

“...Like an evening vapor after the sunset...”~Novalis

An online Ascension Festival with the Central Regional Council

Written by Hazel Archer-Ginsberg

May 21, 2020 7pm - 8:15pm CDT

Players: Wear the color Green

(@=change of slide)

@HAZEL: (Welcomes all, introduces players) CRC, Marianne Fiber, Alberto Loya, Lisa Dalton, Hazel Archer...Our dear David Howerton has stepped down to be more fully with his family. Special Guests Geoff Norris & Nancy Melvin. Mary Ruud will start us off with Eurythmy.

(spotlight) Mary Ruud: Eurythmy

HAZEL: Ascension comes as the blossoming world is reaching fullness. Trees & plants, stirring upwards in growth, touched by the warmth and light from above embody heaven's blessing in color and fragrance. The whole of nature reaches upward towards the heights.

MARIANNE: The longing of the human soul strives also, upward, in unison with nature, seeking the touch of world-warmth from the sun. This mood of ascension attunes all of life to the cosmic expanses.

NANCY: However closely heaven and earth are aligned, their relationship is always changing. In this we see the miracle of the seasons –the breathing-in, and breathing-out of the earth soul.

@GEOFF: “...Observe these two qualities, contraction and expansion in the fingers of your hand: assuredly after the closing of the fist, comes the opening. God's work and action are regulated by these two qualities: these two conditions are as important to God as both wings of the bird are to the dove.” ~Rumi

LISA: At the time of the Ascension of Christ, nature celebrates the ascension of the soul of the earth. It is not by chance that the 40 days between Easter and Ascension coincide with this season of rebirth.

ALBERTO: Every year, when the Earth breathes out in the Springtime, the mystery of the Ascension of Christ, Who is the Spirit of the Earth, is renewed.

HAZEL: The stars in their constellations are shifting into their Summer places, and the planets tread the ordered measure of their courses around them. These dots of light in the distance, point us to the Spiritual Beings who direct the life of the universe. From this point of view, Ascension is a Festival of the Hierarchies.

@GEOFF: "In wide universal spaces, creative cosmic spirit weaves, from wide universal spaces, and into my soul shines living strength" ~Rudolf Steiner

MARIANNE: When Christ descended through the heavenly spheres, and came into human form, the hierarchies lost His presence.

NANCY: They could only find Him by looking into the depths -

LISA: Bearing witness to the God Who entered physical existence to remind earthly humanity of its cosmic citizenship.

HAZEL: At the Ascension, the Mystery of the Resurrection was brought back to the company of heaven –

ALBERTO: Signaling the return of the lost world of earth into the community of the stars.

MARIANNE: Since that time, the life of this planet is renewed with the cosmic forces that stream earthward.

NANCY: The sacrifice Christ initiated on Earth was the antidote to the consequences of death brought upon by the Fall – the redemptive deed that turns death into life.

LISA: The concentrated seed of Christ's deed continues to grow in the earth through this divine connection to the stars.

@GEOFF: My head bears the being of the resting stars.

My breast harbors the life of the wandering stars,

My body lives and moves amid the elements.

This am I. ~Rudolf Steiner

HAZEL: This reconnection between heaven and earth was prefigured in the story of Jacob from the Old Testament. Through his dream of the 'stairway to heaven', Jacob gave us the prophecy of the Ascension –

MARIANNE: A golden ladder set between Heaven and Earth, on which choirs of Angels and our beloved dead can ascend and descend.

NANCY: When the Risen Christ returned 'to sit at the right hand of the Father,' at the Ascension, He became the bridge between the above and below.

LISA: The Christ Impulse dwells in the earth, and extends into the divine presence, to fulfill the prophecy of Jacob's ladder, so that through this deed, humankind is brought near again to cosmic beings.

ALBERTO: As the Christ has ascended, so too, in the fullness of time will humanity be transfigured.

HAZEL: The company of the hierarchies wait for us, their younger siblings, to ascend in our thinking to meet them in fellowship, as they work all the while at our sides.

@GEOFF: A deep bell that links the downs

To the drowsy air;
 Every loop of sound that swoons,
 Finds a circle round,
 Whereon it doth rest and fade;
 Every stroke that dins is laid
 Like a node,
 Spinning out the quivering,
 Fine vibrant tendrils of a vine:
 (Bim - bim - bim.)
 How they wreath and run,
 Silvern as a filmy light,
 Filtered from the sun:
 The god of sound is out of sight,
 And the bell is like a cloud,
 Humming to the outer rim,
 Low and loud:
 (Bim - bim - bim.)
 ~ Duncan Campbell Scott

MARIANNE: An imagination of this is hidden in the allegory of the Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz .

NANCY: Goethe's Fairy Tale is another powerful imagination that captures the essence of the Ascension. –

HAZEL: It's been said that The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily, which is full of esoteric essence, was born out of Goethe's reading of The Chymical Wedding .

LISA: This Tale was also written as a response to a work by Friedrich Schiller entitled 'Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man'.

ALBERTO: One of the main ideas centers on the question of human freedom.

NANCY: Schiller strove to build an inner bridge between reality and the 'ideal human being'.

LISA: He wrote these 'Letters' during the time of the French Revolution, which was driven by a desire for outer social changes, to create the possibility for human beings to become free.

MARIANNE: Both Schiller and Goethe recognized that freedom cannot be 'imposed' from the outside, it must arise from within.

HAZEL: Goethe embraced this inspiration and set about writing a Fairy Tale to show, in imaginative pictures, the way in which a human soul could become whole and free by bridging the abyss between the human and the divine within.

ALBERTO: Rudolf Steiner, in his book 'Goethe's Standard of the Soul', tells us:

HAZEL: "On the river stands the Temple in which the marriage of the Young Man with the Lily takes place.

MARIANNE: 'Marriage' with the supersensible.

NANCY: The realization of the free personality is possible in a human soul whose forces have bridged the state of regularity with the divine forces of transformation."

LISA: This article written by Rudolf Steiner led to an invitation to speak to the German Theosophical Society which eventually led to his becoming its General Secretary...and *this* tale continues to live on in us.

@GEOFF: "The human being is only fully human when he plays!"

~Friedrich Schiller, 'Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man'.

HAZEL: Dear Friends - The Christ-Revelation 'coming in the clouds' is here! Showing us the bridge that brings a harmonizing spring-dialogue between the worlds.

MARIANNE: At the Ascension, Christ becomes "Lord of the heavenly forces upon earth".

NANCY: The fulfillment of the secret promise of the Ascension, *is* the Second Coming.

LISA: It was said to the apostles, "He will come again, in like manner, as you have seen Him go up into the clouds of heaven."

HAZEL: The Ascension is the seed of this Second Coming, and the Second Coming is the fulfillment of the Ascension.

ALBERTO: the poet Novalis touched on this occult truth:

@GEOFF: "In heavy clouds let Him ascend
And so also let Him downward tread.
In cooling streams let Him be sent,
In flames of fire blaze His descent,
In air and essence, sound and dew
To permeate our whole earth through"

MARIANNE: These lines from Novalis are a true prayer revealing the occult connection between the Ascension and the Second Coming.

NANCY: Here, too, we see that elemental beings form the earth under the patronage and protection of the higher worlds.

ALBERTO: In this way Ascension can be called the Festival of the Elements.

@GEOFF: Angels, in the early morning

May be seen the Dews among,

Stooping -- plucking -- smiling -- flying --

Do the Buds to them belong?

~Emily Dickenson

HAZEL: When we attune ourselves to Beings such as Raphael, Archangel of Spring, we can awaken to the way these spiritual entities constantly interact with earth through the elements.

MARIANNE: The messengers of cosmic warmth in the rays of the sun activate the ascension of the element of water.

NANCY: through its union with air, clouds originate. In the cloud, between depths of earth and heavenly heights, in the sphere of the etheric realm, a mobile balance manifests.

LISA: We see it in the blue sky, dancing with ever changing clouds. It is the primal image of metamorphosis, of organic forming and transforming, the never-resting developing, blessed by the heights.

ALBERTO: For this reason, blossoms and fruits are in reality not just products of earth but heavenly forms filled with earthly substance, like us.

HAZEL: And so for 40 days after the Resurrection, amidst this seasonal activity, the Apostles received from The Risen Christ his esoteric teachings; essentially the contents of the 5th Gospel given to us by Rudolf Steiner.

Marianne: *Then* they witnessed The Christ, being received into the clouds, passing out of their sight - an expansion of His being - like the unfolding of a flower into the universe.

NANCY: Rudolf Steiner tells us, that *at the same time*, the vivid spiritual reality of what *would have happened* to earth existence *if* the mystery of Golgotha had not occurred; came into their consciousness.

Lisa: It was revealed to them that human bodies would have so deteriorated that all of humanity would have perished.

Alberto: Our physical bodies have earth-gravity, but our etheric bodies have sun levity,

Hazel: If the Christ deed had not taken place, our etheric bodies would have left the physical for good as well, and the existence of humankind would have come to an end, having no formative forces to give them life.

@Geoff: Mother, the folk who live up in the clouds call out to me-

"We play from the time we wake till the day ends.

We play with the golden dawn, we play with the silver moon."

I ask, "But how am I to get up to you?"

They answer, "Come to the edge of the earth, lift up your hands to the sky, and you will be taken up into the clouds."

"My mother is waiting for me at home, "I say,

"How can I leave her and come?"

Then they smile and float away.

~ Rabindranath Tagore

Marianne: We know that until the Mystery of Golgotha, the Sun was the dwelling place of the Christ.

NANCY: The human etheric body, which was in danger of being drawn out towards the sun, like clouds, and dispersed, is held together, contained through this cosmic deed, so that we are not dispersed, but can remain individuals.

Lisa: Christ remains in union with the earth, which rescues for the earth the sunward-striving etheric body.

Alberto: *But* to be able to take effect in a human being's *spirit and soul nature*, the Christ impulse must also be able to penetrate into the human soul during sleep.

Hazel: And this is only possible if a person *consciously* recognizes the significance of the Mystery of Golgotha. The spiritual effect can only proceed from a true recognition of its content.

Marianne: Humankind must come to realize that on one hand, Christ rescued the human physical body, and holds back the etheric body in its urge towards the sun;

NANCY: On the other hand, humankind's *ego and astral body*, can receive the Christ impulse only in the time between falling asleep and waking – which is only possible when knowledge of this impulse has been acquired in waking life.

LISA: The mystery is that in the Festival of Ascension not only do the forces of the macro-cosmic kingdom of the Son come into Earth-existence, but it also opens us to the forces proceeding from the sphere of the Father.

ALBERTO: The gospel of Mark tells us: 'Then the Lord, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into the heavenly spheres and sat down at the right hand of the World-Father as the fulfiller of His deeds'

HAZEL: As a result of the conversations over the 40 days with The Risen Christ, the Apostles were able to receive the primal sources of a new imaginative clairvoyance,

MARIANNE: Removing the veil hiding the true image of death, which is really a facet of the Father-God in the aspect of “Creator”.

NANCY: What is born must die, but through Christ, death becomes life.

LISA: This revelation of the Apostles’ higher imagination brings the true content of death with its connection to the kingdom of the divine Father into perspective.

HAZEL: At the moment of the Ascension the true meaning of death was made manifest to the Apostles, they beheld it with their own eyes to be a process of union with the world of the Divine. –

MARIANNE: From that turning point of time onward, Rudolf Steiner tells us that, one of the first experiences of every human being has after death, is a contemplation of Christ’s Ascension; which can reveal to the person’s soul, the true picture of death and its connection with the highest sphere of the Father.

ALBERTO: For the person who on earth worked to understand the Mystery of Golgotha, this picture of the Ascension after death becomes an affirmation.

DENNIS: But for the soul who has not worked towards true spiritual knowledge, it is a picture of reproach. Helping us seek in freedom to understand this mystery in our next life.

@GEOFF: Rudolf Steiner tells us: ‘It is the Christ-impulse that works on after death; it is this impulse under whose influence man frees himself from the Moon-sphere, penetrates the starry Sun-sphere and from the impulses given to him by beings of the starry world, is there able to work upon the forming of the physical organism for his next earthly life’

HAZEL: Christ takes this Moon-Karma upon Himself, enabling the soul to find the path of the true Ascension, which leads to the world of the fixed stars.

MARIANNE: In the scene of the Ascension we have an indication of the all-encompassing influence of the Christ Being, as the Lord of Karma, upon the life of the human soul after death.

NANCY: It was for this reason that when the Apostles experienced the Ascension, which was for them not only proof of the vast significance of the Christ for the life of every human soul after death,

LISA: But was an event through which they were able to attain knowledge of a new relationship between microcosm and macrocosm.

HAZEL: Revealing the secret, that the human soul can come into contact with the cosmic sphere where Christ derived the forces for His Resurrection Body.

ALBERTO: The sphere of the Father, where the Atma, or future Spirit Human, is derived.

@GEOFF: "The King wept in mourning for the one that was slain, for the King is in all. The King is both the slayer and the next of kin.

The King is both death & life for them.

The visible body is doomed to go at last; but that which is real, the pure spirit, shall live forever rejoicing

In union with our Beloved once more

Through the eye whose glance kills the mind's self-conceit." ~Rumi

MARIANNE: And now, since the Resurrection, Christ united the forces of the cosmic midnight hour directly with earth evolution, this created a bridge for all human beings over the cosmic abyss.

NANCY: Unlocking the gate between this cosmic midnight hour and the midday moment of cosmic existence.

LISA: This then provided the opportunity for The Holy Spirit, who illuminates individual ego-consciousness, to appear in earthly evolution among the 12 at Whitsun,

HAZEL: Flashing in through this opened gate, to pour into them the true *understanding wisdom* of the Mystery of Golgotha and the Ascension in full wisdom.

ALBERTO: Since that time, Easter, Ascension and Whitsun or Pentecost, have remained inseparable from one another.

MARIANNE: They form the foundation of the only moveable feasts in the cycle of the year, which succeed one another in accordance with cosmic law, having to do with the alignment of Sun, Full Moon and Earth after the Spring Equinox.

NANCY: In this way the inner substance of this great Three-fold Festival, can illuminate this turning point of time for all Humanity.

LISA: Dear friends, we are at another turning point.

HAZEL: Perhaps this 'global pandemic' is entreating us to strive to 'Practice Spirit Beholding' to awaken to the etheric realm that we all share in common with the earth.

MARIANNE: We can 'Practice Spirit Recalling' to remember that we received our etheric body on Old Sun.

NANCY: In practicing 'Spirit-Sensing' we may feel perhaps the Coronavirus is an admonition for us to reconnect to the sun-forces now imbued with The Etheric Christ

ALBERTO: Waiting to be recognized and engaged in these current evolving conditions

HAZEL: An invitation for all of humanity to rise to a higher stage of initiation

MARIANNE: A global Coronation

NANCY: A Crowning

LISA: A re-birth.

HAZEL: An initiation into Sovereignty

MARIANNE: The meaning of the word sovereign is to serve

ALBERTO: To consciously choose to be in service for the good of all

HAZEL: Will we choose to step into our birthright?

@GEOFF: Uplifted is the stone—
 And all mankind is risen—
 We all remain our own.
 And vanished is our prison.

Have courage, for life is striding
 Our sense becomes transformed
 Stretched by inner fire.
 One day the stars above
 Shall flow like golden wine,
 We will enjoy it all,
 And as stars we will shine.

The love is given freely,
 And Separation is no more.
 The whole life heaves and surges
 Like a sea without a shore.

Out of the Light's dominion,
 Death's pains are but a bursting forth,
 Sign of glad departure.
 Swift in the narrow little boat,
 Swift to the heavenly shore we float.

With anxious yearning now we see
 That Past in darkness drenched,
 With this world's water never we
 Shall find our hot thirst quenched.
 To our old home we have to go
 That blessed time again to know.

Up to the sweet bride, and away
 To the beloved
 Have courage, evening shades grow gray
 To those who love and grieve.
 A dream will dash our chains apart,
 And lay us in the Father's lap.
 ~Novalis

@HAZEL: Leading Question for the break out discussion: What does it mean for you to step into your birthright? To own your Sovereignty - To consciously choose to be in service for the good of all. How do we withhold judgement & opinion – so we can join together in Social Solidarity, co-creating a revolution, manifesting our highest evolution?

@Marianne: Announce new book “Manifestations of Karma” or...?

Lisa: June 3rd Study Call

@Alberto: Good Night and Thanks