

# *Sophia Grail Circle*

## *Social and Ecclesiastic Sacramentalism*

MAY 20 - 24, 2021

ST. FRANCIS SPRINGS PRAYER CENTER  
477 GROGAN ROAD, STONEVILLE, NC, 27048

*It is the mission of every single human being and of the whole of humanity to fill themselves with the Christ Spirit [and the Spirit of Sophia] and to recognize themselves as a center living in this Spirit, through which spiritual light, spiritual strength and spiritual warmth can flow into the Earth, thereby redeeming it and raising it aloft into spiritual realms. ~ RUDOLF STEINER*

The higher goal of the Sophia Grail Circle is the union of divine and human existence, and the communion of human souls in Divine Love and Wisdom. The Sophia Grail Circle is a community centered in cultivating an ever-greater awareness of and relationship to the spiritual world in truth and moral integrity, and the striving to embody these qualities in daily life.

Inspired by the seeds of wisdom planted by the great teachers of humanity, the Sophia Grail Circle is working to form a spiritual community, united ever more deeply in Christ and Sophia, in preparation for the culture of the Aquarian Age, the Age of Sophia. This Age will bring the flowering of the Rose of the World if humanity has prepared the soil for its blossoming. Our endeavor is the cultivation of a spiritual schooling in the light of Sophia, through social and ecclesiastic sacramentalism, dedicated to preparing for Sophia's coming, and to establish centers for Sophia's activity



Gaddi. *The Coronation in Heaven.*

in the world. The Sophia Grail Circle initiative, which was inaugurated in 2006, offers individuals an opportunity to deepen their spiritual life in the light of Sophia in preparation to serve the social and spiritual needs of humanity.

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*The sacred word and the holy prayer and the priestly sacrifice —Hold the earth in its course:  
She who is the maintainer of all that was and that will be, She creates the wide space for our existence.*

~ ATHARVA VEDA



LYUBA YATSKIV, HOLY WISDOM

*Sophia is the mercy of God in us. She is the tenderness with which the infinitely mysterious power of pardon turns the darkness of our sins into the light of grace. She is the inexhaustible fountain of kindness, and would almost seem to be, in herself, all mercy. So she does in us a greater work than that of Creation: the work of new being in grace, the work of pardon, the work of transformation from brightness to brightness. She is in us the yielding and tender counterpart of the power, justice and creative dynamism of the Father.*

— FROM HAGIA SOPHIA BY THOMAS MERTON.

### Daily Schedule 2021

Thursday, May 20

6:00 — 7:00 pm

Dinner

7:00 — 7:30 pm

Introductions

7:30 — 9:00 pm

The Beatitudes

Friday, May 21

9:00 am—12:00

Sophia Grail Training

12:00 — 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 — 5:30 pm

Sophia Grail Training

6:00 — 7:00 pm

Dinner

7:30 — 9:00 pm

The Seven Miracles of Christ

Saturday, May 22

9:00 am—12:00

Sophia Grail Training

12:00 — 1:30 pm

Lunch break

1:30 — 5:30 pm

Sophia Grail Training

6:00 — 7:00 pm

Dinner break - free evening

Sunday, May 23

9:00 am—12:00

Sophia Grail Training

12:00 — 1:30 pm

Lunch break

1:30 — 5:30 pm

Sophia Grail Training

6:00 — 7:00 pm

Dinner break

7:00 — 10:00 pm

Mass of the Lamb and his Bride

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is a beautiful, state of the art retreat center in Stoneville, NC, with accommodations, meals, contemplative areas in nature, a chapel, a labyrinth and hiking trails.

The Sophia Grail Circle gathering will begin with dinner on Thursday, May 20 through Monday morning, May 24.

Special dietary needs may be requested 10 days prior to arrival.

### REGISTRATION

SOPHIA GRAIL CIRCLE TRAINING

MAY 20 - 24, 2021

The cost for the training if register by March 15 is \$525; the registration fee after March 15 is \$575. Accommodations and meals are \$380. Total due upon registration: \$905 before March 15; \$955 after March 15. Single room an additional \$120. Payment with credit cards will have a 3% additional fee.

There is some financial assistance available.

If you wish to enter the training, please send a letter that includes relevant aspects of your spiritual biography, and why you wish to join this program to Karen Rivers. To register please send the full fee marked "Sophia Grail Circle Training" to Sophia Foundation, 4500 19th Street, #369, Boulder, CO 80304.

Phone: (303) 242-5388 Email: [sophia@sophiafoundation.org](mailto:sophia@sophiafoundation.org)

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

All registrations due by May 1, 2021.

Directions to St. Francis Springs Prayer Center:

<http://www.stfrancisprings.com/contact.php> or call 336-573-3751.

For further information contact Karen Rivers: 919-942-2465

or email: [karen@karenrivers.info](mailto:karen@karenrivers.info)





THE SOPHIA GRAIL CIRCLE  
SOCIAL AND ECCLESIASTIC SACRAMENTALISM

This year the three primary themes upon which we will be focusing are:

- The Spiritual Background to the events of the External World, and the Cultivation of the Spiritual Faculty of Discernment,
- Sacramental Consultation in relation to social and ecclesiastic sacramentalism,
- and *Meditations on the New Testament* by Valentin Tomberg.

“Present-day events can only be understood if one turns the inner eye to the spiritual powers which are now moving among us. . . It will be the main concern of these spirits of darkness to bring confusion into the rightful elements which are now spreading on earth, and need to spread in such a way that the spirits of light can continue to be active in them.” [Rudolf Steiner, *The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness*.]

Rudolf Steiner offered guidance to navigate these disparate times. The path of moral tact or discernment is the foundation for the virtue of justice in the relational world. The task is not to react out of sympathies and antipathies, but rather to observe the cultural patterns, and lead out of one’s hard-gained sense of knowing and feeling for right action through discernment.

Discernment, as a spiritual faculty, can only be developed by spiritual methods, by questioning, examining, and analyzing one’s own ideas, opinions, and conduct. Our critical, fault-finding tendencies must no longer be applied to the opinions and conduct of others but must be applied—with no holds barred—to our own self. We must be prepared to question every one of our own opinions, thoughts, and behaviors and test them against spiritual principles. Only in this way can the discernment that dissolves confusion be developed.

All those attending the Grail Training are requested to read *Meditation on the New Testament in Christ and Sophia*, by Valentin Tomberg (formerly published as *New Testament Studies*) and Rudolf Steiner’s *The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness*, in preparation for our time together.

The gathering will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, May 20, followed by the Beatitudes Grail Circle. The program will end on Monday morning, May 24, with breakfast, after Sunday evening’s Mass of the Lamb and His Bride and the blessing of John Plummer toward ordination in 2022.

If you have any questions contact Karen Rivers at 919-942-2465 or [karen@karenrivers.info](mailto:karen@karenrivers.info).