

Center for Contemplative Prayer
United in Prayer Day "Healing Violence" March 17, 2018
St. John's Plymouth, Prayer Session 9:30 - 10:00am

Welcome:

Reading:

"My particular theory ... is that our moment in history is part of a much larger movement. We might even call it a cosmic movement, in which, having achieved the great accomplishment of reaching the rational level of consciousness, we are being challenged to move to yet another level of consciousness. This higher level is one that will generalize throughout the consciousness of the human family the intuition of the oneness of all that is. It will enable the collective suffering of the human family to find its meaning in contributing a new and in-depth understanding of life to future generations. It will also provide a more realistic and honest relationship with ourselves, God, other people, the planet Earth, and all creation.

"In Christian terms, this new moment in history is an invitation to enter into the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. Although violence in the world seems to have increased in recent centuries, this violence is not meaningless or worthless. It may be the necessary preparation for a change of consciousness leading to a new level of maturity in the human family as a whole – attitudes that will lead to a much greater concern for every member of the race, past, present, and to come.

"... This is the contemplative view of the situation in which we find ourselves, one drawn from the mysteries of our Christian faith. ... [It's] the sense that the human family as whole has not yet come of age. The majority of its members have yet to reach the full level of rational consciousness that would enable them to resolve conflicts by negotiation, compromise, forgiveness and mutual respect. ... [W]e can see how deeply our human family needs to be called out of its lethargy and indifference, its acceptance of evil and violence, and its toleration of the inequalities that exist throughout the world."

- Thomas Keating, *The Transformation of Suffering: Reflections on September 11 & The Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee*

Reflect silently.

Share or pass reflection on this passage by Thomas Keating.

Read passage:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. - Matthew 5: 3 – 11

Begin Centering Prayer Session: 15 minute sit.

After Centering prayer, take a moment to go around the circle and lift up the person to your right in prayer.