



Work Group Offering

From the Bylaws, “The Church of Conscious Harmony exists for the sole purpose of facilitating the spiritual journey for people who want to make God-devotion the center of their lives.” To this end, in addition to the regularly-scheduled core classes (e.g., Lessons in Truth, Simple Explanations of Work Ideas, new member classes, the Gospel & Work class, etc.), a new form of small group spiritual enrichment is encouraged. “Work groups,” are small (generally 7-12 people), self-directed, semester oriented and focused on a particular topic or practice related to the two foundations of the Church: the Christian contemplative tradition and the Work of Inner Christianity.

The aim of Work groups is to provide participants with transforming spiritual enrichment, inspiring love of God and love of neighbor.

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Work Group Title: Discovering Poetry as a Creative Tool for Understanding Work and Contemplation

Meeting day/time: Tuesdays 7-8pm.

Duration: Sep 18-Dec 11.

Purpose or specific aim of Work Group: Words matter and we use them profusely at CCH, often taking pains to define esoteric terms. Yet when it comes to big ideas like God and love, words fail us, and they can ultimately only point toward the intended meaning. Great poetry invites us to “read between the lines,” expressing mystery and awe and bringing us to the divine in ways that explanatory prose cannot. The aim of this work group is to explore together some of the great mystical poets, to share insights and discuss how these works connect with and shed new light onto the twin pillars of CCH, Centering Prayer and the Work. Several of the exquisite works in Ten Poems to Change Your Life are by mystics well-known to spiritual seekers, including Rumi, Kabir and St. John of the Cross. But even the book's poems like Ode to My Socks by Pablo Neruda can reveal the divine in everyday life and connect the whole of existence to the right now moment of the living God.

Sources for content or practice: Ten Poems to Change Your Life by Roger Housden

Outline: Each week we will discuss a different selection from Ten Poems to Change Your Life. Using Housden’s wonderful interpretations and what each group member brings to the discussion, we will talk about what the poems bring up in us relating to the Work, as well as how the poems relate to contemplative life and practice, especially as revealed through the eyes and language of mystics from many eras and cultures.

Prerequisites for participants: current Centering Prayer practice, knowledge of the Work of Inner Christianity and regular attendance at Sunday services.

Facilitators: Tom Harvey and Loren Stell