
Contemplative Prayer Image Classics

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Prayers for Today InterVarsity Press

The much-beloved and most widely read of Merton's works, "New Seeds of Contemplation" covers a diverse range of subjects including faith, spiritual wonder, "the night of the senses," and renunciation.

The Heart of the World Image

A collection of classic and contemporary prayers, some derived from Scripture and others from the writings of Christian leaders throughout the centuries, this beautiful volume invites readers into a daily experience of closer intimacy with God. Each day's entry focuses on one of ten traditional types of prayer: * Prayers of Thanksgiving * Prayers of Confession * Prayers of Affirmation * Prayers of Petition * Prayers of Renewal * Prayers of Praise and Adoration * Prayers to Have Christ-like Character * Prayers for Wisdom and Guidance * Prayers of Intercession * Prayers of Surrender With 260 entries -- enough for every weekday of an entire year -- Prayers for Today guides readers through a unique kind of spiritual pilgrimage, a pilgrimage toward the very throne room of God. For any reader who's ever wanted more out of prayer or who's ever hungered for a greater sense of God's presence, Prayers for Today promises deepened communion with the One who treasures the words and longings of His people.

St. Thomas Aquinas Image

The Psalms, which Thomas Merton called "one of the most valid forms of prayer for men of all time," are the most significant and influential collection of religious poems ever written, summing up the theology of the Old Testament and serving as daily nourishment for the devout. Bread in the Wilderness sets forth Merton's belief that "the Psalms acquire, for those who know how to enter into them, a surprising depth, a marvelous and inexhaustible actuality. They are bread, miraculously provided by Christ, to feed those who have followed Him into the wilderness." Merton's goal in this moving book is to help the reader enter into the Psalms: "The secret is placed in the hands of each Christian. It only needs to be discovered and fulfilled in our own lives." The new ND Classic edition of Bread in the Wilderness faithfully reproduces the beautiful, large-format original 1953 New Directions books, created by the celebrated designer Alvin Lustig and lavishly illustrated throughout with photographs of a remarkable medieval crucifix at Perpignan, France.

Wonder, Fear, and Longing Image

This anthology contains the basic vision of Philo (c. 20 B.C.E.-50 C.E.), the greatest Jewish mystic, philosopher and theologian of the Graeco-Roman era.

Bread in the Wilderness (New Directions Classic) Image

Early Christian spirituality is a topic of enduring fascination today among scholars and general readers alike. Stories of hermits living in the desert in their pursuit of God catch our fancy. What motivated them and drew them to silence on their path to God? In this gracious tour, Norris J. Chumley introduces us to Hesychasm, or the practice of silence and contemplative prayer, and to the lives of its early practitioners. The reader is introduced to St. Anthony, St. Pachomius, Evagrius, St. John Climacus, and many others. Then, as only a teacher and mentor can, he opens up the important possibilities the practice has for today.

Where Prayer Flourishes Scepter Publishers

In our hectic lives, it's easy to forget that prayer is more about a conversation and experience with God than it is a request line. This book is an invitation to meaningful prayer. Through stories, images, contemplative exercises, poetry, classical prayers, and creative meditations on prayer, you'll explore ten human experiences where prayer originates: love, desire, fear, suffering, compassion, brokenness, rest, reflection, wonder, and gratitude.

On Prayer and the Contemplative Life Scepter Publishers

Now in a fully corrected edition, one of the true spiritual classics of the twentieth century. Published for the first time with an index and Cardinal Hans Urs von Balthasar's afterword, this new English publication of Meditations on the Tarot is the landmark edition of one of the most important works of esoteric Christianity. Written anonymously and published posthumously, as was the author's wish, the intention of this work is for the reader to find a relationship with the author in the spiritual dimensions of existence. The author wanted not to be thought of as a personality who lived from 1900 to 1973, but as a friend who is communicating with us from beyond the boundaries of ordinary life. Using the 22 major arcana of the tarot deck as a means to explore some of humanity's most penetrating spiritual questions, Meditations on the Tarot has attracted an unprecedented range of praise from across the spiritual spectrum.

Contemplative Enigmas Rowman & Littlefield

Thoroughly contemporary and pragmatic, this collection of essays provides a clear picture of Carmelite teaching while encouraging a journey of discovery and faith.

The Foundations for Centering Prayer and the Christian Contemplative Life Penguin

Using Zen parables and personal experiences, Rohr leads readers beyond the techniques of prayer

to a place where they can receive the gift of contemplation--and know that everything belongs.

Carmelite Prayer Paulist Press

The best-selling author of *The Wisdom Jesus* and *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene* demystifies the popular Christian meditation method rooted in contemplative prayer. Centering Prayer is the path to a wonderful and radical new way of seeing the world. It is not, as is sometimes thought, simply an act of devotional piety, nor is it simply a Christianized form of other meditation methods. Cynthia Bourgeault here cuts through the misconceptions to show that Centering Prayer is in fact a pioneering development within the Christian contemplative tradition. She provides a practical, complete course in the practice and then goes deeper to analyze what actually happens in Centering Prayer: the mind effectively switches to a new operating system that makes possible the perception of nonduality. With this understanding in place, she then takes us on a journey through one of the sources of the practice, the Christian contemplative classic *The Cloud of Unknowing*, revealing it to be among the earliest Christian explorations of the phenomenology of consciousness. Cynthia Bourgeault's illumination of the Centering Prayer path provides compelling evidence of how important the practice has become in the half-century since it first arose among American Trappist monks, and of its maturation and refinement over the ensuing years of sincere study and practice. It will resonate with beginners on the Centering Prayer path as well as with seasoned practitioners.

Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander Crossroad Publishing

Richard Foster weaves together stories from the mothers and fathers of the faith plus powerful encounters with God from his own life to describes the riches of meditative prayer. Here's the biblical teaching and step-by-step help you need to begin this time-honored prayer practice. A Renovaré Resource.

Meditations on the Tarot Canterbury Press

Despite signs in recent decades of a crisis in the Church, a countercurrent of intense interest in prayer and a close relationship with God is clearly at work today. A deeper esteem for contemplation has accompanied this turning to prayer, and many people desire spiritual direction and guidance. Written by a recognized expert on contemplative prayer, this book concentrates on the interior hardships experienced by souls who give themselves to God wholeheartedly. More than a summary of the symptoms of interior trial, these poignant observations are the fruit of the author's many years in retreat work. Personal experience, not simply knowledge of the spiritual tradition, inform his concise, carefully crafted comments. Throughout the book, the writing invites the reader to ponder the subject of spiritual darkness, perplexity, and other struggles in the spiritual life always in the light of the loving God, who draws souls into greater surrender to himself.

Centering Prayer Oxford University Press

A classic work by one of this century's most beloved spiritual writers now reissued. The inspirational writings of Henri Nouwen have touched millions of readers all over the world, and since his death in September 1996, widespread recognition of their enduring value has continued to grow. Now, after being unavailable for several years, Nouwen's *Clowning in Rome* is available again as an Image trade paperback. In this classic account of the time he spent in Rome, Nouwen offers reflections and spiritual insight characteristic of his best works. During the months in Rome, it wasn't the red cardinals or the Red Brigade who had the most impact on Nouwen, but the little things that took

place between the great scenes. In some ways, Nouwen discovered, the real and true story was told by the clowns he often saw in the city streets. In his own words, from the Introduction to *Clowning in Rome*: "The clowns are not the center of events. They appear between the great acts, fumble and fall and make us smile again after the tensions created by the heroes we came to admire. The clowns don't have it together--they are awkward, out of balance and left-handed, but--they are on our side. The clowns remind us with a tear and a smile that we are sharing the same human weakness. The longer I was in Rome, the more I enjoyed the clowns, those peripheral people who by their humble, saintly lives evoke a smile and awaken hope, even in a city terrorized by kidnapping and street violence."

Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening Crossroad

This book is the fruit of Fr. Dubay's many years of study and experience in spiritual direction and in it he synthesizes the teachings on prayer of the two great doctors of the Church on prayer--St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila--and the teaching of Sacred Scripture. But the teaching that Fr. Dubay synthesized is not collected from Teresa and John for contemplatives alone. It is meant for every Christian and is based on the Gospel imperative of personal prayer and the call to holiness. All the major elements of these great teachers are ordered, commented on and put in the context of their scriptural foundations. Here is an outstanding book on prayer and the spiritual life written by one of the best spiritual directors and retreat masters of our time, and based on the writings of the Church's two greatest mystical doctors.

Dialogues with Silence Moody Publishers

Thomas Merton's lectures to the young monastics at the Abbey of Gethsemani provide a good look at Merton the scholar. A Course in Christian Mysticism gathers together, for the first time, the best of these talks into a spiritual, historical, and theological survey of Christian mysticism—from St. John's gospel to St. John of the Cross. Sixteen centuries are covered over thirteen lectures. A general introduction sets the scene for when and how the talks were prepared and for the perennial themes one finds in them, making them relevant for spiritual seekers today. This compact volume allows anyone to learn from one of the twentieth century's greatest Catholic spiritual teachers. The study materials at the back of the book, including additional primary source readings and thoughtful questions for reflection and discussion, make this an essential text for any student of Christian mysticism.

A Course in Christian Mysticism Ignatius Press

Chesterton's customary wit and engaging storytelling provide a brief but vivid profile. He focuses on the saint's life, rather than on theology, to illustrate Thomas's relevance to modern readers.

Everything Belongs New Directions Publishing

This anonymous fourteenth-century text is the glory of English mysticism, and one of the most practical and useful guides to finding union with God ever written. Carmen Acevedo Butcher's new translation is the first to bring the text into a modern English idiom—while remaining strictly faithful to the meaning of the original Middle English. *The Cloud of Unknowing* consists of a series of letters written by a monk to his student or disciple, instructing him (or her) in the way of Divine union. Its theology is presented in a way that is remarkably easy to understand, as well as practical, providing advice on prayer and contemplation that anyone can use. Previous translations of the Cloud have

tended to veil its intimate, even friendly tone under medieval-sounding language. Carmen Butcher has boldly brought the text into language as appealing to modern ears as it was to its original readers more than five hundred years ago. Also included in the volume is the companion work attributed to the same anonymous author, *The Book of Privy Counsel*, which contains further advice for approaching God in a way that emphasizes real experience rather than human knowledge. To learn more about the author, visit her website: carmenbutcher.com

Beginning Contemplative Prayer Liguori Publications

A primer for those who are interested in exploring the fundamentals of contemplative prayer, this book takes readers through four stages of contemplation and introduces them to a variety of prayer forms that have been used in the contemplative tradition.

Remain in Me-- Harper Collins

Contains *The Cloud of Unknowing*, *The Mystical Theology of Saint Denis*, *The Book of Privy Counselling*, and *An Epistle on Prayer*. Against a tradition of devotional writings which focussed on knowing God through Christ's Passion and his humanity, these texts describe a transcendent God who exists beyond human knowledge and human language. These four texts are at the heart of medieval mystical theology in their call for contemplation, calm, and above all, love, as the way to understand the Divine.

Fire Within Ave Maria Press

Saint Paul's command to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17) can seem impossible for the average Christian living in the middle of this hectic contemporary world. Yet his words are intended as much for those of his time as those of today, and as much for those who labor at home or in the office as for those in monasteries. Indeed, the Catechism of the Catholic Church professes the contemplative life, or in other words, a life of constant prayer, as both necessary and attainable.