



## Celebrating the Light

It is an interesting testament about humanity that so many celebrations of light are held around the darkest time of the year. To me, it reflects an inner knowing and eternal optimism that light is always present and, even in dark times, will return.

This year could certainly qualify as a dark night of the soul year. And yet, we work out—if not always elegantly—ways to deal with current circumstances and to continue forward. I believe we're in a period of humanity expanding its awareness and experience of light; and light always creates shadow when it encounters objects. Light shows the places that are not currently in light. In terms of consciousness, we can see the places—the obstacles—where we, individually and collectively need to allow more light in.

**“Instead of blaming the darkness,  
you bring in the light.”**

**~ Eckhart Tolle**

It is important to recognize, as did our ancestors, that the light is already present. We don't need to force it or create it. We allow the light within and all around us to express. We remove whatever barriers we, or others, may have placed in the way. As we explored in November, we become conduits for the Divine, including the Light.

In this month's talks, we'll explore embracing the shadow which always occurs when light shines onto objects. We'll prepare ourselves to cultivate that light, and we'll experience what seems like magic as we do. I look forward to a joyful, light-filled journey with you this month.

*~ Rev. David*

## Happenings

*Hello December*

### Sunday Mornings

**Zoom: 789 699 326**

**Meditation: 10:45 a.m.**

**Service: 11 a.m.**

### Senior Minister

**Rev. David Robinson**

**New Classes & Sacred  
Circles Coming in 2021**

~

**When Will You Get Your  
Heart Connection Call?**

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## Sunday Talk Titles

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **Welcoming the Shadow**

Light always creates shadow. We can deny it, ignore it, fight it or welcome it.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Preparing the Way**

We awaken to the Christ Consciousness, the Light within us

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Cultivating the Light**

Light shines into darkness without conflict or fear. It just shines.

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**

### **Making Magic**

Working in alignment with the Law of Mind, we create joyous, magically enchanted lives.



**Brent Pendleton ,  
Amy Shephard  
& Shani Banai, our beloved  
Music & Sound Team**

### **Core Council**

Rev. David Robinson, *Spiritual Leader*  
Buffie Finkel, *President*  
Teri Ecterling, *Vice President*  
Larry Gilliam, *Treasurer*  
Jean Hill-Miller, *Secretary*  
Christi Johnson, *Member at Large*  
Barbara Yanagimachi, *Member at Large*

Message Phone: (360) 255-7878

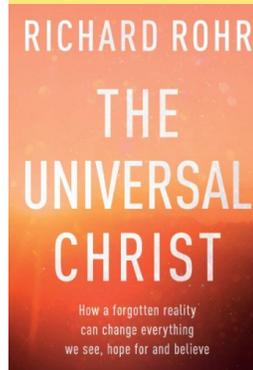
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[www.facebook.com/csloly](http://www.facebook.com/csloly)

Website: [www.cslolympia.org](http://www.cslolympia.org)

## Books of the Month



In his decades as a globally recognized teacher, Richard Rohr has helped millions realize what is at stake in matters of faith and spirituality. Yet Rohr has never written on the most perennially talked about topic in Christianity: Jesus. Most know who Jesus was, but who was Christ?

Drawing on scripture, history and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. 'God loves things by becoming them,' he writes, and Jesus' life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God - except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us and in everyone we meet.

Feeling burnt-out from life, strung-out from social media, and put out by a society that always wants more from you? Beloved nun and social activist Joan Chittister offers a practical, character-building, and inspirational guide to help you take control of your emotional life and redirect your spiritual destiny.



**Publishers Weekly** calls Chittister "one of the most well-known and trusted contemporary spiritual authors. She is a rabble-rousing force of nature for social justice, and a passionate proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment. Drawing on little known, ancient teachings of the saints, Sister Joan offers a practical program to help transform our thinking and rebel against our fears, judgments and insecurities.



## Council Report

Recently, the Core Council concluded our annual staff appraisals. It never ceases to amaze me. Being both witness to and participant in the flow of open communication, grace and love that characterizes our Core Council meetings is a phenomenal experience. And yet, being witness and participant in the staff appraisal process was enlightening and uplifting in a way I hadn't expected. Being rather new to Council, being asked to facilitate the review process was a bit daunting. But a couple of wise young men once said "There's nothing you can do that can't be done." And so it unfolded. I want to send a big shout-out to Laura Farris. She left a treasure trove of information from her experience coordinating the process last year. That helped immensely.

We also had great input from Practitioners and staff. Along with that, the collective wisdom and participation of our Council members made this year's staff appraisals a success. I believe conducting the meetings on Zoom was beneficial. We could share screens and documents and spreadsheets oh my! God loves a data-head.

The data reflected what we all know and love about Rev. David and our staff. Holy cow, what an amazingly talented and committed group we have leading and supporting our CSL Olympia community. I am humbled, I am awed, and I am so grateful for each of them.

~Teri Echterling  
Core Council Vice President

**"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime."**

~Laura Ingalls Wilder

## 2021 CLASSES & SACRED CIRCLES

In 2021, the flow of talks, classes and Sacred Circles all work together. They will support your growth and connections whether you are new to us or have been here for years.

The first class of the year coordinates with the "Timeless Wisdom, Evolutionary Vision" theme for 2021 talks. **Exploring Roots** is a look at early New Thought teachers who have inspired our own teachings including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Thomas Troward and Emma Curtis Hopkins. Lots to read and contemplate on those cold winter days and nights. Class starts Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> for ten weeks. Rev. David teaches this class.

**More info on the website under Upcoming Classes and Retreats**

### Sacred Circles

Sacred Circles are small groups—five to eight people—who currently meet on Zoom. They are organized around a book or theme. A trained facilitator uses a set of guidelines created to stimulate discussion.

The groups meet for two hours once a week for six weeks and are open to anyone interested in deepening their spiritual and personal relationships. The only cost is the purchase of the book. These groups serve as a great introduction to Science of Mind principles from different perspectives.

There will be three rounds of Sacred Circles. The first begins the week of January 10<sup>th</sup> for six weeks. The book will be **Love & Law** by Ernest Holmes. This is a transcript of his earliest, very clear and powerful teachings.

There will also be Sacred Circles beginning on April 4<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**More info on the website under Upcoming Events**

# Youth & Family Program

**Y**outh take advantage of this unique and beautiful time of year for reflection and wondrous creation. Following nature, we go within to meet our shadows, create our path by acknowledging our divinity and shine our light. In alignment with the natural Law of Mind, we make our lives magical.

Our monthly topic is Celebrating Divine Truth. Each week youth will explore a different topic that will help set the stage for reflection, resolution, and inspiration to prepare their spirit to receive all the abundance of light waiting to bless them.



## First Week

Youth welcome their shadow by practicing forgiveness which will include releasing all people, places, and things from expectation. We do a mindfulness mantra going within, saying forgiveness phrases,

and create freedom by releasing any energy we hold on to. Youth make a present for their shadow.

## Second Week

Youth practice preparing the way through kindness. By recognizing the Christ consciousness within, we express kindness to ourselves in times of sadness and joy.

We will use our knowledge of tapping and the "I Am" affirmation to remember that we are love. Youth make a present for their consciousness.

## Third Week

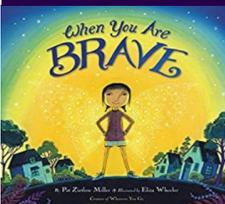
Youth explore cultivating the light through the silence of the holiday spirit. Around the world people celebrate the return of light in different ways. We explore the common practice of silence to magnify the power to energize and illuminate the path of life before us. Youth make a present for their spirit.

## Fourth Week

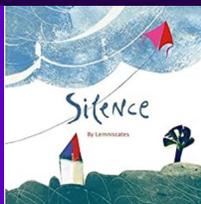
Youth experiment making magic with intentions. Looking at experiences from the last year, we consider if there is anything left to do. Youth will make a plan to complete or resolve those issues and imagine the amazing new things they want to create.

Coming from a place of happiness while setting our intentions, we act on them with joyful expectancy. When we come from a place of happiness while setting our intentions, we will act on them with joyful expectancy. Youth make a present for their future.

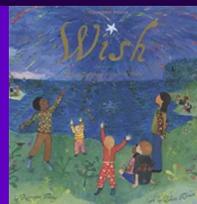
## Books we will be enjoying during the month of December



Some days, when everything around you seems scary, you have to be brave.



What can you hear when you are perfectly silent?



A lively compilation of wishing traditions from around the world.



## Heart Connection Calls

Beginning this month, our Practitioners will be connecting with each member of our community. These will be short monthly calls just to check in and see how you're doing. They will use our 2020 directory as the source of people to call.

If you're not in the directory and would like a call, please contact Rev. David at [cslorevdavid@comcast.net](mailto:cslorevdavid@comcast.net). We hope this helps support you through this time when some can feel disconnected.

Would you like to help our community save a little money? With the move to mostly receiving your wonderful financial contributions online, one of our expenses—bank/card fees—has skyrocketed. There are two simple ways to help reduce them. One doesn't cost you a thing.

If you set up your donations to come directly from your bank, instead of a credit or debit card, there are no fees. It's the simple, cost-you-nothing way.

If you do want to use a card, we've added a checkbox on the sign-out page that allows you to add the cost of the banking fee—2.75%—to your donation. You certainly don't have to. We'll love you either way. But the option is now there, if you want to use it. Thank you!

**"Only when we are transparent and in alignment with the Source of Light, does the shadow magically disappear."**

**~Joseph Lieberman**

*Prayer*

**SUPPORT**

## Practitioners

Teresa Bielenberg  
Linda Bremer  
Sandy Dell  
Susan Einhorn  
Buffie Finkel

Marlisa Johnson  
Alex Perlman  
Sylvia Schroeder  
Mary Wilde

**Call the message phone:  
(360)255.7878, ext. 4 to listen to  
a prayer recorded by a Practitioner.**



## A Season of Re-Creation – Finding the Quiet

**A**s I sat down to write this I was feeling distracted, distressed and disconnected. Distracted by a pandemic, distressed by how the virus affects my family, friends, community and world and feeling disconnected from the seasonal celebrations of harvest and light. I was also distracted and distressed by political struggles that have exposed a house divided during a contentious election cycle. In this I observed egregious and uncaring behaviors by those who would ignore or subvert a prime directive of our democratic republic: that all human beings should receive equal treatment under the law.

What to do when one feels distracted, distressed and disconnected? My choice was to exercise Beginner's Mind, a Buddhist practice of approaching something familiar with the open-mindedness of one who is learning something new.

As a Religious Science Practitioner I am trained to look past any condition that presents itself to me personally or to a client in the immediate moment it is described; and to consider new causation as a path to a different outcome.

Early in first year practitioner studies I was blessed to read **Finding the Quiet: Four Simple Steps to Peace and Contentment Without Spending the Rest of Your Life on a Mountaintop** by Paul Wilson. **Finding the Quiet** is a great reminder of how each of us can choose to process the distractions,

distress and disconnections of our daily lives, allowing each to feel present and grounded and always at choice.

We know the quiet when we find it whether on a mountaintop, hiking or walking in a forest, or along a river or beach or sitting in meditation. When a person encounters the quiet it brings them to that place of inner work where each can enjoy the peace and re-creation of Spirit moving in their life. Wilson suggests that we all learned the quiet as children during

countless hours of unstructured time between most-favorite activities. The quiet is always with us. Are we listening?

I know that the peace and re-creation of the quiet show up when I surrender my pre-conceived idea of any particular outcome and simply breathe into that knowing. I practice my connection to the quiet when I re-affirm my relationship to the Universe and all life, in the

here and now. By seeking the quiet, I put my attention on that still small voice within where distraction or distress disappears in each moment of re-creation.

As 2020 comes to an end, our rituals and traditions follow nature into a new cycle of life and light. This is truly the time to turn inward to find the quiet and allow it to illumine the path forward towards peace and love in a world that works for everyone.

~ Alex Perlman, RScP

**When a person encounters the quiet it brings them to that place of inner work where each can enjoy the peace and re-creation of Spirit moving in their life.**

## Meet Diana Palmer

Were you aware we have a shaman among our CSL community? When asked what being a shaman means to her, Diana Palmer described herself as walking the path of the hollow bone in which she becomes an empty vessel and a conduit to the Spirit world. When working with an individual, Diana says her intention is “to offer guidance by meeting you where you are and addressing what you need.” After a recent message by Reverend David, he gave us homework. One practice was that we choose to be a conduit of compassion and wisdom. She was moved to make her pledge in a chat that day: “I promise to be a hollow bone, a conduit for healing.”

Diana was blessed to have received valuable insights from those in her family tree. Native American ancestors from the Cherokee and Choctaw tribes contributed to Diana’s belief that food is medicine. She has studied the concept that what a person eats can cause heat and density within. Proper nutrition and use of herbs can result in healing. It is not surprising then, that Diana has spent time during these quarantine months on the subject of food.

Thanks to a variety of internet sites, she has been experimenting with different recipes. She enjoys cooking and has discovered not only recipes, but has also had an opportunity to research the villages from where the foods are derived. For example, accompanying Diana’s discovery

of a fish dish was the story of the fisherman and where the fish was caught. After studying Mexican culture, Diana’s freezer holds delicious tamales and chili rellenos.

Jewelry making is another of Diana’s interests. Often used in the ceremonies of Native American communities, Diana makes beaded necklaces. This talented one also described making wire wrapped jewelry. One design featured a stone with wire shaped into a heart surrounding the stone.

Diana has been involved with CSL of Olympia for three years. She gratefully credits Science of Mind with changing her previously held belief about God. “God was a separate entity in the sky,” Diana once thought. CSL services and particularly Foundations class inspired her to have an aha moment. “A light bulb came on and my God got bigger,” she explained.

She is now a member and has participated in the youth classes, the Care Committee, Sacred Circles and the Women’s Circle. Diana has expressed an interest in being part of a membership committee. She sees a need and says, “I would be very willing to help clarify requirements for membership.”

“CSL feels like home to me—like family,” she declared. “It’s my favorite thing about CSL.” Welcome home, Diana.



~ Linda Sickles

## Men's Coffee

The CSL Men's coffee group enjoys a Zoom gathering on Fridays from 10 a.m. to Noon. ID: 701 663 3216 Denny Kautzmann also hosts some meetings in his home. For more info contact: [CSLDenny@gmail.com](mailto:CSLDenny@gmail.com)



**The Women's Circle will meet on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. All CSL women are warmly invited to attend our gatherings. To be added to the Women's Circle email list please contact Carol Kautzmann: [ckremedy4u@gmail.com](mailto:ckremedy4u@gmail.com)**

## Gathering Virtually

**Sunday services, meetings and other gatherings are now held exclusively on Zoom. Please join us. Sunday service ID# is: 789 699 326**

**Sacred Sunday Meditation  
Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
6 to 7 p.m.  
No cost, no dogma. Just sweet, deep time with Spirit in communion with others.  
Use Sunday Service Zoom ID#**

**Contact [cslolyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cslolyoffice@gmail.com) for passwords.**

## STAFF

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*Merry Christmas  
Happy Hanukkah*