

# The Temple Messenger

## Community Bulletin

FIRST SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

Founded June 28, 1883

104 Van Gaasbeck St.

Kingston NY 12401-4060

Web Site: [fst.org](http://fst.org)

April 2024 Issue



~ Original Boston Temple ~  
Dedicated in September 1885

## From the Pastor *Divine Approaches*

To those of the Jewish faith, Divine Revelation is found in the Old Testament, specifically within the **Torah** (the first five books), also known as the **Books of Moses**. Within the Torah, the faithful Jew finds God's Laws and Commandments.

To the Buddhist, Divine Revelation is found within the teachings of **Siddhartha Gautama**, more commonly known as **The Buddha**. Lord Buddha brought forth wisdom and knowledge, and he taught that the basis of all evil within the human person and the world is attachment. When there is complete detachment of the Soul's *persona* from astral glamor and, thus, a union between Soul and personality, true freedom is found and experienced.

It is **Lord Krishna** to whom Hindus look for their inspiration and the wellspring of their faith. He is worshipped as the Eighth **Avatar** (a term embraced by Esotericists) of the god **Vishnu** and as the Supreme God in his own right. He is the god of compassion, tenderness, and love and is one of the most widely revered among Hindu deities.

To the more traditional Christian, it is **Jesus**, son of God, who came to earth to save Humanity from sin and pave the pathway to God's salvation, through his blood and flesh, as the sacrificial lamb; thus slaying, once and for all, the **Angel of Death** that it may never again pass over the House of David.

It is to the prophet **Mohammed** and the **Quran** that the Muslim looks for his or her strength to meet the challenges of the day. To the Muslim, the prophet Mohammed was the final and the most perfected

messenger of God, thus concluding the lineage of prophetic visitations upon the earth which began with **Abraham**, Father of the Jews, and continued with Moses and, then, Jesus.

Regardless of which faith one embraces or to which scripture one turns for guidance, inspiration, and solace, the leaders of all faiths today profess that God spoke only to the ancients; that revelation ceased ages ago; that the great miracles of the past are, in fact, locked within the past; and, finally, that scripture, of any kind, ceased to be written eons ago; in different times, in distant lands, and by people long gone and sometimes forgotten.

Thus, the tragedy of religion today! Who says that God ceased speaking when the prophet Mohammed left the earthly realms; Mohammed? Who says that scripture is a thing of the past, never to be written again? Was it the men of the Ecumenical Councils, specifically the Council of Nicaea, who made such a proclamation? And who of us can claim that miracles - those wondrous events which bring life to the various scriptures - are a thing of the past, locked within the vaults of religious history?

Has God been silenced by the Church, never to speak again? Has the voice of Divinity been muffled by religion? Has the voice of Divinity been relegated only to the chosen few by religious bigotry and the fervor of the zealots? Has the Spiritualism, deeply etched within **all** scripture and which allows the doors of Divine Revelation to remain open, been replaced by a Spiritualism which seems to cherish only

messages from our departed relatives? These are important questions which we must consider.

We are living in difficult times. The divisiveness of society, so strongly exacerbated by political partisanship and the fundamentalist Christian Right - which, by the way, is neither fundamental, nor Christian, nor right - seems to be eating away at the Soul of Humanity and the consciousness of the Great American Experiment. We have polluted our atmosphere, not only with chemical waste but with the poison of hatred, bigotry, and negative thinking. Indeed, we are reaping what we have sown. Our thought patterns have come back to haunt us, not by cataclysmic upheavals, as so many mystics have predicted, but by microscopic entities.

The question so many ask when we humans are confronted by such challenging times is a simple one: **"Where is God?"** How could God have stood by and allowed COVID-19 to decimate the lives and finances of so many people? The same question could be asked when the world was/is confronted by the holocaust, by Civil War, by ethnic cleansing, by starving people, by mass shootings in our schools, shopping areas, nightclubs, and houses of worship. The same question can be asked when the earth, herself, belches up fire or quakes at her joints.

***Where is God? Where are the angels*** who announced the good news to the Jewish maiden, Mary, and to the shepherds who were watching their flocks? Did God die with the writing of scripture? Are miracles a thing of the past, never to be seen again in our shiny, new, modern world? Are the angels who grace the pages of scripture long gone? Again, these are questions which so many ask when confronted by tragedy; be it personal, family, national, or global. Perhaps, the most tragic question which many ask is: ***"Are God and religion simply creations of Humanity's need to cope with the vicissitudes of life and the great journey of the soul?"***

***So, where is God?*** My friends, you must believe me when I say that God is right here, with us, every step of the way. God is right here, with each of us, as we face the ups and downs, the highs and the lows of our journeys. God is with us, every step of the way, when we, at this very moment in time, are confronted with a political movement that seeks to destroy our democracy and would strip away a

woman's right to make deeply personal choices about her own body.

Indeed, it is time for us to:

- Stop!
- Go to our rooms!
- Take a deep breath!
- Rethink things through!
- Engage our faith!
- Reach out to one another in heart and soul!
- Stand together!
- Trust one another, as certain people would have us mistrust one another!
- And **PRAY!**

God is with us, every step of the way, as we watch our fellow travelers place themselves in harm's way, that they may tend to the sick. God is with us, every step of the way, as we behold our beloved brothers and sisters selflessly engaging the true Spirit of Humanity and helping those who are anxious and fearful. And, yes, God is with those who would seek to take advantage of the fearful and the anxious during these fear-filled and anxiety-ridden times.

God is with us all; not just the chosen few! God is with us all, regardless of what we may each do or not do. God is with both the saint and the sinner. God is even with one who idolatrizes himself by hawking Bibles to the gullible for \$60. Despite what some would have us believe, God knows no race, creed, or skin tone; no religious or spiritual affiliation; no political ideology; no social standing; no sexual identity; no degree of prosperity, whether that be financial or bodily. ***God knows only the Spirit!*** We must embrace this reality, once and for all, or we shall continue to be subjected to that which our thoughts and our thought patterns create. We cannot simply embrace this universal Truth; we must each live it, to the fullest of our capacity, whatever that measure may be.

To quote Charles Dickens:

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity."*

Dickens' words may come back to haunt us, as historians of the future judge the current times. But I believe in something different. I believe we can create an alternative scenario for those who, generations down the road, will judge us. We cannot change the past, and the future is forever one millisecond ahead of us. It is the **moment of the now** and **only** the moment of the now that we have. Every second that we do nothing to change things around is a second wasted. We - every one of us - can begin right now - at this very moment in time and space - to change the words of Dickens to the following:

*"It was the **best** of times; it was the age of **wisdom**; it was the epoch of **belief**."*

Are we humans alone? Do angels walk amongst us? Let me share the words from Alice Bailey's book, *The Reappearance of the Christ*:

*"When the times are ripe, and the invocation of the masses is strident enough, and the faith of those who know is keen enough, then always He has come and today will be no exception to this ancient rule or to this universal law. For decades, the reappearance of the Christ, the Avatar, has been anticipated by the faithful in both hemispheres - not only by the Christian faithful, but by those who look for Maitreya and for the Bodhisattva as well as those who expect the Imam Mahdi.*

*"When men feel that they have exhausted all their own resources and have come to an end of all their own innate possibilities and that the problems and conditions confronting them are beyond their solving or handling, they are apt to look for a divine Intermediary and for the Mediator Who will plead their cause with God and bring about a rescue. They look for a Savior. This doctrine of Mediators, of Messiahs, of Christs and of Avatars can be found running like a golden thread through all the world faiths and Scriptures and, relating these world Scriptures to some central source of emanation, they are found in rich abundance everywhere. Even the human soul is regarded as an intermediary between man and God; Christ is believed by countless millions to act as the divine mediator between humanity and divinity."*

These words were written amidst a world shattered by global conflict and death, set off by a man whose very words and ideals are being echoed again, today. I believe we are at such a critical point in time. In fact, I believe we have been building up to this point for centuries.

From the **National WWII Museum**:

*"How were Hitler and the Nazis possible? How did such odious characters take and hold power in a country that was a world pacesetter in literature, art, architecture, and science; a nation that had a democratic government and a free press in the 1920s? . . . Hitler convinced President Hindenburg to declare an emergency decree suspending many civil liberties throughout Germany, including freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and the right to hold public assemblies; additionally, a move toward the banning and burning of books. The police were authorized to detain citizens without cause, and the authority usually exercised by regional governments became subject to control by Hitler's national regime."*

If these words are not a haunting warning to us all, today, right now, then I do not know what is!

Again, words noted above: *"When the times are ripe, and the invocation of the masses is strident enough, and the faith of those who know is keen enough, then always He has come and today will be no exception to this ancient rule or to this universal law."*

I believe that the Great Christ Spirit, Head of the Spiritual Hierarchy, is planning to reappear amongst us. I have prayed and meditated upon this for over 47 years, and I have been involved with global communities which have been mentally and spiritually preparing for such an Advent.

Will this happen in my earthly lifetime? I rather doubt it! So, when will it happen? It will happen when *"the invocation of the masses is strident enough, and the faith of those who know is keen enough"*. In what form will the Christ reappear? Far be it from anyone to make that determination. It will be Christ's decision, and it will be based not upon

any personal need, but upon the urgent cry of Humanity. Through what agency will the Christ work? It could be religion, but, in my humble opinion, it will not. And, finally, in what human form will the Christ incarnate? It could be a man, a woman, or a transgender. It could be a person of any race or ethnic group.

But we are confronted with a problem regarding the Great Christ Consciousness. The very words “Christ” and “Jesus” conjure up so much animosity and misguided perceptions; very much so, I dare say, amongst Spiritualists. The recitation of the Lord’s Prayer – perhaps the most concise set of instructions on spiritual living – is prohibited within most Spiritualist Churches. Why? Because it is a “Christian” prayer. **NEWS FLASH: The Lord’s Prayer is not a Christian prayer. It is a prayer given to the good people of Judea by a Hebrew prophet named Jesus.**

The solution to this problem is so simple: **Stop blaming Jesus for what Christians have done and continue to do in his name!**

**Faith and Knowledge; Heart and Head.** The founder of our Church, Marcellus Seth Ayer, understood this very well. For nearly 141 years, spanning three centuries, this Church has been part of a global initiative to help people prepare the way for the Reappearance of an Avatar. This is the Spiritualism to which our Temple was dedicated and to which I, its pastor, have devoted my whole adult life. This is the energy and the inspiration which those loving spirits, collectively known as the *Temple Band*, directed to Marcellus Ayer.

How do I know this? Allow me to share the Spirit Dedication of the original Boston Temple, given on September 27, 1885. These words were given before hundreds of people and before members of Boston’s clergy by a fully materialized spirit known as **Star**:

*“I consecrate this Temple to holy living, to universal brotherhood (sisterhood), to the cultivation of that spirit which the Divine Master brought with him, in his life and teachings when on earth, to unity of the spiritual life with*

*that of earth, that there may be but one life, one brotherhood (sisterhood), one God and Father of us all; that from this place may be taught that wisdom which shall recognize more than teachings from the intellect, even the development and wisdom of the heart-life; that here, the hearts of people may be awakened to do, as well as their heads to think, for only through the wisdom that comes from both heart and head can God be brought near to help us in all our endeavors. And may all who come to listen have receptive hearts to be taught how to live the divine life. Amen.”*

God is not silent! Scripture continues to be written every day that passes! Divine appearances did not end with the prophet Mohammed! Angels continue to walk amongst us all. Spirit is alive and well! You are alive and well! We are all alive and well!

Yes, the times are challenging, but . . .

This can be the **best** of times. This can be an age of **wisdom**; This can be an epoch of **belief**.

I truly believe this to be true. Why? Because I truly believe in the Spirit of Humanity. I believe, more than anything else - yeah, even more than all the books and scriptures I have read through my 70-plus years in this body and the eons of time in other physical forms - in **LOVE!**

Only one thing will get us through this current challenge. Only one thing can transfigure us from defeat to victory. Only one thing did the Great Christ Spirit bring with him when he last incarnated through the person of Jesus. And it is only one thing which ultimately matters:

### **God’s Love within the Spirit; all Spirit!**

Throughout the centuries, God sent many messengers, many saviors, many avatars - many of whom remain relatively unknown and obscure; but, nonetheless, equally important - to the earth, but it is **God’s Love** which embraces us all together, as one Family of Spirit.

## What Is Passover?

The eight days (for Jews living outside of Israel; otherwise, seven days) of the Jewish holiday of Passover is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of *Nissan*: this year and because this is a Jewish Leap Year, April 22-30. Passover (Pesach) commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Reading the *Haggadah* at the Seder table is a fulfillment of the mitzvah to each Jew to tell their children the story from the Book of Exodus about how G-d, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, brought the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery. Pesach is observed by avoiding leaven and highlighted by the Seder meal.

In Hebrew, Passover is known as Pesach (which means “to pass over”), because the Angel of Death passed over the House of Israel when slaying the Egyptian firstborn. By the way, the Greek word for “Easter” is “Pascha”, derived from the word Pesach.

As told in the Bible, after many decades of slavery under the Egyptian pharaohs, during which time the Israelites were subjected to backbreaking labor and

unbearable horrors, G-d heard the people’s distress and sent Moses to Pharaoh with a message: “Send forth My people, so that they may serve Me.” But despite numerous warnings, Pharaoh refused to heed G-d’s command. G-d then sent upon Egypt ten devastating plagues, afflicting them and destroying everything from their livestock to their crops.

At the stroke of midnight of 15 *Nissan*, in the year 2448 from Creation (1313 BCE), G-d smote the last of the ten plagues upon the Egyptians, killing all their firstborn. While doing so, G-d spared the children of Israel by “passing over” their homes. Pharaoh’s resistance was broken, and he chased his former slaves out of the land. The Israelites had to leave in such a hurry that the bread they baked as provisions did not have time to rise; thus, the reason for removing all signs of leaven from within the Jewish home before Passover begins. This is called *Bedikat Chametz*. Six hundred thousand adult males, plus many more women and children, left Egypt on that day and began the trek to Mount Sinai and to their birth as a people devoted to G-d.

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## Dwell on Beauty

From the White Eagle book *Earth Healer* (Pub. 2010)

The earth is grey, and at times there is a dark mist on your earth. We won’t say any more, just say there is a dark mist – and there is so much ugliness on earth. There is ugliness of speech and of sound; ugliness in so many departments of life. What we all have to do is to create beauty.

Beauty is a spiritual food – beauty of form; beauty in nature, in Mother Earth; beauty in color, in movement, in music, in thought, in expression. All these aspects of beauty are so important. By your concentration upon beauty – in your surroundings, in yourself, in your thoughts – try to convey beauty into the lives of others around you. See perfection; ignore all the ignorant chatter.

When you work from the Spirit, you are creating beauty and helping humankind to absorb and to express beauty in all its forms. You who have been trained to meditate see beauty because you are working from your innermost Spirit. Imagine the world of Spirit. Think of the beauty of color and form and sound. Think of the music, the harmony of the spheres. When you are attuning yourselves to the higher life, to the Spirit world, you should always hold a picture which is beautiful.

The most ideal subjects for meditation are to be found in nature. You may visualize the mountains, the still lake or pool in the temple gardens in the Spirit world, or the beautiful garden of flowers. All these natural scenes have an effect upon your soul. They bring you into rapport with the Great Spirit. In the infinite and eternal garden, you will see angelic forces, forms with human faces in colors

unmatched on earth, still and peaceful – continually giving, giving, giving help, pouring love and wisdom upon creation. We suggest that in your meditations you always concentrate, as far as you are able, upon the Great Spirit, and then upon the beauty of nature.

This form of meditation is simple and the more you repeat it, the more it will help you in your work. If you begin by concentrating on beauty in all its forms, we assure you that you are not neglecting suffering, or the inequalities of life. Give from your heart the perfect love and see your beautiful world cleansed of all pollution. See the beautiful earth used by humanity according to the law of God – humankind giving back to the land what they receive from it.

Do you not feel, as we speak, the harmony of this circle of life? No one can form any idea of the grandeur and the beauty of the infinite scheme. There is no such thing in all creation as splendid isolation; no separation between any form of life, but all is blended in one harmonious whole. What appears to be error, evil, and destructiveness has behind it the great power, wisdom, and love outworking through the whole plan, bringing good out of apparent evil, guiding and linking up every form of life.

This is a grand thought: all is working together for good, and nothing can harm the one who loves goodness and truth. You are increasing the light over the whole of this planet. Always be ready to go forward with the power of the Spirit that enters your soul. Go forward in faith to enter into eternal peace and joy and happiness. And when this planet becomes a planet of light, which it will, it will become a shining star in the heavens. You are on a path of eternal progress. You will enter into the golden world of God.

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## Temple News

**Board Meeting:** Board members are reminded of the upcoming Board meeting, scheduled for April 7, 2024, at 5:30 PM EDT. There is a lot to discuss.

**Animal Ministry:** Sue Porto and Rev. Simeon are collaborating on incorporating time during Sunday services for animal welfare and healing. We hope to begin this by May.

**Sunday Music:** Although most people have commented that they love the Sunday musical selections, Rev. Simeon is looking to expand the repertoire. If you have any suggestions for music, please let him know by emailing him at [revsimeon@fst.org](mailto:revsimeon@fst.org). Remember: Sunday service is a sacred time of prayer and celebration of the Spirit and Divinity. All aspects of the service should reflect this.

“If you have to pray to God ten times for fear that He did not hear you, this is not faith. Faith is not blindness. Faith is doing all that you can in every way that you can and trying as hard as you can, but knowing that your efforts are producing something -- and not worrying. The greatest prayer is the prayer which is a thought but for a moment and then left with God. Can you do that in yourselves? Can you say to God, “God, I need your help with a particular thing. I know you understand,” and forget it, trusting that it will come and trusting that it will come in such a way that you will be able to notice it; not simply that it will come precisely framed in measurements you have provided? Here, again, we fall upon the need to find, to see, to hear what you need, rather than what you want. How many of your prayers are answered every day and they are not seen because we expected the prayer to be answered and to be given to us just as we presented it. God, then, does not become a part of the creative process with which we are involved. God becomes our servant. The process is reversed. Feel good about yourselves. Experience emotion. Experience the emotion of spirit touching you, of God reaching to you; for in this there is a demonstration unlike any demonstration. In this, you will find miracles. It was not the size of groups of people in Israel that created the miracles upon which God stood with mankind. It was the fact that they were involved with it.”

Spirit **Syrsha**  
Rev. Stephen Fulton, Trance Medium  
Sunday, January 11, 1981