

Inspiration

A Guide for the Mystical Journey

Easter's Experience in Us

The Living Christ

Easter Retreat

Meet Janet and Robert McGurk

Winter/Spring, 2007
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Dear Friends and Spiritual Family,

How blessed we are to have Christmas just before the start of a new year. I still feel the warmth of the Christ's love, which spread throughout the world on Christmas Eve night. His message to me was clear: *My Spirit soars through those who are awake.*

Here at Questhaven, we experienced a purifying rain the two weekends prior to Christmas. It was certainly part of the earthly cleansing in preparation for His coming. Two days following Christmas, we had the most marvelous windstorm. There was a definite call to be swept clean of self as the coming new year approached taking only the love of Christ we just experienced forward in our lives anew.

This new year represents the number "nine"

on Pythagoras' numerology charts. While this number holds the promise of initiation and enlightenment, it certainly calls for a change in who we are or who we think we are. It is a time to drop the old and usher in the new. May His spirit soar through each of us as we discover what that means in our own spiritual journey, as well as that of the Ministry.

It is time for each of us to pick up our spiritual steps as we approach Easter. This time of year reflects our walk of mastery as we work to overcome the little traits of character and living that are holding us back—the parts of ourselves that need to be released in the name of Christ. Flower terms this *the thirty-three steps to spiritual maturity*. On June 6, 1965, she gave a meaningful talk on this subject. We are going to use this talk, which is now on CD, as our guide and resource as we navigate the life currents through Lent. The enclosed article about Easter will explain how one can receive a copy as we, together, throughout this world, unite our efforts to perfect ourselves through the Living Christ Presence. What a glorious adventure awaits us!

How grateful I am to have a spiritual family that spans the world in which to take these steps together. Although it is quite possible for us as individuals to make headway in our journey, together we are mighty. Together, our efforts create spiritual energy united under the common archetype we all strive toward. This archetypal thought form is bigger and stronger than we could create on our own. The Great Ones on the inner add their impetus and blessings to it, and again we draw from it. May our united striving and love for Christ keep our flames lit and our efforts steadfast, as we ascend the steps of self toward the promise of Easter.

A master serving Christ and our world on the inner planes once told an individual, through Flower, “Your life should be spent learning, receiving, and being active in the radiations of the Light splendid.” Through this endeavor, she would make herself more prepared to serve the Christ Cause in this world.

What a wonderful thought to take with us in the weeks ahead! May the blessings of transformation in this nine year be upon you, as you walk wide-awake in *the Light splendid*.

Your Brother in Christ,
The Reverend Blake Isaac



We can emerge from self-made
tombs through—

Easter's Experience in Us

by The Reverend Flower A. Newhouse



Rev. Flower A. Newhouse,
founder of
Questhaven Retreat, in 1979.

Easter rekindles our awareness of great spiritual realities. This day we shall so endeavor to celebrate the memorial of Christ's resurrection that we shall know resurrection also from earthly habits that have fettered us. Our earnest prayer is that more of Christian devotion and faith shall germinate from this year's reverent honoring of Easter's occasion.

The moving power behind Christianity is its unequalled Exemplar. Jesus has left with those who love Him the command to recreate the world into a civilization of brotherhood. We trust to conquer a continent for the Christ, the Africa of our own unfinished natures. A large portion of this humanity is indifferent to Christ because Christianity has not made its adherents very different from unbelievers. Although millions outside Christianity are not following the Christ, some of those who do profess Him are not better spiritually because they

have accepted Christianity as they have their nationality and social customs. We have all met persons of whom we said, "There is the living power of the Christ Spirit—there is Christianity in radiant expression in human form and compassionate interests." This is our urgent universal mission—to prove the Christ teaching in our own lives and then to help overcome the religious complacency and false attitudes which endanger the broadcast of Christ's teachings.

The entire focus of Christianity points to those realities which come before ourselves. Usually, man does not sense or appreciate those which do not pertain to his own personal life. Were he to patiently free this root-bound self-interest that he might consciously establish himself in the fields of God's care, he would say of each of his struggles with himself, "I am loosening this root from the old soil in order to place it in the new life of God."

We do not awaken to spiritual revelations except as we die to our lesser natures. The paramount influence of the Christ throughout the New Testament was his unselfishness. When God-interest replaces self-interest we are practicing, "Deny thyself and take up thy cross and follow me." The end of this determined self-denial is sure: "Whoever shall save his life shall lose it and whoever shall lose his life for my sake will find it."

Meister Eckhart has written, "Indeed, if a man gave up a kingdom or even the whole world and still was selfish, he would have given up nothing. If, however, he denies himself, then whatever he keeps, be it wealth, honor, or anything else, he is free from it all.... To that

extent that you have eliminated *self* from your activities, God comes into them—but no more and no less. Begin with that and let it cost you your uttermost. In this way, and no other, is true peace to be found.”

To me, the meaning of Easter as related to man is our deliberate rising from the tomb of former enslavement to walk freely into the new life of God’s recognition. It is not simply believing in Christianity, it is embracing and practicing it, despite our inward struggle.

As we have already noted, our major work is to turn the attention from self to God, and this is a major labor which usually occupies a lifetime. We seldom realize how much our comforts and our complacency in social relationships, studies and business reveal self-love.

Next to our endeavors in striving to deny ourselves harmful and selfish actions, we should analyze what continues the tombstone in our characters which needs to be rolled away. Let us examine what we are doing, how we are living, eating, dressing, and working. Do any of our activities cloud our communication with God? How worldly-minded are we, how self-indulgent and self-willed?

If what we find within us is impure, weak, or gross, we are in need of changing. Usually, our conscience troubles us when there are two issues we are not facing—fulfilling a duty which has been ours to do but which has not been done; and carrying obligations which we are unwilling to bear. In regard to these trying issues, we have the alternatives of either sidestepping our duties entirely, or we may increase our strength, meet our obligations, and complete our duties. It would be Christ’s way to increase His strength by prayer, for the inspiration that came from that communication would invigorate Him.

Our need is to keep our living in right proportions. There must be no unevenness, no inequalities, and no blurring of our clear, wholesome, and vigorous spiritual endeavor.

The Resurrection was the start of many wondrous events—close fellowship with His disciples, the strengthening of Christianity, and the slow but moving force of enlightenment which has blessed the entire earth.

Into whatever group Jesus came, He brought a new self-knowledge, a vital desire to change oneself from what one was to what God wished him to be.

Christ has also been our Initiator, ushering us into a higher phase of life. Paul declared, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above.” “Ye have been born the image of the earthly, so shall ye also bear the image of the heavenly.”

When the tomb is opened and we are conscious of a new freedom, we feel that the fog which had settled about us is gone. Our stubborn habits are regretted, and all of life has a new quality.

We, being reborn, can encourage our spiritual brothers, friends, and co-workers, and their needs will increase our spiritual incentives and strengths. The purpose by which we live will be to broadcast the Christ influence and to widen and increase His joy and glory in mankind.

Meet Janet and Robert McGurk

by The Reverend Susan S. Cary

Janet and Robert McGurk have been part of the Questhaven family from their early years, Janet from childhood and Robert from his young adulthood. With a name like McGurk, it's no surprise that Robert grew up in an Irish Catholic family of two boys and three girls. Attending Stockton's parochial schools for twelve years, his instruction was guided by Dominican nuns through the elementary school, supplemented by lay teachers when the supply of Sisters diminished. He continued his Catholic education with four years at a Jesuit college.



Then, sensing a need for more mysticism than offered by Catholicism, he studied Edgar Cayce's readings. This led to joining charismatic groups which allowed "Singing in the Spirit" --- spontaneous spiritual singing. Books with a mystical flavor next drew him, especially those written by Eva Bell Werber.

During the Vietnam War he was drafted into the service as a conscientious objector and trained as a medic. One night during basic training he sat reading in the barracks stairwell, which had the only light. He found another soldier sharing that light, reading a book by the same author, Eva Bell Werber. The soldier was Peter Hein, who later introduced Robert to Questhaven and Flower Newhouse. Separated during the war, they reconnected when Robert visited southern California following military service. Peter, a regular here, gave Robert a tour of Questhaven, introducing him to members of its youth group. Robert had been praying for direction in work and finding a nice wife.

After his employment took him to Colton he began commuting to Questhaven on weekends. Meanwhile, the young people here plotted for him to meet Janet Boettger, who was away at college. They met at New Year. Their mutual attraction was such that they spent much of the

following Easter's Silent Saturday talking non-stop.

Janet confessed her difficulty in focusing attention on the true meaning of Easter that year because she was so enthralled with Robert. The outcome was their wedding between Christmas and New Year, 1973. For Robert, the marriage and securing the position he wanted at AAA were happy answers to his prayers. Janet, also a native Californian, lived in New Jersey for several years during elementary school. She loved the snowy winters there whereas her mother, Bette hibernated then. A bright side to this was that Bette attended Flower's lectures in New York City and sought her out when the family returned to southern California. It was Veda Day, Bette's sister, who introduced Bette to Flower.

This marked the beginning of the Boettger family's ties with Questhaven. Janet recalls her family as a close one – her parents, Bette and Ray, her older sister Joan, brother, Mark and Janet, the youngest. Weekly family nights were regular during her growing-up years. Bette, Joan and Mark formed a musical trio playing cello, flute and piano, respectively.

However, Janet chose a different artistic path—dance. She began instruction when in sixth grade with ballet lessons from Dorothe Bleth and modern dance with Renee Yerg. This opened the way for her to participate with Questhaven's temple dancers on a regular basis. Her pull toward dance was heightened while visiting the Mexican pyramids. Here she sensed she had danced in times past and felt drawn to continue this art form.

Janet's close childhood friend was Athene, Flower's daughter. Growing up with the Questhaven teachings. Janet found it difficult to understand that some people didn't believe in reincarnation. During the year before her marriage, Janet attended Pepperdine University, planning to major in psychology, but love had its way, and those plans were set aside.

Bob and Janet are parents of two fine young people, Michele and Paul. Both live elsewhere—Michele in South Dakota with her husband, Marc Mebius and their three-year-old daughter, Hazel. Brother Paul resides in San Francisco.

Because of the distances between them, getting together is difficult. To help compensate for this, Robert is purchasing and installing a videocam with their computer so that he and Janet can view their offspring and grandchildren while conversing by phone.

This couple has volunteered generously to Questhaven. Robert has served as an advisor to the Board of Trustees and is currently a board member. Additionally, he sings in the voice choir,

rings in the bell choir and is a steady worker for the monthly Servers in Action Days.

He looks forward to retirement in two years with its opportunities to travel. He and Janet hope to take a spiritual tour of Europe visiting Lourdes, Fatima, Assisi and King Ludwig's Castle. Also on the wish list are Egypt and the Caribbean Islands.

Janet's talent and generous spirit have motivated her to volunteer in a variety of ways. Through her love and gift for dance, she has spent countless hours choreographing, practicing and performing in that medium. Beyond that, she is one of the key technicians in the sound room. Assisting in the set up of the light-board in the church, she frequently works lights for performances.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of her serving in the office. Her job description extends beyond office work—she oversees the housekeeping of Casa de Angeles, Friendship House and all the cottages. At times, she must jump in to tidy one of the lodgings if it's been overlooked by the housekeeper. Flexibility is key for her.

Thank you, Robert and Janet, for your dedication to Christ and willing service to His work here.

“Quiet yourself and liberate yourself in order that, through emptying, you can be filled from the eternal wellsprings of spirit.”

Disciplines of the Holy Quest — The Reverend Flower A. Newhouse

Let us take this 2006 Christmas keynote received by a dedicated pray-er at midnight into our hearts as we spiritually reach to meet the coming year:

Behold! I make all things new.

EASTER AT QUESTHAVEN 2007

As nature awakens from her winter sleep and paints the hills of Questhaven Retreat with green, violet and yellow hues, we enter the holy season of Lent. Lent inspires us to look deep within and bring to light those traits of our character that need refining. Christ's model of character coaxes and inspires us ever onward in this process.

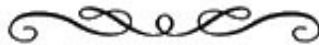
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 21, with the theme of "Thirty-three Steps to Spiritual Maturity." As each week of Lent unfolds, we will learn, contemplate and strive to live those positive aspects of selfhood that are required for spiritual maturity and masterhood.

On Friday, April 9, our Easter Retreat Weekend begins—ushered in with inspiring music from the voice and bell choirs, sacred drama and a Holy Communion Service. To those who consciously prepare themselves, the Act of Communion becomes an open path to Divine Power and bringing the Christ Within closer to our outer awareness.

Saturday, April 10, we spend the day walking the trails and communing with God amidst the beauty and peace of nature. A guided meditation in the Church, followed by a group discussion, adds additional sustenance to our day of contemplation.

One of the high moments of Easter at Questhaven is the Sunrise Service. Beginning our climb up the hill in darkness early Sunday morning, we pause at the "light stations" where inspirational quotes bring inner brightness to our hearts and lighten our trek upward. Finally, we reach the top of Inspiration Point, and in deep, reverent silence, await the light of dawn and the playing of the bells announcing, "Christ the Lord is risen today..."

The Retreat concludes with a service at 10:45 a.m. in the Church of the Holy Quest. The Reverend Jonathan Wiltshire will speak on "*Christ Victorious—Model of Our Becoming.*"



We will be using Flower's talk on "Thirty-three Steps to Spiritual Maturity" as our resource during Lent.

If you would like to join us, you can purchase a CD of this talk for \$5.00 plus shipping and handling. Please contact the office for more information.

The Living Christ

By The Reverend Hal Lingerman

The Lord Emmanuel, the living Christ, permeates our planet continuously with his cleansing emanations of love, light and healing. His radiant, strengthening presence shines into our lives as a continuum of mighty power, resonating from cosmic immensity into the intimate chambers of our hearts, bringing vital blessings of spiritual contact to all who will receive him. As the supreme catalyst to our own larger expression of God's divinity vibrating in us, the Christ quickens our consciousness with his finely tuned frequencies of energy. These dynamic potencies enrich and empower all world religions, philosophies, arts and cultures. As the earth's redeemer, Christ is like a blazing crown jewel of the cosmos, in whose brilliance many earth movements and approaches to God spark and intersect to find a creative convergence and synthesis in his inclusive, all-embracing love. It can truly be said about the immense, multi-faceted Christ that in Him we meet "both East and West, in Him both South and North, and in Him one great fellowship of love," expanding throughout this whole wide earth.



The Healing Hand of Christ by Robert Ayres

In the drama of the life, death, resurrection and abiding presence of Christ, the earth has been changed forever. With his heart-filling, outreaching love, Christ awakens and stimulates the divine expression that breathes in each of us. The living Christ, a caring presence and pulsating energy field in our midst, remains the major catalyst for our greater completion in God. Collaborating with many other advanced beings who inspire us from heavenly heights, the Christ as our wayshower abides with us throughout our lifetimes, calling us to "love one another" and deepen our attunement with the Creator.

The living Christ is a feeling Christ. His love and caring enter our lives continuously to bring a dynamic impetus for healing and transformation. He knows each of us intimately and completely; he knows our hearts and our deepest needs. Accepting us where we are, Christ embraces and encourages us to move forward into greater completeness.

He is never condescending or indifferent, and as we ourselves are willing to be more interested in others, sharing ourselves, and our talents according to the needs around us, we magnetize our lives to receive his transforming currents of intimate contact and regeneration.

Christ is a champion of persons, not sexes, genders or nationalities. Because of Christ, nearness grows between men and women: the sexes move increasingly toward deeper friendship and partnership. Likewise, in the spirit of the loving Christ, children will be increasingly valued. It is Christ who first championed the rights of children when he said, “Let them come unto me.” In a similar way Christ encourages sensitivity and love toward animals and the growing kingdoms of nature.

In his cosmic reach and vision, Christ has wiped away our fears of death. His appearances to persons have never stopped occurring, and today, more than ever, he proves his words, “Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.” As recent years have shown us, we are opening in consciousness to the celestial worlds and to the many mansions of light beyond earthly existence. I’m sure that more and more we will come to experience the great company of angels and those friends who eagerly await us when we earn our transition. Likewise, more persons than ever before are sharing their intimate experiences of Christ, who urges each of us to commune with him. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any person hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and dine with this person.” The greatest joy that we can experience is loving contact and close communion with the living presence of Christ. His friendship, which is honest, loving and true, brings deep fulfillment and profound intimacy, peace and continuous creative release in service to all.

Christ is the master craftsman, whose loving presence and wisdom teaching shape each of us according to our own individual needs as creations in God’s image. The living Christ is a Christ for all persons—collaborative, interested and eagerly participatory, as we invite him into our lives. He makes things happen, often quickly, wherever He is present. He can never be explained or contained by any theology or belief system. Reconciling all opposites, Christ so beautifully reveals to us his unlimited perfection and the living harmonies of His universality.

His loving confrontation and honest friendship stimulate our journey toward initiation and illumination. The Christ heals today, urging us in our own ways to move toward our needed resolutions. With eyes of unconditional love and forgiveness, the living Christ stands in our midst: our inexhaustible inspiration and friend forever.

Peace Eternal

Don't place value on anything whose outcome is not vital.
Give yourself alone to that which glorifies God.
Then nothing can possess you except God.
Nor can anything hurt you that is not God—
And you will know peace eternal.

Dr. Stephen Isaac



Lenten Meditations from the Bible

These should prove to be valuable aids to those who are seeking incentives for self-discipline:

“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

“I am the bread of life ... if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever.”

“Whoever shall drink of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.”

“Ye have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”

Ministry Moments

CHRISTMAS RETREAT: Beautiful sounds filled the Church of the Holy Quest Friday evening as the story of Jesus was presented, and sacred dancers honored our Lord Christ. For our candle-lighting service, the Christ Flame, passed by The Holy Family, went from candle to candle until His Bright Light encircled the church. We then joined together in carol-singing. On Saturday, a guided meditation, a potluck dinner and a professional performance of “Christmas Through the Ages” by the *Windsong* ensemble and dancers filled us with joy. A dynamic talk, music and sacred dance set the stage on Christmas Eve Sunday for a midnight watch in the church in preparation for the procession of the Christ and His message to the world.

ATOMIC RETREAT: On the weekend of November 17-19, a retreat was held to explore the world of the atoms. Starting with the writings of Flower on the atoms and the atomic treatment, we went on to learn what scientific advances have been made in the study of molecules and the energies they emit. Through meditation and creative expression each of us attempted to get in contact with the infinitesimal living forces within us. We came away from the weekend with a greater sense of appreciation for the Divine Artisan behind the initial impulse that created all life. Special thanks to Laurel Rivera who, with help from her husband Rafael, Randy and Rebecca Nixon, Jean Michalewicz, and Felice Reynolds, made this retreat possible.

WINDSONG PERFORMS LOCALLY: A group of musical performers from Questhaven recently had an opportunity to play at the California Center of Performing Arts, Escondido. Windsong performed with beautiful music and dance to represent Christmas through the ages. Special thanks to Rebecca Wright for organizing this event and to Dorothe Bleth for choreographing the dances. CDs are available in the office.

SPIRITUAL TRIP UPDATE: This is the final call for those wanting to join their spiritual family on a trip to Glacier National Park, Montana. Blake and Danielle Isaac will lead this trip of fellowship and spiritual renewal to experience God in this beautiful nature wonderland. Please contact the office for a flyer and more information if interested.

PLANNING MEETING: On November 2, twenty-six dedicated individuals gathered to discuss the future needs of this ministry. Keynotes were reviewed from master souls who gave their insights to The Reverend Flower A. Newhouse many years ago. Brainstorming followed on the ways we support the various rays of individuals, as well as discussing areas of opportunity to do more.

2007 Winter/Spring Program

Sunday Services begin at 10:45 a.m.

FEBRUARY

February 4	<i>Communion with God—as Revealed by Mystic Poets</i>	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
February 11	<i>Knowing God—New Insights from Science</i>	Rev. Susan S. Cary
February 18	<i>To Walk in the Wonder of God</i>	Rev. Myrna Triggs
February 25	<i>Steps to Maturity—Purification of Self</i>	Rev. Blake Isaac

MARCH

March 4	<i>Steps to Maturity—Breaking the Shell of Ego</i>	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire
March 11	<i>Steps to Maturity—The Way of Spiritual Trust</i>	Rev. Elizabeth Wood
March 18	<i>Steps to Maturity—Loving All Whom God Brings Us</i>	Rev. Blake Isaac
March 25	<i>Steps to Maturity—Creating Our Garments of Self-Control</i>	Lucy Wold

APRIL

April 1	<i>Lay Down Your Palms of Self Before Christ</i>	Rev. Phyllis Isaac
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EASTER RETREAT—April 6, 7, 8

Friday	7:30 p.m. :	Communion Service	
Saturday	:	A day of reflection on the Christ	
Sunday	10:45 a.m. :	<i>Christ Victorious—Model of Our Becoming</i>	Rev. Jonathan Wiltshire

April 15	<i>When We Say, “In His Name”</i>	Anne Hubbell
April 22	<i>Universality, an Inclusive Regard for the World and Its People</i>	Rev. Susan S. Cary
April 29	<i>Thoughts Have Power—Use Them Wisely</i>	Rev. Elizabeth Wood

Ongoing Activities—All are Invited

Please call the office for further information—760-744-1500

Meditations are held on Wednesday evenings in Chapelito at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in this time of reverent attunement that is led by Jean Michalewicz.

Wisdom Classes, led by the Reverend Blake Isaac, are held on alternating Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Chapelito.

Pranic Healing Clinics are held by Mary Clark, Ph.D. on the first Sunday of each month from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Academy.

Servers in Action Days are on the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. until noon.

Classes studying The Christward Ministry teachings include:

Mondays: (2nd and 4th) at 7:30 p.m. in Oceanside

Wednesdays: (1st and 3rd) at 1:30 p.m. in the Questhaven Academy

Special Announcements

Lenten Classes begin on Ash Wednesday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of the Holy Quest. The theme for the Lenten series is *The Thirty-Three Steps to Maturity*, which will lead us through the six classes on our path to mastery in preparation for Easter.

The Holy Quest III will be presented from **February 16—18**. Topics will include Meditation, Inner Worlds, Masters and Angels of Nature.

The Holy Quest II will be presented from **March 16—18**. Topics will include The Seven Aspects of God, The Historical Jesus/The Living Christ, The Seven Rays and The Power of Thought.

Plan ahead for a **Men's Retreat** on **May 19**.

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About the cover: Jonquil flowers on the grounds of Questhaven. Photo by Daryl Carlson.