

Sermon Series

—

(Un)Ordinary Time



Psalm 13



**"How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?"**

Psalm 13:1-2 (NIV)

How long?

“How long will prejudice blind vision?”

“When will justice reign?”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Matthew 10:40-42



Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

Matthew 10:40-42 (NIV)

In welcoming one another into our hearts, Jesus tells us that we are welcoming Him into our hearts—welcoming God. It's the old paradox, that in giving you receive. It is in losing your life that you find it. It is in welcoming others that you experience Jesus' welcome.

Rev. Marcea Paul

We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger. Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing.

Matthew 10:40-42 (The Message)

**How long? Not long, because “Mine eyes
have seen the glory of the coming of the
Lord.”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

The Way of Contemplation & The Way of Action



Psalm 89



**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of
your throne;**

love and faithfulness go before you.

**Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.**

**They rejoice in your name all day long;
they celebrate your righteousness.**

**For you are their glory and strength,
and by your favour you exalt our horn.**

Psalm 89:14-17 (NIV)

**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of
your throne;**

love and faithfulness go before you.

**Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.**

**They rejoice in your name all day long;
they celebrate your righteousness.**

**For you are their glory and strength,
and by your favour you exalt our horn.**

Psalm 89:14-17 (NIV)

**How long, Lord? Will you hide yourself
forever?**

Psalm 89:46

***Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative
Practices of the Black Church***
by Dr. Barbara A. Holmes

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JOY UNSPEAKABLE



contemplative practices
of the black church

Barbara A. Holmes

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**Contemplation: an engagement with God's
*omnipresence.***

Barbara A. Holmes

Omnipresence (*omnis* + *praesens*)

***Omnis*: all, every, the whole, abundant**

***Praesens*: at hand, within reach**

Omnipresence (*omnis* + *praesens*)

"abundantly within reach"



Centering Prayer
Lectio Divina
The Jesus Prayer

“[Contemplation] is not an escape from the din of daily life; rather, it requires full entry into the fray but on different terms.”

Barbara A. Holmes

“As I see it, the task is threefold. First, the human spirit must connect to the Eternal by turning toward God’s immanence and ineffability with yearning..”

Barbara A. Holmes

First: Turning Towards (God's Omnipresence)

“Second, each person must explore the inner reality of her humanity, facing unmet potential and catastrophic failure with unmitigated honesty and grace.”

Barbara A. Holmes

Second: Encounter and Examine

“Finally, each one of us must face the unlovable neighbour, the enemy outside of our embrace, and the shadow skulking in the recesses of our own hearts. Only then, can we declare God’s perplexing and unlikely peace on earth.”

Barbara A. Holmes

Third: Face the Shadow, Face Each Other

“If we’re engaged in true, pure contemplative practice, we will be compelled to engage.”

Phileena Heuertz

**“Action is the stream and contemplation is
the spring.”**

Thomas Merton

Howard Thurman

Contemplation = Engaging the “Inward Sea”

“It may twist and turn, fall back and stumble over...hindering rocks. But at last the river must answer the call to the sea.”

Howard Thurman

“[Contemplation] awakens an actionable love...a ‘fire shut up in the bones’ that inspires action.”

Barbara A. Holmes

“The movement of the Spirit of God...often calls [people] to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making.”

Howard Thurman