

GUIDED PRACTICE GROUPS

learn • practice • connect • grow

Advent // Coming & Becoming

The Transforming Power of God's Word Made Flesh

Advent is when we recall the Son of God becoming man for us. It is also a time when God invites us to become more fully the Word of God He spoke us forth to be (Ephesians 1:3-4). To help us, our Guided Practice Group will combine two powerful practices: Lectio Divina and the Advent Lectionary scriptures.

The simple classic, *The Transforming Power of Lectio Divina*, by Maria Tasto, coupled with the Advent Lectionary Scriptures, will guide our journey of “coming into” who God spoke us forth to be.



“It is a transforming moment as we come to know ourselves as one of God's words who is to mirror God's Word as expressed in the Scriptures. It is an experience 'which, at one and the same time, reveals God's life in us and our life in God.'”

~ Sister Maria Tasto,
The Transforming Power of Lectio Divina, pg 78.

- **WHO:** Guided Practice Groups is an initiative of Clergy/Leaders *School of the Spirit's* second mile mentoring project in strategic partnership with the United Methodist Foundation of Western NC. Its purpose is to support SOS alumni and the congregations and organizations they serve. The group is limited to 40 participants. All are welcome.
- **WHEN AND WHERE:** *The Transforming Power of Lectio Divina: How to Pray With Scripture* coupled with the Advent Lectionary Scriptures is a six-session online experience that starts Tuesday, November 22 through December 27; 5:00 - 6:15 pm.
PLUS a closing in-person mini-retreat at Starrette Farm in Statesville NC, Sunday, January 8, 3:00 - 7:30 pm. We will celebrate Epiphany, as the Wise Men, kneeling.
- **COST:** Valued at \$75, offered on a sliding scale as you are able (\$35 — \$55 — \$75)
Cost includes planning, preparation, facilitation, closing retreat meal, support materials, weekly practice/connection emails, leadership, and technology hosting expenses.
- **TO REGISTER:** registration is managed by The Lydia Group, LLC, a resource for spiritual formation/retreats. Register at: thelydiagroup.com/sos/advent2022
- **FOR QUESTIONS** and for further details, reach out to GPG coordinator, Nancy Bellamy, SOS 9, at nancy@StarretteFarmRetreat.com / (336) 971-7275.

DRAWN INTO LOVE: The transformative power of the Word of God knows no limits if we are open and faithful. “*On her deathbed, with little of her own energy left, Betsie (ten Boom) whispered to Corrie (her sister): ‘Corrie, we must tell people what we have learned here. We must tell them that there is no pit so deep that [God] is not deeper still. They will listen to us, Corrie, because we have been here.’*”

Through our time together, using the book *The Transforming Power of Lectio Divina* by Maria Tasto and the Advent Lectionary Scriptures — when Love came down — you’ll learn:

PRACTICES OF PREPARATION

- Preparatory attitudes for reading God’s divine word // The Vestibule
- Practices for hearing with the ear of your heart
- Practices for holy/wholly listening to God and each other
- Practices to dwell in possibilities as you recognize the presence and action of God in the scriptures of your life (Lectio on Life)

SPECIFICALLY

- Become *more deeply aware* of God’s call at this time in your life
- Allow God’s word to *stretch you*. The Word of God is constantly pulling us forward, stretching us, challenging us to greater awareness, always characterized by interior freedom and new intuitive knowledge of God
- Nurture the *word you are meant to be*. As we listen and integrate the deeper meaning of God’s Word into our lives, it cuts through to our very essence.
- Notice and respond to God’s *sacred invitation to be the Word, as Jesus made flesh*
- Interact with a *vibrant, ecumenical community* of fellow Christians led by seasoned contemplative leaders. You’ll have time to ask questions, live into and out of the course material, and celebrate the Spirit’s work in your life.

“*The Spirit within us enlightens us and takes us from what is most outward to what is most inward. The Spirit brings us into the abiding presence of God. ‘When we are in the unitive understanding of Scripture, the outward word confirms what we already know and experience’ (Keating). When we are gifted with these moments of oneness, we are drawn into the Trinity. Participating in this mystery, ‘Christ-consciousness is so pervasive we pass through the low door of humility and take off hats and refrain from any speculation and bow in realization’ (Funk).*”

So be it.

~ Maria Tasto, *The Transforming Power of Lectio Divina* (p. 60-61)

