weekend. We will focus on the John 17 passage and how it applies to today, as we become more aware of God’s invitation that we be one as the Trinity is one. Plan to arrive between 3 and 4:30, we will begin at 5. We will conclude by 12:00 Sunday. We have increased the price to cover the delicious food from Austin’s. We will have ample time to walk on the beach, nap, renew our souls with God and each other.

Fee: \$495 (includes oceanfront single room) Dep. (\$10) by Dec. 29th
Led by Catherine, Music by Cindy Orr.
Location: The Litchfield Inn, Pawleys Island, SC

“Ignatian Retreats” Dates TBA The hope is to offer Ignatian Retreats in 2021 at retreat centers. With social distancing, masks and hand sanitizer the retreat at Ignatius House this month was clearly safe. Everyone stayed within the guidelines. I am also offering these retreats now on Zoom. You would need to have relatively quiet space for this daily: 45 minutes with me on Zoom, about 1 hour for prayer at 3 different times. The retreat could last from 3 to 5 days. The cost would be \$100 for a 3-day and \$150 for a 5-day. Be in touch and we can find days that suit us.

Led by Catherine.

If other events become scheduled before our November *Depth Soundings*, we will post them on the website so stay tuned.

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

(Donations are always welcome for scholarships)

LEADERSHIP

Peggy Dulaney, MSN, RN is a volunteer Faith Community Nurse at Bethesda United Methodist Church in Powdersville, SC. Her particular passion is helping to decrease the stigma of mental illness and teaching churches how to address mental health issues. Peggy also teaches a large adult class, leads a ladies Bible study group and is active in the United Methodist Women. Having been associated with The Anchorage since its beginnings, Peggy has led book studies, Advent Retreats and served as a Servant-Leader. She is Chair of the Servant-Leaders (Board of Directors) for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The Rev. Christina L. Auch earned degrees from James Madison University (Va.) and Luther Seminary (Minn.) She has completed two units of clinical pastoral education and the School of the Spirit which introduced her to group spiritual direction and contemplative practices and teachers. She is the full-time called pastor at Ascension Lutheran (ELCA) in Shelby, NC and a part-time staff chaplain at Atrium Health - Cleveland. She serves as a Servant-Leader with The Anchorage. She was ordained in 2014 and enjoys knitting, reading, yoga and her family.

Cindy Orr has been active in music ministry most of her life. She has served in her church music program, taught Sunday school classes and served on various committees through the years. In the past she has been in the music ministry group, RainChild, with two other ladies. They performed concerts at churches, fairs, festivals, sporting events, retreats and dinners where they

LEADERSHIP (cont)

also led praise and worship. Cindy felt led to embark on a solo adventure in music ministry and served as the worship leader at Russell Community Church in Greenville, SC. Guitar in hand, Cindy will provide worship that glorifies God and encourages God’s people.

The Rev. Catherine Powell, Founding Servant Leader of The Anchorage, has a Doctor of Ministry from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Her formation also includes a transformative 3-week spiritual psychological process, the Spiritual Guidance Program of The Shalem Institute, The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as well as training at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA to lead 8-day retreats. Currently serves as an adjunct instructor at ULS in PA. She was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1999. She is married to Skeeter, a man after God’s heart.

Susan Rice served in international missions with Cru for 31 years mostly living and working in Eastern Europe. She currently resides in Greenville and is completing an MA in Spiritual Formation and Direction from Richmond University. She is a trained transformational coach and coach trainer with Coaching Mission International. Her passion is creating space for others to experience the depths of God’s love. She offers this space through transformational coaching, spiritual direction, and spiritual formation groups. Together with her husband, David, they provide missionary care for nationals and Americans serving globally. She is beginning her 3-year term as a Servant-Leader with The Anchorage.

Advisors

Elizabeth Canham, Episcopalian
William Dietrich, Quaker
Peggy Dulaney, Methodist
Travis Ellison, Presbyterian
Kathryn Fitzgerald, Catholic
Glenn Hinson, Baptist
Merwyn Johnson, Presbyterian
Carl McKenzie, Lutheran
Kent Satterfield, Episcopalian

We are intentionally ecumenical!

“Coming Together in Prayer”

By Robert

I love John 17! I once heard it taught that this was the “real” Lord’s Prayer. I then gave consideration to the idea that Mt. 6:9-13 was the Lord’s teaching on prayer and John 17 was Jesus practicing prayer. Now some like to keep philosophy and religion separate... Sorry, I just used the “R” word. There are people who have relationship and not religion, and others who are spiritual and not religious. Even trying to start a paper on unity I get divisive. Theology, a better word, I hope. People like to keep theology and philosophy separate, when, on a practical level, both should improve and enhance a person’s way of life. Their belief systems, philosophy and theology, should merge, overlap, run together. I expected to see parallels between Jesus’ teaching and his practice.

In Matthew he starts, “Our Father, who are in heaven, holy is your name;” in John 17, Jesus lifts his eyes to heaven. “Father” then he lists things he has done to show the Father’s name as holy. Wish my list was half as good.

It is really a fun exercise to go through all of chapter 17, to consider what Jesus’ ‘daily bread’ is; what he wants forgiven or sanctified as he does not need personal forgiveness. I found the exercise very rewarding.

I really like the last part “those who believe in me through their word” almost to the spot for “deliver us from evil.” That they may all be one, even as thou Father art in me, and I am in thee, that they may be one in us.”

Jesus did not pray for me to be perfect, that we all had the good suits or dresses, to be materially successful. He did not even pray that I should have enough to eat or even be free. That we be one.

When I try to line up ‘oneness,’ our unity, with ‘deliver me from evil’ it is not hard, quickly coming to the old Catholic tradition of confession or the Evangelical movement of accountability partners. Both are practical ways to help our brothers and sisters to a common goal. They may also demonstrate that weakness can be a stronger unifier than strength.

Then Jesus, who never seems content to give me something I might be able to manage, raises the bar. Unity is not just about helping each other. When the teacher repeats himself, we need to take note. That the world will know that Jesus comes from God; twice! So, unity does not just help believers, it also lets the world know; not suspect or believe, they will know. So according to Jesus, all the critics, accusers, non-believers, the whole world would know that Jesus comes from God if we could get over ourselves, embrace our diversity and unite in the grace and spirit without worrying about who is right or wrong, about the details.

At a prayer service when I knelt to pray a friend behind me was dancing and clapping. He tried to pull me up. Later, I told him my heart was dancing. He called me kneeler, so I called him dancer, then we prayed together.

Another prayer service, in the gym, the chairs arranged in a half-court sized horseshoe, the lectern next to a cross centered at the open end of the horseshoe. The chaplain said the cross represented Jesus. He told the front row to stand, take 3 steps toward Jesus, then 2, then 3 more. The side effect was that the closer they got to Jesus the closer they got to each other. Not believe and act like me, but with me. Not redefining and arguing about words but coming together in prayer. Really caring about and loving each other. What would the world think, what would they know?

(Thanks to Robert for this article and for his support over the years. He dropped out of Montana State when it became obvious that he could not reach his athletic goals. Convicted of a crime that never happened he has served 16 years in the SC dept. of Corrections. He is still married to his wife of 40 years. They have 5 grown children. His family remain close expecting the 6th grandchild. While incarcerated he has served as Coordinator of the Catholic Group, Inside Leader of Kairos, coach/mentor for 4 years with JumpStart Ministries. He participated in prison fellowship, interfaith dialogue and helped with the Hip Hop workshop. His first prayer every morning after thanking God for being God, is asking God to bless the 8 people who sent him to prison. Every day, 16 years. May not have the life he dreamed of but he has the life God blessed him with.)

The closer they got to Jesus the closer they got to each other.

“Declaration of Dependence”

By Teresa Horton

All that I know, see, dream ... all that I have been, am, or could become ... depends daily, hourly, momentarily on the Love of God.

Without God’s Love and Grace, all of manifest “reality” would dissolve into nothingness.

I acknowledge that this includes me and all that it appears I have created or will create: God’s grace imbues, vivifies, supports, and permits it **all**.

I declare that I am dependent on God **alone** for every aspect of my being, including this breath, the voice with which I say these words.

I loose, shatter, and utterly destroy the illusion that the shifting circumstances of the physical realm support me in any way except as manifestations of God’s enduring Love for God’s creation.

(Thanks to Teresa for this timely declaration and for her participation with and support of The Anchorage over the years. She grew up in central Florida during the Space Race, with a religious background that included the Church of Latter-day Saints, Roman Catholicism, Christian Science, the “Jesus Freak” movement, and Pentecostalism. Her undergraduate degree from the University of Florida is in English, with a minor in Jewish Studies. She has never stopped reading theology. After a five-year working break, she went to law school at the University of Texas at Austin, and has been practicing law in Greenville since 1990. Her main area of practice is probate and estate planning, and she feels her legal practice is ministry to a large degree. This piece was written during the economic downturn of 2009 - 2011, when challenges convinced her that she might have to close her firm, but God was (and is!) good, and she is still in the same office at the same work. She has hopes that these words, acknowledging complete dependence on God, will comfort and encourage those who may be experiencing economic challenges along with all our current social and health issues.



The Anchorage

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Community for All

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"For the very glory you have given to me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy! You live fully in me and now I live fully in them so that they will experience perfect unity, and the world will be convinced that you have sent me, for they will see that you love each one of them with the same passionate love that you have for me." John 17:22,23 The Passion Trans.

"The Anchorage Servant Leader Annual Service Awards"



Servant Leaders Michael Fleenor and Alan Kinsey received The Anchorage Servant Leader Service Awards in April 2020, and were celebrated at our May 2020 Zoom meeting. Michael and Alan served for three years. Michael served as Chair his last year. Thank you, Michael and Alan for jobs well done! (We hope to have a picture of Alan by November.)

FYI - We read John 15:5 at the beginning of each Servant Leader (Board) meeting, knowing we are dependent on God, and then listen for God's leading.

(Thanks to Michael for the poem on the cover, and for his support and participation with The Anchorage over the years. He is a retired physician from Asheville, NC. After missionary service in Macau, China and Lisbon, Portugal and a several year stint in internal medicine practice in AL, he spent 25 years in public health practice in Birmingham, AL. He is a member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in North Asheville. He is married to Betsy and is "owned" by their rambunctious Boston terrier, Roxie.)

Financial Status as of June 30, 2020

FY gifts budgeted	\$ 27,250
Total received	\$ 22,397
Amount needed	\$ 4,853
Total income budgeted	\$ 51,617
Total received	\$ 40,850
Amount needed*	\$ 10,767

**Significant lack of income (about 25%) is attributed to the pandemic. Desert Days on Zoom are better than nothing, but of course we don't charge as much because folks are printing their own materials and buying their own lunch. Some have chosen not to meet for spiritual direction on Zoom, preferring just to wait until the pandemic is over.*

Our Friend/Fund Raiser "**Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart: Beauty in the Ordinary**" was even on Zoom. Thank you so much for believing in what we are about. Thank you for your generous gifts. We give all the glory to God with grateful hearts for those who listened for God's leading about how much to give.

All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Use our convenient online PayPal donation/registration!