



The State of Grace

StillPoint Easter Season Program

The purpose of our Easter Retreat Program is to provide all participants the opportunity to deepen their faith and deepen their inner state of communion with God and themselves.

The State of Grace is the exquisite harmony of being in balance with our individual nature and our Eternal Source. Grace is the presence of God in our life. It is a gift to be realized. Christ came specifically to show us “the Way.”

The Christ, Universal Being, took form as an individual being, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus’ life and teachings bring one who is attuned to Him to “the peace that passes all understanding” – the State of Grace. He gave us the resources to realize His indwelling presence. At Christmas we called His Teaching “The Gift.” This is the unique and revolutionary means to attune our individual nature to His Divine nature. We learn to see as He sees (Metanoia), to deal with the inevitable vicissitudes of life (Purification), and to live a meaningful life of love – to love as He loves (Kenosis).

Easter is a time to build and practice the gifts of “The Gift.” We will do this through experiencing the transformative participation in the consciousness of (1) the Beatitudes, (2) Lent and (3) Holy Week.

METANOIA¹: The Beatitudes were given during the Sermon on the Mount. These were Jesus’ most profound teachings and were meant primarily for His disciples - for only “those who had ears to hear and eyes to see.”²

¹ To see and God sees. The root of wisdom.

² Those that have had a measure of cultivated transcendence (Silence) and a basis of Pure Knowledge (Jesus’ wisdom).

It is said that “He opened His mouth” to speak. At that moment He transmitted a deep state of Consciousness that enveloped His devotees. This is the same state of subtle Silence that we experience in the company of saints whether it be physical or by thought; and it was from that state of Silence that the Wisdom embedded in His words revealed His message. So, with the Beatitudes we begin to “see as He Sees.” And He sees very differently than we do. We see the surface. He is the depths. He expresses Unity Consciousness – the One. Who would normally think that “poor in spirit” meant an openness to Divinity?

PROCESS OF PURIFICATION: LENT

Traditionally, Lent has been approached as a time of penance and giving up. However, in the mystic tradition, Lent is not about penance and what we give up but a time of joyfully giving OUT! The focus of our Lenten teachings is “forgiveness” and to follow the wisdom of St. John the Baptist, “repent” in essence means to “turn in.” And to intrigue you, what if the basis of forgiveness is letting God be God? From Unity Consciousness everything seems different. But everything, every insight and experience is transformative!

KENOSIS (Self Emptying Love): HOLY WEEK

**“In Jesus everything centers around a single point of gravity,
a profound self-emptying love.”**

In the teachings and activities of Holy Week the Love of Christ is revealed and made manifest for all generations to experience. It is said that the events and consciousness expressed in/as Holy Week are a cosmic drama continuously being enacted in time/space. The purpose of the Easter Retreat is to allow us to go deep into that perpetual re-enactment and be with Jesus as He teaches and demonstrates His Absolute Loves for all of us and His manifest creation.

Contemplations:

By taking on the mind of God (see as He Sees, Metanoia), by processing the experiences of life through Wisdom and by living the activity of Christ (Kenosis -self-emptying love) we are led to Unity Consciousness. This is the Kingdom of Heaven within us in which Christ transforms us to be a participant in Divinity by creating a vessel to experience and express His Life. This is “The Gift” He gives to bring us to wholeness. As it is said, we are already spiritual, He taught us to be fully human.

“Every act of Love is a portal to the Infinite which brings new realities into being.”

Forgiveness (Cliff Notes): When you realize that this (your life) is His Life, it is easier to accept everything God gives you. This is what God wanted and your job is to witness it for Him. As you realize this, over time, it will become easier to let go of resentments as you will know that God designed everything for a specific reason that the human mind cannot fathom (the mystery of faith). Ultimately, there is nothing that happens outside of His Will.

On a superficial level people think that grace is having things go well e.g., getting a parking space on a crowded city block, or anything that seems to make life easy. That may be true in that context, but the saints³ have a different experience. They see as Christ sees and Live as He did. St. Theresa Lisieux, a Carmelite mystic, stated so eloquently:

Everything is Grace
Because everything is God's gift.

Whatever be
The character of life
Or its unexpected events
To the heart that loves God (is one with Him)
All is well.

Please join either all or some parts of our 60-day program of Silence and Pure Knowledge. All of the contemplations, weekly meditations and min-retreats will be available on the www.stillpointretreats.com website throughout the duration of Easter and up until mid-May. We will start with the first contemplation of the season on 2/5 and the first weekly retreat 2/9– the First Beatitude.

³ Some saints attune to a personal God in form of Godlike personage such as Jesus of Nazareth or the Virgin Mother. Other saints are more inclined to merge into the Formless One, thus we have as compliments both God Consciousness and Unity Consciousness. Now you ask: "Which is more advanced? Higher? And my answer is a resounding "Yes."



StillPoint Easter Season Program 2022

Introduction to *The State of Grace* – 2/4 Friday

Weekly Meditations - Ongoing

2/9 Wednesday - Beatitude 1
2/16 Wednesday - Beatitude 2
2/23 Wednesday - Beatitude 3
3/9 Wednesday - Beatitude 4
3/16 Wednesday - Beatitude 5
3/23 Wednesday - Beatitude 6
3/30 Wednesday - Beatitude 7
4/6 Wednesday - Beatitude 8

Special One Hour Holy Week Mini- Retreats

3/2 Wednesday - ASH WEDNESDAY
4/10 Sunday - PALM SUNDAY
4/14 Thursday - HOLY THURSDAY
4/15 Friday - GOOD FRIDAY
4/16 Saturday - HOLY SATURDAY
4/17 Sunday - EASTER SUNDAY

Special Weekly "State of Grace" Contemplations – Every Weekend

EASTER RETREAT⁴ – in person at Wylie Inn and Conference Center
Also available for in home participation via recording

4/9 Saturday

Logistics:

The Weekly Meditations and Special One Hour Holy Week Mini-Retreats are at **NO COST** and available to everyone.

⁴ Please see the website for logistics. Always a good idea to book hotel room far in advance.

Wylie In House Retreat: The charge for the April 9th In Person Easter Retreat *"THE STATE OF GRACE"* at Wylie is \$395. This will include (1) a breakfast social hour where we can all spend some time together after so many months being apart. And, (2) participants in the Wylie In Person Retreat will have free access to the In Home audio-visual Retreat.

At Home Easter Retreat: For participating at home for viewing via the internet, the link will be available from the morning of April 9 through May 14th. The cost of the In-Home audio-visual online Retreat is \$295.

We really encourage you all to participate. No one is ever turned away for financial reasons. Please join us. And make your hotel reservations ASAP.

For your Easter Retreat reservations, please call or text

Judy Tache' on 603-490-2271 - Email silentretreats@gmail.com

Perspective: Non-political talking points cross referenced from five respected and very diverse news journals (see footnote)

Amidst threats of war with Russia, China, Iran and North Korea and with rising inflation, distribution failures, an unstable border with drugs pouring through, rising energy prices, empty shelves in the big box stores, political hate, escalating violence, dismantling the justice system, cancel culture, culture wars, marginalization of God and religion, muting free speech, silencing different opinions, virtually "forced" vaccinations, the never ending pandemic, massive federal debt, continuous confusion about covid protocols, questions about the efficiency of the vaccines and boosters, children losing years of their childhood due to school closing, increasing suicide rates, death by fentanyl in young adults, contempt for the police, lack of workers to fill jobs – had enough? ⁵

Pray and build your inner life to find some peace amidst all this chaos. This is not going away soon. But you can find peace. This is the message of Easter -turn in.

When St. John the Baptist said "Repent" (means turn in) and find the Kingdom of Heaven (Inner Peace) within. It certainly cannot be found outside! And the Resurrection? Our opportunity to go beyond the suffering of being in the world and finding a new relationship to it. Summed up succinctly – "be in the world, but not of it."

It is said that **"if a man does not attain his spiritual welfare in this life, he has made his mother suffer the birth pangs in vain."** (ouch!)

With Love and Compassion, Jerry

⁵ Sources: New York Times (lib), Wall Street Journal (cons), Epoch Times (cons), Washington Post, (lib) The Economist (lib).