



GRACE CHURCH
OF WEST FELICIANA PARISH

A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ

Accepting the Embrace of God: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina

Lectio – Meditatio – Oratio – Contemplatio

As I have discussed in the earlier articles, Centering Prayer serves as the launching point for Lectio Divina, effectively setting the stage for opening our hearts and minds to the revelations offered by God through the hearing and/or reading of the Holy Scriptures. We now move to the topic of Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina[1] was practiced by the earliest Christians as a result of two issues – the limited availability of the printed Scriptures as we understand them today and the reliance upon hearing the salvation history through the respected storytellers of the oral tradition. In time, as the scriptures were brought together by the councils of the early church, the printed scriptures were typically not in every household or Christian enclave. And so, the earliest Christians relied on silently listening to the scriptures being read similarly to our hearing the scriptures being read on Sunday morning.

Lectio Divina is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures which enables the Bible, the Word of God, to become a means of union with God. Daily time set aside for Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina enables us to discover an underlying spiritual rhythm where we discover an increasing ability to offer more of ourselves in relationship with God the Father and accept the embrace of God's continual offering to us in the person of the Son Jesus Christ.

Lectio Divina is a process that includes four components: Lectio (reading/listening), Meditatio (meditation), Oratio (prayer) and Contemplatio (contemplation). Each of these components contain particular movements. The first is to read or hear with intention (Lectio) – reverential listening, seeking the still small voice that speaks to us intimately, seeking to hear a word or phrase that is God's word for us in that specific moment and for that particular day. Once we find that word or phrase, we ruminate (Meditatio) on it/them to the point that we allow it/them to become God's words for us, one that touches and affects us at our deepest level. We enter the third step in conversation (Oratio) – both dialogue and receiving God's invitation to enter His embrace through which we see ourselves touched and changed. Contemplatio, the last step simply requires that we rest in the presence of the One Who loves us greatest.

In the next newsletter, I will delve into the meaning of each of these components in more detail through the practice forms that are common. TCGB, Reid

[1] This article is based on information gathered from Father Basil Pennington from his book "Lectio Divina."

From your Search Committee

The Search Committee has prayerfully completed and unanimously approved the survey of our congregation. It is currently going through the approval process with the Vestry. Once approved, the survey will be digitized, and the Committee will individually complete the survey to assess effectiveness. After this assessment, the survey will go out to the congregation. Expect to see this survey in two weeks or so.

Prayer for Calling our Next Rector

Our Heavenly Father who has blessed this church family since 1827, and knows our needs before we ask. We pray that you guide and bless us with wisdom, patience, and open minds as we begin this search, that our next rector will lead our congregation to serve you in peace and healing in our troubled world. All this we ask in the name of Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*



Dinner Ministry Help Needed

We have a family in our midst that is in need of meals twice a week. Please prepare a dish for two people and drop off to Grace by Tuesday at noon and Thursday at noon. Please include instructions for reheating or serving the dish. To sign up for a date or if you have questions, please call the church office, 635-4065, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Thank you

Thank you to all who have been able to continue to financially support Grace Church. We know the pandemic is affecting all of us, but if you are able to continue your contribution or pledge to Grace, we pray that you do so. There are several ways to give:

- Mail a check to P.O. Box 28, St. Francisville, LA 70775.
- Give online through our website: www.gracechurchwfp.org
- Give by Text by texting **gracechurchwfp** and the amount you would like to donate to **73256**. Follow the prompts once you've texted.



love thy neighbor

Masks required on Grace's campus at all times.



Masks are required at all times and in all places of Grace's campus not only on Sundays but during the week as well. So, if you are stopping by the office or joining us for worship on Sunday, please do your part to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members:

Kyle & Marcy Dunaway, Tom Flynn, Patsy Hardouin, Melissa Higgins, Bishop Charles Jenkins, Molly McGraw, Christine Pollet, Cozette Stevens, Julie Stewart, Eleanor & Glenn Thomas, Wendell Wade, Jake Wray.

Prayers are also asked for:

Clint Bryant, William David, John and Linda Griffin, Andy Lewis, Walter Oliveaux, Kaitlyn Templet, All those affected by COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura.

Birthdays

Angus Armstrong, James Whatley, Jake Wray-Oct. 4 Kaleb Rhody-Oct. 5; Olivia Pass-Oct. 6; Annie Ruth Paul, Jude Weller-Oct.8; Emmette Barrow-Oct. 9; Eileen Barrow-Oct. 10; Lucie Butler, Shannon Pollet-Oct. 11; Mary Elizabeth Barrow, Wil Wilson, Davis Havard, Joshua David-Oct. 12; Ben Klein, Don Reinhardt-Oct. 13; Susan LeBlanc, David Weller, Claire Ford, Daisye Howell-Oct. 14; Judy Miller, Dixie Blue, Michael Benton-Oct. 15.; Jack Donnelly, Arthur Lewis, Jordon C. Truitt-Oct. 16; Anderson Adams, Linda Pruitt, Tara Jones-Oct. 17

Wedding Anniversaries

Charles & Emily Dwyer Fusilier-Oct. 4; Tom and Susie Tully-Oct. 9; T. J. and Olivia Woodside-Oct. 10; Cynthia and Overton Nicholas-Oct.15; Michael & Bethany Luneau-Oct. 16

Weekly Service Schedule

Sunday Services:

- 7:30 a.m. in Jackson Hall
 - You may register for in person services at www.gracechurchwfp.org.
- 8:15 a.m. Sunday Bible Study on Zoom
 - Please email Meg Kendrick, administrator@gracechurchwfp.org for the information to access the Bible Study.
- 10 a.m. in Grace Church
 - You may register for in person services at www.gracechurchwfp.org.
- 10 a.m. Online Worship
 - **Youtube:**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBPj_uOgto9x94NXSmHU_A
 - **Facebook:**
<https://www.facebook.com/Grace-Church-of-West-Feliciana-136896270625/>
 - **Bulletin Link:**
<https://www.gracechurchwfp.org/covid-19-pandemic.html>

Wednesdays

- 5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer on Zoom
 - Please call Meg Kendrick for information to access Evening Prayer.

Thursdays:

- 9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom
 - Please call Meg Kendrick for information to access Evening Prayer.

Fridays

- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom
 - Please call Meg Kendrick for information to access Evening Prayer.

133rd Annual Gathering Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Louisiana are pleased to invite you to this year's RESCHEDULED 133rd Annual Gathering. A small group of diocesan board members, convened by President Jeanne Roques in June, decided that it was especially important for our church women to come together in prayer and unity during this unprecedented year.

The Planning Team created a simplified, one-day program for this year's Annual Gathering to be held at our "spiritual heart," the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, Thursday, November 19, 2020. The stalwart ladies of the Baton Rouge Deanery will greet us with a Welcome Check-in & Continental breakfast, in the Solomon Center Lodge. We will follow proper medical protocols for our Gathering. Please see the enclosed agenda for the day's activities.

We are blessed to have Bishop Thompson preside at our Annual Gathering's Eucharist in the beautiful Chapel of the Holy Cross. The bishop will share pertinent news of the diocese with us. In simplicity, there will be no banner processional for the Eucharist. The day will include a brief plenary session with elections and the presentation of our Honored Women.

This Annual Gathering is a daytime event (9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.) but we will have special event rates at the Solomon Center for those who would like to arrive a day early and spend the night, Wednesday, Nov. 18. Please review the information enclosed with this letter for details on making a reservation should you choose to stay overnight. We will need a minimum of 8-10 ladies to be able to secure a block of rooms. The rate includes dinner on Wednesday evening.

The Annual Gathering offers to us all a time of fellowship, learning, and sharing, among one of our most precious gifts – our sisterhood in Christ. We will partake of good food, solemn worship and collegial friendship. Come, let us gather in the name of our Savior, be renewed by Christ's strength, and go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

For additional information, please contact Sudee Campbell, Vice President, ECW Diocese of Louisiana at geauxecw@gmail.com or C: (504)236-6255 (please identify yourself when texting).

Call for Vestry Nominations

Each year at our Annual Meeting held in late January, qualified members of the congregation elect three vestry members for a three year term. Leslie Daniel, Dr. Pat Schneider-Martin and Drew Nordgren will complete their term of vestry service. Additionally, Trish Toburen has entered into the process for ordination to the Priesthood and has vacated her vestry term. Trish had two years remaining. As a result, qualified members of the congregation will elect four members at the Annual Meeting. Those entitled to vote at an Annual Parish Meeting shall be Communicants in good standing of the Parish who are at least sixteen years of age and who have been contributors of record toward the support of the Parish during the six months next preceding the meeting.

Now is the time for all members to discern who in their midst could possibly serve as a member of the vestry. In order for the membership to know who is willing to be nominated, we request that you submit all nominations prior to October 31. As part of our communications process, all qualified nominees will be asked to present a brief bio as well as their ministry statement for your consideration.

A reminder that, per our Diocesan Canon, vestry candidates must be Communicants in good standing (as described above) who are at least 18 years of age at the time of the election. If you or someone you know has the potential for serving on the vestry, please speak with them. If this seems a possibility, please contact a member of the Vestry or Father Reid to discuss this further. Thank you.

Grace Church of West Feliciana
P.O. Box 28
St. Francisville, LA 70775

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Address Service Requested

Sunday, October 4

7:30 a.m. in Jackson Hall
8:15 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom
10:00 a.m. in Grace Church
Online Worship on Facebook & Youtube

Wednesday, October 7

5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday, October 8

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom

Friday, October 9

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom

Sunday, October 11

7:30 a.m. in Jackson Hall
8:15 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom
10:00 a.m. in Grace Church
Online Worship on Facebook & Youtube

Wednesday, October 14

5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer via Zoom

Thursday, October 15

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom.

Friday, October 16

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer via Zoom.

*Email administrator@gracechurchwfp.org for Zoom
call instructions*

Sunday Readings

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
- Psalm 19
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- Matthew 21:33-46

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Exodus 32:1-14
- Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
- Philippians 4:1-9
- Matthew 22:1-14

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.