

# *Sophia Grail Circle*

## *Social and Ecclesiastic Sacramentalism*

April 9 - 13, 2026

LAKE JUNALUSKA CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

91 N Lakeshore Dr,  
Waynesville, NC 28785

*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 2026

Thursday, April 9

6:00 — 7:00 pm Dinner  
 7:00 — 7:30 pm Introductions  
 7:30 — 9:00 pm The Beatitudes

Friday, April 10

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 Jacob's Ladder

Saturday, April 11

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  
 7:30 — 9:00 pm Soul's Descent into Incarnation

Sunday, April 12

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  
 7:30 — 10:00 pm Mass of the Lamb and his Bride

LAKE JUNALUSKA CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

91 N Lakeshore Dr, Waynesville, NC 28785

Lake Junaluska Retreat Center is nestled in a valley in eastern North Carolina with panoramic vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Great smoky Mountains. We will be staying in Lambuth Inn. They offer organic meals, contemplative areas in nature, hiking trails, and a chapel. Our program begins with dinner on Thursday, April 9, and ends Monday morning, April 13, with breakfast. Special dietary needs may be requested no later than 10 days prior to arrival.

## REGISTRATION

SOPHIA GRAIL CIRCLE TRAINING

April 9 - 13, 2026

Accommodations (4 nights) with meals (including tax): double room: \$583; single room: \$936.

Sophia Foundation costs per person if register by Jan. 1: \$570; after Jan. 1: \$620.

Total costs: double - \$1203 (early reg. \$1153); single - \$1556 (early reg. \$1506) due upon registration.

Payment with credit cards will have a 3% additional fee.

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) 558 — 6735 Email: [sophia@sophiafoundation.org](mailto:sophia@sophiafoundation.org)

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

All registrations due by March 1, 2026.

Directions to Lake Junaluska Retreat Center:

<https://lakejunaluska.com/about-us/location-directions/>

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

The program will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, April 9, followed by the Beatitudes Grail Circle. The program will end on Monday morning, April 13, with breakfast, after Sunday evening's Mass of the Lamb and His Bride.

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

- The Trials of Suffering
- Why Me, O Lord?
- The Sacrament of Ordination

All those attending the Sophia Grail Circle Training are requested to read *The Christian Mystery* by Rudolf Steiner and George McDonald's, *What's Mine's Mine*, in preparation for our time together April 9-13, 2026. Please make note of points in each of these books that are significant to you and select an example from *What's Mine's Mine* that demonstrates a particular concept in *The Christian Mystery*. Be alert to where events and passages in *What's Mine's Mine* parallel passages in *The Christian Mystery*. During our discussion time there will be an opportunity for each of you to share your thoughts and initiate a conversation about the dominant point you choose to discuss.

### THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY by RUDOLF STEINER

<https://steinerbooks.org/products/9780880104197-the-christian-mystery>

<https://www.amazon.com/Christian-Mystery-Early-Lectures/dp/0880104198>

*The Christian Mystery* is a major collection of lectures in which Rudolf Steiner affirms the reality of esoteric Christianity and unveils many of its secret teachings. His lectures are on the significance of the Mystery of Golgotha and of the Blood that flowed on the Cross; the relationship of Christ and Lucifer (or Love and Knowledge); the various paths of initiation, including the Christian-Gnostic and Rosicrucian Paths; and Steiner's early interpretations of St. John's gospel and the sermon on the mount. All of Steiner's lectures on the Lord's Prayer are also included, as well as the version of the prayer that Steiner himself prayed throughout his life.

There are at least two editions of this book. The one (published in 1998) indicated above with URL links is the one you are asked to read. It has several lectures of great significance that are not included in the other earlier editions. See the Table of Contents below to be sure you have the correct edition.

*What Christ fulfilled upon the earth, was prepared by other great teachers who had preceded him, by Buddha, by the last Zarathustra, by Pythagoras, who all lived about 600 years before Christ, and who were men who had already absorbed a great deal of what lived in the surroundings of man. They had absorbed the spark of Christ. Also Moses belongs to them. But the Ego of the other people had not yet absorbed this spark.*

*Into the physical, etheric and astral body of Jesus of Nazareth had entered the whole Fire-Spirit, the one source of all the different sparks that lived in the human beings. This Fire-Spirit is the Christ, the only divine Being who lived on earth in this form. He entered the body of Jesus of Nazareth and as a result, all those who feel united with Christ Jesus are able to absorb Buddhi. The possibility to absorb and take in the Buddhi begins with the appearance of Christ Jesus. St. John the Evangelist designates it as the Divine Creative Word. The Fire-Spirit that poured his sparks into men is this Divine Creative Word. – from *The Mystery of Golgotha* GA 97.*

## CONTENTS:

Introduction by Christopher Bamford

### 1. Prologue

The Mystical Meaning of the Mass

The Significance of Christmas from the Perspective of Spiritual Science

The Origin of Religious Confessions and Forms of Prayers

### 2. The Christian Mystery

The Christian Mystery

The Mystery of Golgotha

The Promise of the Spirit of Truth

The World-historical Significance of the Blood that Flowed on the Cross

The Purification of the Blood from the Passion of Selfhood through the Mystery of Golgotha

### 3. Lucifer and Christ

Lucifer, the Bearer of Light; Christ, the Bringer of Love

The Children of Lucifer: The Step from Love Based on Kinship to Spiritual Love

The Intellect as a Gift from Lucifer

### 4. Paths of Initiation

The Three Paths of Initiation

The Yoga Path, Christian Gnostic Initiation, and the Esotericism of the Rosicrucian

How Does One Gain Higher Knowledge in the Rosicrucian Sense?

Who Are the Rosicrucians?

Christian Initiation and Rosicrucian Training

The Schools for Adepts of the Past

Earlier Initiation and Esoteric Christianity

Christian Gnostic Meditations

### 5. The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer as Prayed by Rudolf Steiner

The Lord's Prayer, 1 & 2

The Lord's Prayer Considered Esoterically, 1 & 2

### 6. Gospel Readings

John's Gospel

John's gospel as a Record of Initiation: The First Twelve Chapters

The Sermon on the Mount

### 7. Epilogue

Christianity Began as a Religion but is Greater than a Religion

[WHAT'S MINE'S MINE](#) by George MacDonald - David Jack edition

<https://www.amazon.com/Whats-Mines-Mine-MacDonalds-Unabridged-ebook/dp/B0C5BFY978>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/156430450-what-s-mine-s-mine>

Rated "the BEST of all MacDonald's novels" by C. S. Lewis!

First published in 1886, this is a story of two brothers that love each other the way David and Jonathan did. It's a story of the vanishing of the highland clans' way of life as their land is bought out by "lowlanders" richer than they. And it's the story of the eldest of those brothers, Alister Macruadh, a young chief who loves his clan with the love of a father and wants above all else to keep his land and keep his people safely with him.

C. S. Lewis describes that MacDonald "baptized his imagination," both in the literal sense of that word and the spiritual sense. "This book made me examine myself as a reflection of Christ and showed me ways in which old idolatries still hang on." – C.S. Lewis

After reading *What's Mine's Mine*, one continues to think of Alister and Ian as old friends, and miss them when their story is ended,

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