



## Pathways Monthly Prayer Readings

December 2024

Tuesday, December 3  
Contemplative Sit

**Caryll Houselander** (1901 – 1954) was a British religious artist, mystic, popular religious writer and poet.

*We do not have to discover in which of several people Christ is to be found;  
we must look for Him in them all.  
And not in an experimental spirit, to discover whether He is in them . . .  
but with the absolute certainty that He is. . .  
Christ does not choose to be known through outward appearances –  
even the appearance of virtue.* Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God

Wednesday, December 4  
Lectio Divina

John’s father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied...  
You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.  
You will tell his people how to be saved  
through the forgiveness of their sins.  
Because of our God’s deep compassion,  
the dawn from heaven will break upon us,  
to give light to those who are sitting in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide us on the path of peace.” Luke 1:67, 76-79 (CEB)

Thursday, December 5  
Centering Prayer

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,  
and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.  
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight –  
indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:1 (NRSV)

Tuesday, December 10  
Contemplative Sit

*The way to begin healing the wounds of the world  
is to treasure the Infant Christ in us;  
to be not the castle but the cradle of Christ;  
and, in rocking that cradle to the rhythm of love,  
to swing the whole world back into the beat of the Music of Eternal Life.*  
  
Caryll Houselander, Wood of the Cradle, Wood of the Cross: The Little Way of the Infant Jesus

<p>Wednesday, December 11 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:15-16 (CEB)</p>
<p>Thursday, December 12 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>You are my deliverer, O God! I trust you and am no longer afraid of you – you are my strength and my refuge. You are my deliverer. Isaiah 12:2 (The Inclusive Bible)</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 17 Contemplative Sit</p>	<p><i>In this great fiat of the little girl Mary, the strength and foundation of our life of contemplation is grounded, for it means absolute trust in God, trust which will not set us free from suffering but will set us free from anxiety, hesitation, and above all from the fear of suffering. Trust which makes us willing to be what God wants us to be, however great or however little that may prove. Trust which accepts God as illimitable Love.</i></p> <p>Caryll Houselander, <u>The Reed of God: A New Edition of a Spiritual Classic</u></p>
<p>Wednesday, December 18 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” Luke 1:41-45 (NRSV)</p>
<p>Thursday, December 19 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>O God, return to us – Let your face smile on us, And we will be saved! Psalm 80:3 (The Inclusive Bible)</p>

“The modern world’s feverish struggle for unbridled, often unlicensed, freedom is answered by the bound, enclosed helplessness and dependence of Christ—Christ in the womb, Christ in the Host, Christ in the tomb.”  
Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God: A New Edition of a Spiritual Classic

“No one can be so recollected, so tranquil, that he can be a contemplative in the world, a contemplative of Christ in his own heart, unless at the very outset he finds a cure for fear.”

Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God

“There must be a period of gestation before anything can flower. If only those who suffer would be patient with their early humiliations and realise that Advent is not only the time of growth but also of darkness and hiding and waiting, they would trust, and trust rightly, that Christ is growing in their sorrow, and in due season all the fret and strain and tension of it will give place to a splendour of peace.”

Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God: A New Edition of a Spiritual Classic

“If you leave a thought, a chance word, a phrase of music, in your mind, growing and cherished for its proper reason, you will have the wisdom or peace or strength that was hidden in that seed.”

Caryll Houselander, The Reed of God: A New Edition of a Spiritual Classic