

WISDOM CALLS

Fall/Winter 2018 • Vol. 25 No.3



“Seeking the Light”

Wisdom Calls is the
bulletin of the Queen of
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Regular Events

Gnostic Holy Eucharist

High Mass with Homily, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall, Celebrant
Every Sunday 11 AM

Our real nature is divine. Because we are divine, we have infinite strength and wisdom at our command, provided we can free ourselves of the obstacles in our personality, which stand in the way of our conscious union with the indwelling God.

The Holy Eucharist [or Mass] is so designed that it may remove the barriers separating the human and divine natures in ourselves. The Queen of Heaven Gnostic Church of the Ecclesia Gnostica invites all who seek this mystic union, to partake of the Eucharist, and of the other mysteries [sacraments] which it administers. No barrier of creed, race, or status is erected around the altar of the Gnosis. Please join us for this traditional and inspiring service.

Gnostic Healing Service - Every 2nd Sunday

On the 2nd Sunday of each month of this quarter the Gnostic Healing Service will be inserted into the regular Mass. The Healing Service includes a sacramental anointing with Holy oil and imposition of the hands, which constitutes one of the seven sacraments of the Gnosis. Please join us in receiving this special sacrament.

Sophia Service - Monthly

Sophia is the feminine emanation of the Divine and a Gnostic version of the Holy Spirit. Features of this service include the Blessing of the Rose & the Litany of Love. Please join with us in this inspiring ritual devoted to the Divine Feminine. Please see calendar of events for current dates. This is an evening ceremony beginning at 7pm on selected Fridays.

ALL EVENTS THIS QUARTER, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CHURCH ADDRESS, FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER IF PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, SO ARE WE

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Homily for the 1st Sunday of Advent

Seeking the Light

Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall

The First Sunday of advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. Like Lent, it is a penitential season and a preparation for a new cycle. Traditionally Advent is a time of fasting and praying. For the Gnostic the penitential seasons are a time for quiet introspection and self-reflection in preparation for the great festivals of Christmas and Easter.

Paramahansa Yogananda describes this inner work of preparation as a work of inner cleansing and purification.

“I will prepare for the coming of the Omnipresent baby Christ by cleaning the cradle of my consciousness and sense attachments; and by polishing it with deep, daily, divine meditation, introspection, and discrimination. I will remodel the cradle with the dazzling soul-qualities of brotherly love, humbleness, faith, desire for God, will power, self-control, renunciation and unselfishness, that I may fittingly celebrate the birth of the Divine Child.”

Seeking the light of Gnosis requires a permeability and openness to spiritual experience that is impossible for a consciousness that has not undergone some degree of purification. One of the keynotes of Christianity was the replacing of the earlier Mosaic laws of outward purification and dietary proscriptions with a practice of the inner purification of our hearts and minds, the purifying mysteries of the light. As described in the Book of Sophia:

“Do not desist from seeking by day and by night, until you find the purifying mysteries of the light,

which refine the body of matter and make it a pure light very refined.”

It is important that we not externalize what is an interior mystery of purification in our interpretation of this scripture. The key to this mystery is the word “light,” not the “body of matter.” That which we seek is the Light, and these inner mysteries of purification give birth to the body of light, which is also called the “diamond body” in many of the works of Buddhist literature. The refinement of the body of matter is an interior rather than objective perception. Much of this inner perception of the refinement of the body of matter is not all that pleasant. It looks and feels much like the alchemical process of putrefaction, and is rather gruesomely described in Buddhist meditations where one is to visualize the body of matter as a corpse in various stages of decay. Yet out of the putrefied blackness of the Nigredo, comes the purified whiteness of the Albedo, the crimson of the Rubedo, and eventually the royal Aurora, the “diamond body” of light, shining with all the colors of the rainbow.

The cycle of colors so important in the alchemical literature are not missing in the liturgical seasons of the Church either. The seasonal color of advent is violet. It signifies the qualities of purification as well as royalty. The Gospel of Thomas describes this quality of royalty, the true royal self-hood within each of us.

“Let him who seeks, not cease seeking until he finds, and when he finds he will be troubled, and when he has been troubled he will marvel, and he will reign over the All.”

The All in this logion is related to the Greek word for the Pleroma, the Fullness, but refers more directly to the entirety of our inner universe, in which the external and material world is but a part. Before we can

reign over the All, we must be troubled. When we begin to seek the Light, like Sophia who longs for the Light of the Unknown Father, we run into something, we experience a Fall, we are troubled. Our first confrontation with the unconscious causes a distress in the psyche, a wounding of the worldly ego as well as the discovery of the wounds we bear in our instinctual nature. In the Grail legends the Fisher-King is wounded in the thighs when he touches a fish. The fish is symbolic of a creature that comes from the watery depths of the unconscious. This initial contact with the unconscious represents the beginning of the process that C.G. Jung called "individuation." Even so, Advent, as the beginning of the liturgical year, signifies the beginning of the pathway of individuation as exemplified in the mythic story of the Messenger of Light, Jesus. The path of individuation is the journey of the soul, as it seeks its way to the place of apotheosis and rest, where it reigns over the All. In Advent we celebrate the coming of the Messenger of Light, as the Liberator and Way-shower who can guide us from the darkness of ignorance into the Light of Gnosis.

Besides being the color of royalty and the penitential season, violet is also the color most often attributed to the crown chakra, the crown of our true royal selfhood, the center of our spiritual connection with the Divine Self. Focusing on this divine center directs the psyche upward and inward away from external and material things. Advent signifies a period of introversion and preparation for the birth of the inner light at winter solstice. It is also a time of year that we give thanks for and sacrifice earthly and material things, in the giving of gifts, distributing to the poor, and concerning ourselves with righting the wrongs that we can and doing good to others.

The penitence of this season is related to its Latin root meaning "to alter" or "to change."

Penitence is not about wallowing in regrets and guilt feelings, nor relinquishing responsibility for developing our own spiritual connection with divinity; rather it is about working on the changes in ourselves and developing the individual conscience that will bring us closer to our indwelling divinity. Neither by following prescribed penances and morality, nor by projecting our faults onto others can we escape the necessity of dealing with our own evil impulses and shadow elements. Penitence is ultimately about Self-knowledge, knowing ourselves with all of our faults and weaknesses as well as our talents and strengths. Ultimately, we must confess ourselves to our own divine Self and forgive ourselves in our own contrition. The priestly absolution aids in releasing from our deep instinctual selves this repressed guilt, so that we can get on with the conscious work of repairing our connection with the divine Self and growing along the path of individuation. When we have forgiven ourselves, we will discover a much greater capacity for us to forgive others as well. The mercy and compassion of the Logos and Sophia become a heartfelt reality within us.

Seeking the light requires that we find the purifying mysteries of the light. Forgiveness is such a mystery of purification, as in order to truly forgive another we must let our old world-view and ego structures go. This relinquishment of fossilized perceptions leads to a death and rebirth experience. The Tibetan Book of the Dead describes the Clear Light, which is perceived directly after death. People that have had near death experiences report a brilliant light at the end of a tunnel. The Gnostics describe an inner light, an enlightenment, as the Gnosis of our true royal self. We are a part of and we come from the Clear Light. The inner light of our own being and the Great Light at the end of the tunnel are the same. The Gospel of Thomas states, "The Kingdom of Heaven

is within you and without you.” When we apprehend that inner light, when we experience the purifying mysteries of the light, we begin to see that light reflected in the external world. We begin to see a quality of magic and light in every being and event that we encounter in life. The time before Christmas is at once a solemn and very magical and joyous season. The veils between worlds are very thin. It is a time in the season when we can most easily see the light in nature and in other people.

Gnosis is not only seeing the light within oneself but seeing the same light in others. We come to simply recognize others who have beheld that light and we are recognized by them. The Gospel of Thomas reiterates, “If you know yourselves, then you will be known, and you will know that you are the sons of the Living Father.” The light that we perceive within shines into the world, not in ostentatious displays of holiness or evangelism, but in charity and compassion to those who come within our sphere of life. Our light guides us on the quest to heal the wound of the Fisher-King. We become masters of compassion, not in dwelling on “do goody” behavior, but in recognizing the Grail Castle when we are in it and bearing compassion for the wound of the Fisher-King when we behold it.

During the season of Advent we are most acutely aware of those less fortunate and in need. As we perceive the pain and suffering in the world, we can often feel overwhelmed with the immensity of the divine work of redemption. The Book of Sophia describes this work of redemption in marvelous simplicity, not as an external projection but as an inner mystery.

“Do to all men who come to you and believe in you and listen to your words what is worthy of the mysteries of the Light, give the

mysteries of the Light and do not hide them from them. For he who shall give life to a single soul and liberate it, besides the Light that is in his own soul, he shall receive other glory in return for the soul he has liberated.”

The most precious gift that we have to give in this work of redemption in the world is the offering of the mysteries of the Light, however we may attest to them, not by street corner evangelism or door to door proselytizing but by doing what is worthy of the mysteries of the Light to those who seek it and come to us. As one by one the Light is awakened in others, then the pain and suffering in the world can be a little ameliorated.

The season of advent is in many ways a troubling season. Yet amidst the troubling we can find the magic of hope and sharing that brings us to that leap into the rapturous amazement of the Pleroma. We can come to know the totality of the Self within us in our seeking and yearning for the divine light. During this advent season let us kindle a sense of wonder, an openness and permeability to the divine light shining in the darkness of this world. Let us not hide our own light under a bushel, but let it shine on the All.



Special Events

Fall/Winter 2018

OCTOBER

Sunday after St. Francis Day

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall

Sunday, October 7th 2018-11am

With his emphasis on counter-materialism and on charity to all creatures St. Francis is thought to have been very early influenced by Cathar sentiments. On this Sunday we will recite a special prayer for the blessing of the animals in remembrance of St. Francis' love and compassion for all creatures great and small.

Divination Night

Monday, October 8th 2018-7pm

All are invited to share an evening of discussion and divination. We will be doing tarot, angel cards, pendulums, etc. Come and join in. If you don't know how, come and learn!

Sunday after Templar Day

"Martyrdom of the Holy Templars"

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall

Sunday, October 14th 2018-11am

Near this date in 1314, Jacques deMolay, the Grand Master of the Templar Order, and many of his most highly placed knights were burned at the stake. Although the Templars have been the subject of much pseudo-historical legend, many have attested to their heirship of a dual tradition, one secret and esoteric, known only to a few, and the other corresponding to the orthodox Roman Catholicism of the time.

Sophia Service

Celebrant, Chrissy

Friday, October 19th, 2018-7pm

A celebration of the Divine Feminine. Come to receive the Blessing of the Rose.

20th Sunday after Trinity

"Serenity"

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall

Sunday, October 21st, 2018-11am

Sunday before All Saints Day

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall

Sunday, October 28th, 2018-11am

On this day we remember the great Heroes and Heroines of the Gnosis who have passed over the veil of Death. For the Gnostic, death to this world represents rebirth into a spiritual world that contains and penetrates all worlds. The Mighty Dead who have passed into another reality represent our forerunners in our spiritual quest for transcendence and liberation.

NOVEMBER

Sunday following All Souls Day

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall

Sunday, November 4th 2018-11am

On this day we will celebrate the Feast of All Souls with a Gnostic Requiem Eucharist. Prayers for the dead not only assist the souls of those who have passed over into another reality, but also assist those who pray for them here on earth.

(You are welcome to bring a small photo to place on the mantle before Mass to commemorate your loved ones.)

24th Sunday after Trinity

"The Truth That Makes Free"

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall

Sunday, November 11th, 2018-11am

CHAPEL CLEANING DAY

Sunday, November 11th 2018/2-5pm

All help is appreciated preparing the chapel for Advent, refreshments will be provided.

Divination Night

Monday, November 12th 2018-7pm

All are invited to share an evening of discussion and divination.

Sophia Service

Celebrant, Chrissy

Friday, November 16th, 2018-7pm

Come to receive the Blessing of the Rose

25th Sunday after Trinity
“Ultimate Freedom”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, November 18th, 2018-11am

Sunday Next before Advent
“Adoration of God”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, November 25th 2018-11am

DECEMBER

Advent Sunday
“Seeking the Light”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, December 2nd 2018-11am

2nd Sunday in Advent
“The God Within”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, December 9th 2018-11am

Sophia Service
Celebrant, Chrissy
Friday, December 14th 2018-7pm
Come to receive the Blessing of the Rose

3rd Sunday in Advent
“Nature of the Redeemer”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, December 16th 2018-11am

4th Sunday in Advent
“Recognition of the Messenger”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, December 23rd 2018-11am

Christmas Eve Mass
“Nativity of the Divine Light”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Monday, December 24th 2018-10:30pm
Christmas Eve celebration with High Mass & the lighting of the Christmas Candle. Join us for an evening of carols and other sacred music. Tonight's donations will go to charity.

Sunday after Christmas Day
“Incarnation of the Redeemer”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, December 30th 2018-11am

JANUARY

Epiphany

Sunday of the Epiphany
“Divine Guidance”
Sunday, January 6th 2019-11am
Epiphany commemorates the appearance of the Light of Christ to the World. We celebrate Epiphany to acknowledge and give thanks for the treasured glimpses of the Light in our lives and the appearance of the Christ in us.

Ritual practice for the evening will start at 5:00 pm. Please attend the rehearsal if you want to be on the ritual team for Epiphany.

Special Epiphany Service
“Baptism of Our Lord”
Sunday, January 6th 2019-7pm
(The evening event will be followed by the Epiphany Party)
Tonight we will celebrate the Epiphany with the special service adapted from the baptismal Rite of Abrametho found in the Bruce and Askew codices. Some Gnostics claim that the Christ fully descended into Jesus at his Baptism in the River Jordan.

Those who wish to obtain baptism on this occasion need to contact Father Steven at 503 233 0854 as soon as possible.

We will be holding our annual holiday party after the evening service. There will be a gift exchange at the party. Please bring a gift suitable for either male or female, \$10.00 or less.

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
“Desire for Liberation”
Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, January 13th 2019-11am

Divination Night
Monday, January 14th 2019-7pm
All are invited to share an evening of discussion and divination.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
"Sincerity"

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, January 20th 2019-11am

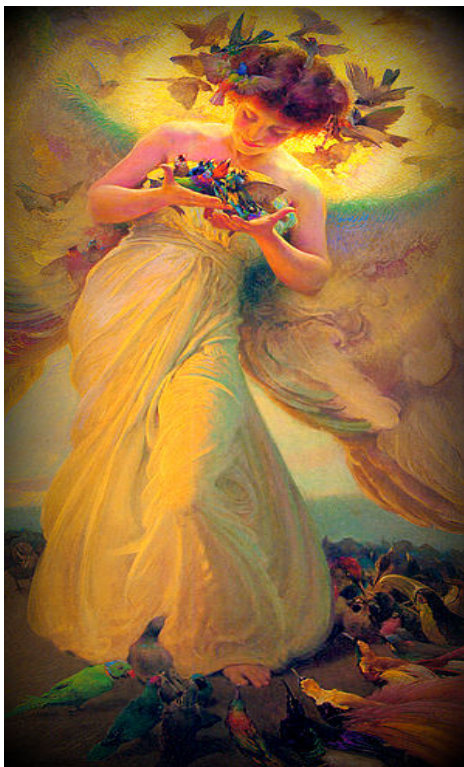
Sophia Service

Celebrant, Chrissy
Friday, January 25th, 2019-7pm
Come to receive the Blessing of the Rose

4th Sunday after Epiphany

"The Overcoming of Sorrow"

Celebrant, Rt. Rev. Steven Marshall
Sunday, January 27th 2019-11am



CHURCH NEWS:

Congratulations to Chrissy who, on July 22nd, Sunday, the feast day of the Holy Mary of Magdala, was ordained to the order of reader.

Congratulations to Quinton who, on July 22nd, Sunday, the feast day of the Holy Mary of Magdala, was ordained to the order of doorkeeper.

Blessings on Chrissy and Quinton in their continued service to the Gnosis.

Our annual Sophia Festival was a great success. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the event and special thanks to Jessica for coordinating the food.

Fr. Steven recently returned from a long overdue trip to Los Angeles with greetings to our Portland parish from all the clergy and friends of the Ecclesia Gnostica in our Diocesan Center there.

***Please remember the Queen of Heaven
Gnostic Church will close any time
Portland Public Schools are closed due
to inclement weather. Check for
announcements on our Facebook page.***

Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 24th, 2018

10:30 PM

Christmas Eve celebration with High Mass & the lighting of the Christmas Candle to magnify the Nativity of the Divine Light within us. Join us for an evening of carols and other sacred music. Tonight's donations will go to charity.



Epiphany Sunday, January 6th, 2019

11:00am (morning service) & 7:00pm (evening ritual)

Evening event will be followed by our annual party. Please see Events calendar page (January) for more information. If you would like to be part of the evening ritual team you need to attend rehearsal before the evening service. We are looking forward to seeing you!



Chapel Cleaning Day, November 11th, 2018

11:00am (morning service) & 1:00 – 4:00 pm (Cleaning)

Please stay after the morning service to polish some brass, dust some furniture or other actions to spruce up the chapel for the holidays. If you can offer an hour or two of your time, it would be greatly appreciated. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be provided.



Note: The Queen of Heaven Gnostic Church is a parish of the Ecclesia Gnostica, a Christian Gnostic Sacramental Church, with its headquarters based in Los Angeles, CA. As a sacramental, liturgical church, we employ chant, candles, incense, bells, vestments, and other accoutrements for the purpose of elevating consciousness out of the ordinary. The structure and content of our liturgies are age old and inspired by the practices and metaphorical writings of the early gnostics of the 1st through 4th centuries.

We continue an established and recognized, apostolic tradition without moralizing judgments or dogmatic statements of belief in a setting that fosters mystical inquiry and spiritual understanding. We retain the early gnostic practice of ordaining women on an equal basis with men and revere the feminine aspect of Deity in the fashion of our Gnostic forebears.

For more information please visit www.gnosticchurchportland.org

And the Gnostic Archives: www.gnosis.org