

9-Day Retreat Check-In

June 15, 2025

The Great Search, Turning to Earth and Soul in the Quest for Healing and Home,
John Philip Newell

Welcome

Welcome to the second check in during our shared 9-day retreat. We journey together as individuals and a faith community, led by John Philip Newell's nine reflections in his book, *The Great Search*.

As a reminder, here is the cadence you might follow for the nine days. As always, it is your path so you might have read the whole book and return to each author for a day, you might be tending to the chapter on the day assigned, or other options.

Thursday, June 12: Seeking Awareness - Carl Jung
Friday, June 13: Seeking Wellness - Julian of Norwich
Saturday, June 14: Seeking Love - Jalaluddin Rumi
Sunday, June 15: Shared worship, no assigned chapter
(Check in class #2 at 9:30 am at church or on Zoom)

Monday, June 16: Seeking Wisdom - Rabindranath Tagore
Tuesday, June 17: Seeking Meaning - Etty Hillesum
Wednesday, June 18: Seeking Faith - Edwin Muir and Conclusion - John Philip Newell
(Check in class #3 at 6:00 pm at church or on Zoom)

We will gather at church, in person or on zoom. If you need the zoom link here it is for you: **Great Search Classes: 6/11 (6 pm), 6/15 (9:30 am), and 6/18 (6 pm)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89491074480>

Meeting ID: 894 9107 4480

Christ Care Prayers

We will begin with the prayers we bring, the celebrations and deep concerns.

Tonight: Part Two – Seeking Awareness, Wellness & Love

We will pause for the reflection for each chapter, so dividing our conversation into three parts. We begin with some questions that are possible for all nine authors.

Questions to ponder:

1. What did you hear in this chapter's reflection that opened you to God?
2. What did you hear in this chapter's reflection that opened you to the creation?
3. What did you hear in this chapter's reflection that opened you to others?



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Carl Jung Quotes to note:

“And at the heart of it all is the “valley of diamonds,” as he called it, a place of immortal shining of light through which we have all passed in our journey of birth into this world.” Page 74

Jung notes:

- “It is the breath of all life, the anima mundi, the animating life force of the universe.” Page 75
- “It is the vital spark in all things, distinct but not separate from our physicalness. The light of the soul can be glimpsed in one another’s eyes and in the vitality of every life form.” Page 75
- “And at the core of our being we shine, like the translucence of jewels in sunlight.” Page 75

“Awareness that comes to us via the unconscious can be described as ‘moonlike,’ says Jung. Awareness via the conscious mind, on the other hand, is ‘sun-like.’ We need both. P. 80

Julian of Norwich Quotes to note & consider:

“I saw that God is in everything, she says, and not only in everything but the very center of everything. This for Julian is our ground of well-being. Health is to be found by seeking the source of life deep within us and deep within the body of Earth. God, she says, is nature’s substance.” (page 93)

“God is the essence of all life. We are not simply made by God, says Julian, we are made of God. Deep within us and the body of Earth, therefore is the wisdom of the divine, deeper than the ignorance of what we have done.” (page 93)

“The relationship between our inner being and the essence of the divine is like a knotwork of everlasting design in which one strand is woven inseparably around the other so that it is impossible to see where one begins and the other ends.” (page 94)

Jalaluddin Rumi Quotes to note & consider

“I belong to the beloved, said Rumi, and I have seen the two words as one. It is the love that enables us to know that heaven and Earth belong inseparably together, that spirit and matter are forever conjoined, and that the divine and the human kiss in the intimate of our souls.” Page 111

“There is a ‘spring source’ that rises under everything, says Rumi. It has been flowing in all things since the beginning of time. And always we have been part of Earth’s unfolding journey.” Page 114

The promise of new life is not about the future. It is about the present. ‘Taste the here and the now of God’, says Rumi. There is no need to look for a coming of age of bliss. It is now. Our deepest needs and our deepest desires can be met in the gift of this moment.” Page 114

“We are part of one great cosmic dance, spinning our way through the infinity of space at nearly six hundred thousand miles per hour. Even the tiny dust particles that we see whirling in daylight, says Rumi, are part of the one great turning of all things. Page 115