



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

DEPTH SOUNDINGS

Encouragement, Inspiration and News from The Anchorage

November 2020

“John 17: That All May Be One”

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, h. 1936
 Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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 deep*

“A Word of Hope for Our World”

By Catherine Powell

Our theme this year is John 17: That All May Be one. And realizing this issue will be mailed just prior to the presidential election in the US, I am on my knees for healing in our land. I am hopeful because I love and worship a God of hope. God's love for us is more than we can ask or imagine. Since we founded The Anchorage our hope has been that every person would know how much they are loved by God. “God knows me and loves me, that always undoes me” is my small contribution to poetry.

What would our world be like? Would people be different? Would they still have the proverbial “chips on their shoulders?” Knowing God loves me changed my life and I believe God's love is enough to love this world back to where we can all know how much we're loved.

Please join me in prayer for our world. Especially for those with whom you disagree, that God would help you love them even while you disagree. To agree to disagree and still love. I think that is one of the meanings of John 17: That we would all be one in love. To God be the glory.

It was a gift to receive the John 17 reflections from Jerry Fonte (p. 3), even though I did not include the Bible verses. Having your Bible open to John 17 as you read his article will be helpful. The article below from Br. Rodney is a small part of a 4-page letter he sent me – see if it fits?

“Discovery and Understanding”

By Rodney Odom

All data and knowledge are local. And any new “destination” for our local knowledge is consequently an expanded local destination. As human beings we get limited opportunity, a lifetime, to expand on our local knowledge beyond the local destination. If Jesus says no one comes to me except that the Father sends them, if Jesus says while I am in the world, I am the light of the world, if Jesus says those who follow me do not walk in darkness, and if Jesus says some people will never die, and those who die, they will live forever, he is offering an expanse on our local knowledge to a new non-local destination. The knowledge Christ gives is knowledge you do not verify except through grace from Christ. It is not verified by study of our local world. The physical world is a resource for local knowledge only. It can never be a resource for a new destination

To me it is only through God's mercy that we can overcome our limited, blind, feeble nature and stop guessing or speculating at what is. So, Jesus says that they may have life more abundantly. Not more life as we see it, but as it was intended. If we seek God's mercy, what is meant for us may not be a straight path, but it will be a God approved one.

As Christ says in the last book of our Christian scripture, I am the Alpha and the Omega. Jesus the man who walked the earth and is Christ is the start and end of all. The start and end of every idea, thought, word, development, condition, etc. and thus “is All” that matters for us as a species both locally and non-locally. I and others like me, struggle with this notion at all times. When I improperly ask what is “the meaning” of life without reference to Christ, I am acknowledging that the rules guiding my thinking are only local. Thus, I must search for something I will never find locally or create a local destination for the answer to that question. With my imagination I give it a meaning, but it genuinely has none. Because the meaning of life is defined and given non-locally by Christ. With God's continued help and support we move beyond our local understanding to a new and non-local one. We evolve in a wise and eternal way and not a random, short-sighted physical one.

(Thanks to Br. Rodney Odom, for this article and for being an encouraging friend. He is also known as “hermit guy” and if you met him when he was a monk at Mepkin Abbey he was Br. Anthony Maria. He left Mepkin before his final vows because he felt called to the life of a hermit. He is still “tending toward that direction in lifestyle as progress seems fit to allow” in the Philadelphia area. He says Ezekiel 36:24-28 explains him but it makes his heart ache.)



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.

Servant Leaders

*(Board of Directors)
Christina Auch
Eric Barnhart
Peggy Dulaney, Chair
Jonathan Jones
Susan Leaphart
Susan Rice
Matt Rollins*

Other Support

*Susan Leaphart,
Volunteer Coord.*

Staff

*Catherine Powell,
Founding Servant Leader*

The Anchorage

*P. O. Box 9091
Greenville, SC 29604
(864) 232-LOVE (5683)
www.theanchorage.org*

“The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus”

By Jerry Fonte

In this concluding prayer in John:17:1-26, Jesus prays as our High Priest for himself, for his disciples, for those who will believe through them until the end of time. He prays for the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church on Mission with our Triune God, the Mission that will be fulfilled to the Glory of God now and into Eternity.

Jesus' prayer for himself (17:1-5)

The mood in these opening words of the prayer is one of excited anticipation. We see it in the posture of Jesus and hear it in his words. He gives to his Father in heaven praise for his accomplishment of his mission, for his return to glory and for the eternal life which has been given to his own. Having accomplished this mission, he is now soon to take his place back into divine glory. What a powerful intimate prayer between the Son and the Father. + We are on holy ground in heaven itself.

His review of the accomplished work with his own (17: 6-8, 10)

The mood in the review is one of joy, the sense that God must have felt when following the sabbath day of creation, he saw it all and said, "It is good." God gave disciples to him. For three and a half years, Jesus gave God's name and word to them. They have known and believed, and they have experienced God's glory. This is very powerful. The inseparable unity of Jesus with the Father is likewise the inseparable unity of Jesus' people with him and his Father.

His prayer for his own (17:9, 11-21)

Jesus is leaving the earth to be re-subsumed into the glory of the godhead. His own will be **in** this world but not **of** this world. In addition, they are sent and commissioned to reach this world. So now in his absence and them in this world, he prays for disciples to be kept in his name to be one, to have fullness of joy, to be kept from the evil one, to be sanctified as he was and is, and sent into his world as he was sent and he prays for all who will believe that they will experience oneness with one another in Jesus and the Father. In these times in which we live it is evident that the only hope for the world is a unified church, and the only means of this Christian unity is union with God. This is the prayer of Jesus that must be answered by our willing, humble and desperate surrender to it. This "mystical union" with God is the miracle the world desperately needs.

Finally, for the glory of God in his own now, and in the end (17: 22-26)

The current glory of God within his own is the absolute essential to unity and manifest love of God revealed to the world. Very powerful. I hope that you will leave this prayer with a deep desire for the glory of Jesus to be radiated throughout his own, you included, with the full baptism of love and unity that this brings. This is the deep yearning of Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the Father for the church.

This heavenly glory on earth will be heavenly glory in heaven which we have called glorification or the "beatific vision."

Summary (17:25,26)

The summary of the high priestly prayer is all that he has prayed for himself, and for his own for time and eternity. All that remains is for us to remove the impediment to this, as they manifest themselves in any time and age. What sheaths the glory of God from us, and where do our minds, emotions, will and flesh get in the way? That is where we need to allow God the Holy Spirit to deal in these troubled and chaotic times, removing anything which hinders full union with God.

(Thanks to Jerry Fonte for this article and for his support of The Anchorage. Jerry is an Elder at Crossroads Community Church in the Columbia, SC area, and has served as Chaplain in palliative care for 13 years at Prisma Health Midlands Campus. He has pastored churches in Oklahoma, North Carolina, and South Carolina since 1980. Married since 1972 to Ginny, they have 2 grown children and 7 grandchildren. He is passionate about the word, prayer, and pastoral care. He is available for pulpit supply, spiritual direction, teaching on the history of Christian Spirituality and pastoral care.)

+ As we know, God is beyond gender, but in this case it is important to stay with the name Father. Too important to the meaning.

This is the prayer of Jesus that must be answered by our willing, humble and desperate surrender to it.



Upcoming Events

Desert Days: First Fridays in even months, 9:30 – 2:30

Dec. 6 (Led by Peggy Dulaney)

Feb. 7 (Led by Michael

Fleenor) "Leaving everything, following Christ into the desert.

Theme is **"John 17: That All May Be One."** Reflection alone/together.

Fee: \$20 if on Zoom

23rd Annual Beach Retreat:

"John 17: That All May Be

One" it seems we still need to avoid gathering in person, so to keep up the tradition we will use Zoom. Sat., Jan. 16, 10-12 and then Sun., Jan. 17 from 2-4:30.

The flow will be as usual, with intros, content, reflection alone and listening group time. We hope to see many familiar faces and some new ones. We'll close with worship.

Fee: \$40 Deposit by Dec. 29th

Led by Catherine Powell.

Music by Cindy Orr.

"Ignatian Retreats" Our hope is to offer these in 2021 at retreat centers, with all the precautions of the pandemic. In case we cannot, I am offering **5 and**

7-day Ignatian Retreats on Zoom.

You would need to have relatively quiet space for this daily: 45 min. with me on Zoom, about 1 hour for solitude prayer, 3 different times. How much of the rest of your time would be in silence is up to your sense of God's call. (More is always better.)

Fee: 5-day (6 sessions), \$195,

7-day (8 sessions), \$250.

Led by Catherine.

We will find dates that suit.

Spiritual Direction, meeting one-on-one monthly (currently on Zoom) for an hour, is a prayerful time to reflect with another about your relationship with God. The process of spiritual direction can be a coming home to your deepest self.

With: Catherine

Fee: \$60 if doable

Stay tuned!! A Book Study and a Caregivers' Retreat are planned for the spring.

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



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Greenville, SC 29604

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"Look at how much encouragement you've found in your relationship with the Anointed One! You are filled to overflowing with his comforting love. You have experienced a deepening friendship with the Holy Spirit and have felt his tender affection and mercy. So, I'm asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in perfect unity – with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy."
Phil. 2:1-2, The Passion Translation

The Anchorage Annual Service Awards Given



Alan Kinsey with his Servant Leader Service Award. In May, 2020, we celebrated the completion of Alan's service with The Anchorage Board. He and Michael Fleenor served 3-years and Michael was pictured in our August issue. Thank you, Michael and Alan with heartfelt gratitude. You made a difference.

"That they all may be one: (John 17:21) – it is all shut up in this. Imagine such similarity of thought, feeling, desire, loves, and hates! We may have it all, dear Christian, if we are but willing. We may walk through this world so united to Christ that our cares and interests, sorrows and joys, purposes and wishes will be the same – one will to govern us, one mind to control us. Christ will be in us and we in Him until our lives are so intermingled and conjoined that we can say at last, "Not I, but Christ." For self will vanish in such a union as this, and this great "I" of ours, which so fills up the present horizon, will wilt down into nothing before the glory of his overcoming presence." from *God is Enough: Inspiring words of Christian affirmation for every day of the year*, by Hannah Whitall Smith (1858-1911).

Financial Status as of October 2, 2020 (Fiscal Year is July 20 – June 21)

FY gifts budgeted	\$ 20,800
Total received	<u>\$ 3,800</u>
Amount needed for FY	\$ 17,000
FY income budgeted	\$ 39,000
Total received	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
Amount needed for FY	\$ 33,000

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

Thank you for your financial gifts to The Anchorage. They cover scholarships along with the day-to-day ministry operation, so we may offer:

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, it will be just the right amount!

You are a blessing!

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