

March 29, 2020 Taize – The Creative Power of Surrender

Bell – Call to Awareness – 3 Bells

Opening Prayer – Chris will set the intention to create a space for Communion

Chant – *I Surrender to the Love of God*

SILENCE – 1 Minute - Bell

Reading – Diana (partly inspired by Mark Matousek)

We speak of the Creative Power of Surrender. What does this word mean, surrender? The *sur* in *surrender*, as a prefix, means *expanded, or greater*. Add to that *render*, meaning to *give back, translate, or cause to be*, and we get a definition that eludes to *surrender to God* as a means of allowing Divine Intelligence to expand what life can offer. As I let go, God translates and transforms my current experience into something greater.

True surrender is never to another person and always to that larger Force that is coursing through us, call it God, Holy Spirit, the Tao, Shakti, or Divine Will. In the act of surrender, I become aware of this Power, accept and defer to it. As my sensitivity to spirit increases, I come to know -- intuitively -- how to harmonize with the energies at play in any given situation. I learn to advance when doors are open and to pause when they are closed, moving with, rather than against, these forces.

Surrender means relaxing my fixed agendas so that I can respond to what is unfolding in a humble rather than controlling way. *Humility* is the operative word. Derived from the Latin root meaning "from the earth," humility provides a grounded awareness of where I stand in the universe and the limitations of my human power. Thus, humility becomes the antidote to pain arising from the grandiose belief that I ought to be more in control than I am. This surrender to my own limitations relieves me of an enormous burden.

The things that truly matter in life require huge leaps of surrender. Without it there can be no love. Unless we learn to let down our defenses, to tolerate, forgive, and abide, no human relationship is possible.

There can be no creativity without practicing surrender, since creativity springs from the unknown.

Standing for justice requires surrender or we're likely to become self-righteous martyrs.

Learning depends on surrender, as do most forms of transformation and healing.

Finally, no spiritual awakening is possible without surrender; until I get out of the way, I am unable to feel that Power that is greater than my will, deeper than my thoughts and intentions.

SILENCE – 3 Minutes – Bell

Reading – Chris (from *The Voice Celestial*)

The Presence speaks:

He has the gift of knowledge who has found its source within himself enfolded in the Me and dwells therein embraced by cosmic love; who holds a steady rein upon his heart and mind and brings himself to feel the Presence of Immortal Love until so filled that he will live in consciousness of Him while still at work and in the midst of daily life.

God waits to feel your hand in His, that He may give you strength and guidance in affairs, but most of all because of His own joy to know the oneness of your fellowship. He waits complete surrender of the self that melts in union, heart with heart as one, for essence of each is essence of all.

Trust as the rose divides its heart to spread its sweetness on the air, yet still remains the rose, so does the Cosmic Lover give Himself in Love to His creation with but one desire – that it be channeled back to Him through other hearts to whom it has been passed. For love is giving of the one Self to another in endless circling.

SILENCE – 3 Minutes – Bell

Musical Meditation – *Surrender* by Michael Gott

SILENCE – 1 Minute

Reading – Chris – *Defeated by Love* by Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi

The sky was lit by the splendor of the moon

So powerful I fell to the ground

Your love has made me sure

I am ready to forsake this worldly life and surrender

to the magnificence of your Being

SILENCE – 1 Minute – Bell

Reading – Chris - *Give Me Strength* by Rabindranath Tagore

This is my prayer to thee, my lord - strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart. Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows. Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service. Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might. Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles. And give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love.

SILENCE – 3 Minutes

Musical Meditation – *A Willing Vessel* by Ty Stephens

SILENCE – 1 Minute - Bell

Contemplative Prayer – Diana

We take this time now to join in Consciousness...to commune with the Divine...to share in prayer as a state of being, feeling, knowing, and deep listening.

I gently guide my mind into my deepest, most silent place...into my heart, and there stand in deep surrender to the Presence of God. (Pause)

It is here, in the depths of my deepest self that I feel my Divinity infusing my humanity...entwined as One. As I sit in the silence, I let go of all I thought I knew...and I Am filled with a sense of deep Peace.

It is in this place that I feel the Presence of the One Loving and Compassionate Source, and I willingly give myself to It, knowing in Truth that I Am It, and It is me...

My complete surrender can become a path into more lightness, joy and gratitude in my heart and in my daily life. But how do I learn to live the way of surrender? I let Grace infuse me... I learn to take these small steps as I begin to shift my orientation towards surrender:

I practice patience with whatever is occurring. I trust that all is unfolding in Divine Order and Perfect Timing...that there is great Creative Power in asking, in listening, and waiting...in creating a space where God's Highest Idea for my life has the time and permission to come forward.

I suspend judgment of myself and others, for I know that this lends itself to both forgiveness and compassion, which have immense Creative Power of their own.

I seek moments of solitude and silence, practicing mindful breathing throughout the day. For I know that when the mind becomes peaceful, the body can relax.

I practice *noticing* and *feeling grateful* for the many blessings in my life, acknowledging each one (big and small) as a gift from God.

I stay in the present moment. What is before me now? What is mine to do in this moment?

I commit to meeting any resistance that arises with an open heart; for I know that each and every day offers an invitation to embrace surrender and open up to God's Grace.

And I affirm that my every thought, word, and action is permeated with Divine Love. Love takes me over as I surrender to the Divine Presence that lives at the Heart of All-That-Is.

Thank you, God, for Your many gifts and for my growing willingness to let go of control in my life. May my human will align with Divine Will...may *Thy Will* be done in my life. I know that as I surrender completely to Your Love, I Am lifted up...that my mind is purified and my heart is opened...and I Am Guided from this moment forward. In deepest gratitude and Absolute Faith, I speak my Word and release it to the Mighty Power of the Universe, calling forth all that is Holy, all that is Whole, here and now. I let it be and it is done...And so it is...Amen!

SILENCE – 3 Minutes

Chant – *I Surrender to the Love of God*

SILENCE – 1 Minute

Offertory – Blessing for the Offering (Diana)

As I awaken to the God within me and all around me, I see Abundance everywhere I look. I consciously step into that flow of Abundance by this act of giving. I bless this gift, sending it forth to heal and prosper. It is evidence of my deep faith. It does good work in the world and blesses all of Creation. I give from a consciousness of Abundance! And so it is! Amen!

Offertory Music *God Bless Us All* by Jan Garrett and J.D. Martin

Closing Gratitude, Brief Invitation, and Benediction (Diana)

Invitations:

Monday (Metaphysical Bible Study); Friday (Way of the Peaceful Warrior Book Club);

Sunday (Taize Service); New classes are beginning the first week of April

- ♥ Six Pillars of Spiritual Practice with Prayer Practitioner Chris Johnson
- ♥ Shadow and Story with Rev. Diana Johnson
- ♥ Spiritual Intelligence with Rev. Diana Johnson

Starting on Saturday, April 25th from 9 am to noon, the Monthly *Mystic Morning Brew* with Prayer Practitioner Lucinda Alton.

All on Zoom unless and until the Shelter at Home Mandate is lifted.