

We embrace the process of transformation in Christ both in ourselves and in others, through the practice of Centering Prayer.

Contemplative Outreach is a network of communities and individuals seeking the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit and to contribute to the renewal of the Christian contemplative tradition through the practice of Centering Prayer. Vision Theological Principal 1

Dear Fellow Mystics,

Greetings from my hermitage, now day 252. In this season of gratitude, I see more clearly the abundant blessings our contemplative community has been gifted with, particularly you, our members. We saw that on our first-ever Zoom 5-Day Centering Prayer Retreat plus 5 days after, from October 26th through November 4th. More than 30 people from all over the country joined us. Many commented it was impossible to attend in person but being there on Zoom blessed them profoundly. Our team of Vernon and Mary Joyce Dixon, Ken Hatcher, and Carl McColman inspired the retreat with their valuable gifts. Some comments were: "It was a wonderfully thought out retreat. Under these circumstances it was just the right thing, and I benefited from it immensely" and "My heart is full and smiling." Peace graced and strengthened our contemplative, unified spirit throughout.

On November 8th our coordinating team met by Zoom and discussed the Centering Prayer Retreat. Members universally observed how Zoom has facilitated their groups to grow in number of members and number of meetings. Many new members are joining countrywide. We decided to wait and see before scheduling events with Ignatius House until the Covid crisis is resolved. We decided to hire a person to improve our website that will also resolve data management. Please respond to the Doodle poll I will send soon to find the best time and day for you to meet. All are welcome.

We discussed how our first-ever Zoom Centering Prayer Introductory workshop on December 5th started. After the Rev. Ed Bacon of St. Luke's Atlanta led a study of Rohr's *Universal Christ*, his community realized they want to become contemplatives. Centering Prayer is the best method I know to negotiate this pandemic. Tell your friends. Join us. It is free. [Register here](#). Flyer follows.

Our Revolutionary Contemplatives group of Lerita Coleman Brown, Stuart Higginbotham, Carl McColman, Rebecca Parker, and I are pleased to present "2020—Perfecting Vision: Seeing More Clearly Now" a panel presentation 3-5 pm ET on November 22nd. Free. [Register here](#). Flyer follows.

Please vote for five pictures on pages 5 and 6 that represent well COAtlanta for our website. [Email me here](#) your 5 best choices: top one first with the rest descending order of preference.

On page two is a reflection Vernon Dixon wrote for one of our retreat sessions. It is a great beginning to a Centering Prayer session. Please pray for him. He has been diagnosed with a return of cancer.

I am deeply grateful for you. May you and your dear ones find a way to celebrate remotely and/or safely your gratefulness for each other during the Thanksgiving season.

Peace, love, and prayer,

Maggie

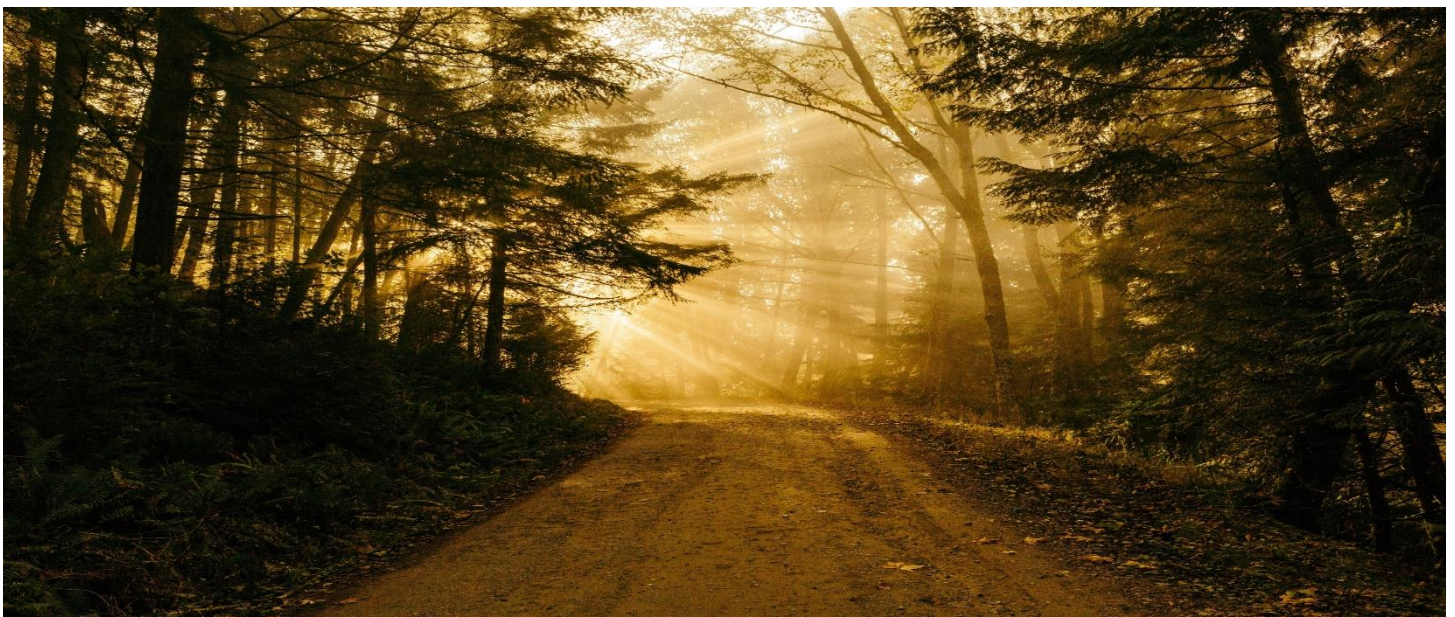
Reflection from our own Vernon Dixon

Close your eyes and feel deeply and intensely an almost unfathomable love enveloping you. This is the love of the Divine presence, the Ultimate Mystery, the same love that breathed life into the universe almost 14 billion years ago and has sustained it all these years. It is the same love that created us from nothingness and has nurtured us throughout our lives, and it is the same love that knows every hair in our head and sustains us even in the darkest of times.

For God alone my soul in silence waits. You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. But our hearts are never separate from God. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and it is in God that we live and breathe and have our being. God is the source of all that is. Otherwise it could not be. God exists at the center of our being as our true self. John's Gospel tells us, "On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you."

God is always present to us. It is we who are often not present to God. The greatest obstacle to the realization of Oneness with this Infinite Love is the mistaken belief that we are separate from God. This mistaken belief can be overcome. Our Infinitely Loving Father is there, has always been there, waiting to envelop us in His all-encompassing Love. All we need to do is abandon ourselves into His arms.

So, as we enter into our prayer, we let all thoughts come and go and completely abandon ourselves, surrender ourselves completely, into the loving arms of our Father. We open our hearts in love and eternal gratitude to our God for this miraculous gift of our life. This is the Great Way that leads to the peace that surpasses all understanding. Now, let yourselves go completely and become lost in God and engulfed by His peace. We have to empty ourselves before we can be filled.



The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak. Hosea 2:14, John Michael Talbot



On-Line Opportunities

Sunday November 15

Contemplative Outreach Chicago and the Chicago Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society are co-sponsoring **Fratelli Tutti: A Pope among Poets and Prophets**" by **Dr. Carmen Nanko-Fernández** of CTU, **2-3:30 p.m. CT** via Zoom. Free, donations accepted. [Register here.](#)

Thursday November 19, 2020

"Act Now! Silence Is Not an Option"

16th Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Celebration virtual inspiration, music, and humor Islamic, Unitarian, Christian, Sikh, Jewish, Congregations [Link to join here](#) Starts at 7:00 pm

November 19, January 21, February 8, March 18, April 15

7:30-9 pm ET Wise Women and Spirituality Series with Pittsburg Theological Seminary. Presenters Barbara Brown Taylor, Lerita Coleman Brown, Mihee Kim-Kort, Carrie Newcomer, Joan Prentice, Chanequa Walker-Barnes. [Website here.](#) Q? 412-924-1345 or [email](#)

Friday November 20th

Why Do We Fear? Exploring Human Potential in an Age of Anxiety-A Zoom with Ilia Delio

Friday, November 20th 2020, 4:00 – 5:30 pm, ET [Register here](#)

Sunday November 22, 2020

2020-Perfecting Vision: Seeing More Clearly Now

Revolutionary Contemplatives Lerita Coleman Brown, Stuart Higginbotham, Carl McColman, Rebecca Parker, Carl McColman, Maggie Winfrey. 3 – 5 pm ET. Free, [Register here.](#)

Saturday December 5, 2020

Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop by Zoom

10 am – 1 pm ET, 4 follow-up sessions December 12 & 19, January 9 & 16, Free [Register here.](#)

Tuesday December 8, 2020

8 pm ET [Tuesdays with Merton](#), sponsored by the International Thomas Merton Society

Virtual Resources

Center for Action and Contemplation presents **Learning How to See: A Special Limited Podcast Series with Brian McLaren, Jacqui Lewis and Richard Rohr**- this special six-episode podcast series [Learning How to See](#). 3 three theologians discuss seeing is social, political and contemplative. Also free [20-video series](#) five faculty Brian McLaren, Barbara Holmes, Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, James Finley speaking on the pandemic [here](#).

Aquinas Center at Emory University published Leslye Colvin's Blog: "To my Catholic Brothers and Sisters with White Bodies" [here](#).

Fr.Carl Arico's talk on the "Fruits of the Holy Spirit":[Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)

Virtual Resources continued

Contemplative Outreach Ltd April 30th - May 2nd Cynthia Bourgeault: "Oneness: The Secret Embrace, Fr. Thomas Keating's Final Gift to the World"
public video recordings [Session 1:](#) [Session 2:](#) [Session 3:](#)

[Encountering Silence](#) Podcast by Carl McColman, Cassidy Hall, and Kevin Johnson

- ❖ Pope Francis; Oct 3rd encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" [available here](#).
- ❖ "Relationship leads us to peace: by Daniel P. Horan, [available here](#).
- ❖ Commonweal article on "Pope Francis's Call to Fraternity" [available here](#).

Ignatius House is open for socially-distanced retreats – [info here](#).

Br. Elias Marechal OCSO is on YouTube. [Find him here](#).

Fr. William Meninger is on YouTube! [click here](#) to find his many videos.

Monastery of Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA Zoom Retreats - [Click here](#)

Join the online Meditation Chapel at Contemplative Outreach Ltd [here](#).

Contemplative Outreach Ltd's monthly e-bulletin is available [subscribe here](#).

Group Meetings and Coordinating Team Gatherings

We will continue to suspend physical gatherings indefinitely. Details will be developed as we receive more information.

Centering Prayer groups will be only meeting virtually. Find a group [here](#).

Quarterly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2020 will be on Zoom until further notice.

We hope to meet monthly or every six weeks. Doodle poll coming to find out your best available time to meet. Everyone is a member of our Coordinating Team. Your gifts of service spread and support transformation of our community through Centering Prayer.

Be still and know that I am God. Ps 46:10

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

The grace of salvation, the grace of Christian wholeness that flowers in silence, dispels this illusion of separation. For when the mind is brought to stillness, and all our strategies of acquisition have dropped, a deeper truth presents itself: we are and have always been one with God and we are all one in God (Jn 17:21). Martin Laird, Into the Silent Land.



Contemplative
Outreach

Contemplative Outreach Atlanta

is a chapter of

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973.838.3384 Mary Jane Yates, Administrator

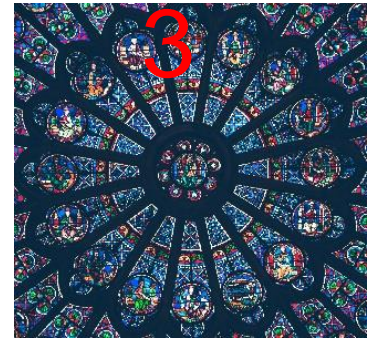
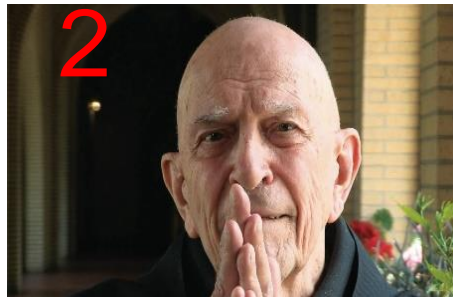
maryjane@coutreach.org



Contemplative
Outreach *Atlanta*

Contact us at <https://www.contemplativeoutreachatlanta.com>
Coordinator Maggie Winfrey coatlantageorgia@gmail.com

Quick pictures for our website survey: Pick the top 5 from these 2 pages, email the numbers that you think best represent Contemplative Outreach Atlanta, 1st being most preferred. [Email link here.](#)



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Contemplative
Outreach *Atlanta*

*is excited
to offer an*

Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop On Zoom

10 am – 1 pm ET Saturday, Dec 5, 2020

Do you seek the still, small voice of God?

Do you seek a more intimate relationship with God?

**This 5-session program includes
four weekly follow-up sessions**

**December 12 and 17, 2020
and January 9 and 16, 2021**

“Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to cooperate with this gift. It is an attempt to present the teaching of earlier times (e.g. the 14th century book The Cloud of Unknowing) in an updated form and to put a certain order and regularity into it. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; it simply puts other kinds of prayer into a new and fuller perspective. During the time of prayer we consent to God’s presence and action within. At other times, our attention moves outward to discover God’s presence everywhere.”

Father Thomas Keating

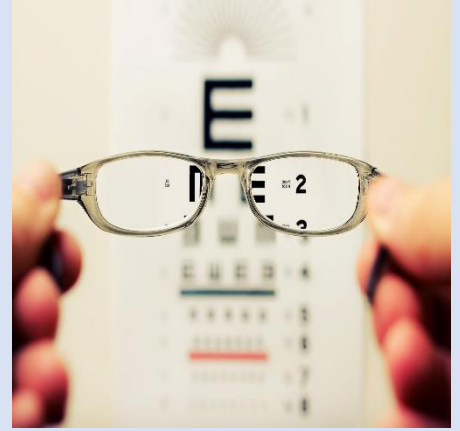
Free.

For more information Contact [Maggie Winfrey](#)

[Register here.](#)



Contemplative
Outreach *Atlanta*



invites you to

2020 – Perfecting Vision: Seeing More Clearly Now

***A panel presented by our
Revolutionary Contemplatives Team***

Lerita Coleman Brown, Stuart Higginbotham, Carl McColman

Moderator Rebecca Parker

Host Maggie Winfrey

These past several months have been challenging for us all, both personally and communally. We have been taken outside of our comfort zones, and we are challenged to see ourselves and our world with a level of honesty and vulnerability that perhaps we have avoided.

What are you seeing that you did not see before the pandemic? How is your vision changing and what might else look different after the pandemic ends?

It is providential that we are called to change how we see things in the year 2020 (our terminology for perfect vision). Predictions have prevailed for some time that either the world would end (perhaps as we know it?) or something major would happen in the year 2020. Is it a contemplative revolution or spiritual revolution? What is changing about what and how we see?

3 – 5 pm ET Sunday, November 22, 2020

Free

[Register here.](#)

Zoom link will be sent upon registration.

Lerita Coleman Brown, professor of psychology emerita, spiritual director and retreat leader, promotes contemplative spirituality and renown mystic, Howard Thurman on her website, www.peaceforhearts.com . She is the author of *When the Heart Speaks, Listen—Discovering Inner Wisdom*.

Stuart Higginbotham is the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville, GA. He is the co-editor of *Contemplation and Community: A Gathering of Fresh Voices for a Living Tradition*. In addition, he co-directs the clergy spiritual life program at The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation and writes at www.contemplativereformation.com .

Carl McColman is an author, blogger, and podcaster. His books include *The Big Book of Christian Mysticism*, *Answering the Contemplative Call*, and *Unteachable Lessons*. He is a Lay Associate of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit and a commissioned presenter of Contemplative Outreach Introductory Workshops. Find Carl online at www.anamchara.com and www.encounteringsilence.com.

The Rev. Rebecca Parker is the Director of Mary & Martha's Place, a spiritual resource center for women, as well as a senior student and teacher of Cynthia Bourgeault's body of work.

A contemplative for over four decades, **Maggie Winfrey** has taught kids to read as well as led adult spiritual enrichment for over 35 years. Coordinator of Contemplative Outreach Atlanta and a commissioned presenter of Contemplative Outreach Introductory Workshops, her current writing projects draw from Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating's work.