

# MEDITATIONS

All men need enough silence and solitude in their lives to enable the deep inner voice of their own true self to be heard at least occasionally. ... For he cannot go on happily for long, unless he is in contact with the springs of spiritual life which are hidden in the depths of this own true soul.

*Thomas Merton*

We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time. What we call the beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.

*T.S. Elliot, Four Quartets*

O Splendor of God's glory bright, From Light eternal bringing light, O Light of life, the living Spring, True day, all days illumining, Dawn's glory gilds the earth and skies; Let Him, our perfect Morn, arise, The Word in God Almighty one, Creator imaged in the Son. Amen.

*Ambrose of Milan*

Isaiah 42:1-4 (New American Standard)

- 1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;  
My chosen one in whom My soul delights  
I have put My Spirit upon Him;  
He will bring forth justice to the nations.
- 2 "He will not cry out or raise His voice,  
Nor make His voice heard in the street.
- 3 "A bruised reed He will not break  
And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;  
He will faithfully bring forth justice.
- 4 "He will not be disheartened or crushed  
Until He has established justice in the earth;  
And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.

*Frederick Buechner*

By this mystery within us we bear the imprint of the incomprehensible godhead.

*Gregory of Nyssa*

## Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet centre,  
in the crowded life we lead

find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:

clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes that we may see

all the things that really matter,  
be at peace and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace,

God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, touches base,

making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,

raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,

let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:

there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,

in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare!

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A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening.  
*Soren Kierkegaard*

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshippers meeting together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be were they to become "unity" conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. Social religion is perfected when private religion is purified.

*A.W. Tozer*

Matthew 22:36-40 (King James)

- 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?
- 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- 38 This is the first and great commandment.
- 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
- 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets

## SUGGESTED READINGS

*The Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*  
Richard Foster

*Let Your Life Speak*  
Parker Palmer

*Listening to Your Life: Daily Meditations*  
Frederick Buechner

*My Utmost for His Highest*  
Oswald Chambers

*Spirituality 101: The Indispensable Guide to Keeping or Finding Your Spiritual Life on Campus*  
Harriett Schwartz

*Thoughts in Solitude*  
Thomas Merton

*When My Faith Feels Shallow: Pursuing the Depths of God*  
Minette Drumwright Pratt

BAYLOR  
UNIVERSITY

SACRED  
SPACES  
QUIET  
PLACES

BAYLOR  
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Throughout history, people of faith have designated certain sites, buildings, and places as sacred. In the Old Testament we see sacred places like the Temple, the holy ground of the burning bush, and the small space atop the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the presence of God. In Hebrew scripture, Joshua asked for stones to be piled on the bank of the Jordan after the Israelites had crossed. It served to remind them of the sacredness of that location to their history and God's work in their community.

In the modern church, this tradition of designating space as sacred is still practiced. It may be a garden courtyard next to a sanctuary, a nature path leading to a small stream, or the area surrounding a statue, monument, or memorial. These spaces create a place for prayer, reflection, and encountering God.

The following are spaces on Baylor's campus where people have encountered God in varied ways. By doing so, they have "piled stones" in these locations to designate them as places of reflection and prayer. Additionally, we participate in the biblical tradition of setting aside time and space for communing with God.

During your time at Baylor, we invite you to visit one or more of these places and spend time in meditation. We have provided a small description of the spaces and thoughts for reflection. As you visit these locations, may your time there remind you that all time and space is created by God and is a sacred reflection of His invisible presence.



**LANDMARKS**

- A Armstrong Browning Library
- B Baylor Sciences Building
- C North Village Residential Community Center
- D Dutton Avenue Parking Facility
- E Stacy Riddle Forum
- F Tidwell Bible Building
- G Moody Memorial Library
- H George W. Truett Theological Seminary
- I Brooks Residential College
- J Fifth Street Parking Facility / Bookstore
- K McLean Tennis Courts
- L Rena Marrs McLean Gymnasium

**1 Armstrong Browning Library**

The Armstrong Browning Library, a research center devoted to the study of the Victorian poets Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and their contemporaries, houses arguably the world's largest collection of secular stained glass windows, many with themes to remind us of the connection between art and faith. The Speight Avenue entrance welcomes visitors with a statue representing Pippa and the inscription "God's in His heaven — All's right with the world," from Browning's poem *Pippa Passes*.

**2 Erica Cummings Memorial Prayer Garden**

As you face the front of the Baylor Sciences Building, at the far right, a garden celebrates the life of Erica Cummings, who attended Baylor from 1995 to 1997. The memorial garden offers a place for students to reflect on the benefits and rigors of the University. An ideal setting to consider the combined roles of the soul, mind, and spirit, Erica Cummings offers us these simple words, "Allow God to help you accomplish the small tasks of life ... and be grateful."

**3 Hulme Family Prayer Garden and Whiteley Fountain**

The Hulme Family Prayer Garden near the North Village Community Center features the Whiteley Fountain, green space, a walking path, and areas for prayer and meditation. A nearby stone marker is dedicated to Second Missionary Baptist Church, founded in 1879 and previously located here. An agreement between the congregation and Baylor allowed construction of a new home for the church at 2001 Dallas Street and the North Village for Baylor students.

**4 Mary McCall Chapel**

Inside the Stacy Riddle Forum, the Mary McCall Chapel features stained glass windows, traditional style pews, a grand piano, and a prayer room. The chapel provides Baylor's student groups with a place to gather for regular prayer and Bible studies. Each window represents a specific reference in scripture.

**5 Miller Chapel**

Located beyond the foyer of the Tidwell Bible Building, Miller Chapel is the oldest existing chapel on Baylor's campus. In the late afternoon, the windows illuminate the pews in bright blues and greens. Since its dedication in 1954, Miller Chapel has provided the Baylor community with a place to step away from the business of the day to rest and reflect.

**6 Milton T. Gregory Memorial Garden**

A gift from the family and friends of Milton T. Gregory, a longtime benefactor and board member of Baylor University, this garden near the entrance of Moody Memorial Library provides opportunities for quiet meditation and reflection. The literary quotations on the columns are some of the favorites of Mr. Gregory and offer solace and inspiration to all who seek the serenity of this place.

**7 Paul W. Powell Chapel and Truett Seminary**

The Paul W. Powell Chapel features stained glass windows, traditional style pews, a pipe organ, and a grand piano. The windows illustrate characteristics that enhance the gifts of a person answering God's call to ministry. The Reynolds Courtyard of Truett Seminary, named for one of Texas Baptists' most respected preachers, features green space for reflection and a fountain to represent the spring of living water.

**8 Robbins Chapel**

Robbins Chapel provides a spiritually inspiring location in which to participate in personal meditation or small group worship and prayer. A public service of contemplative prayer takes place weekdays from 9 am to 9:20 am. The chapel's design and structure, with its liturgical historical dynamics, seek to convey an artistic and aesthetic ideal where the indwelling and transcendent qualities of God come together.

**9 Student Memorial Fountain**

Near Brooks Village and along Waco Creek, the Student Memorial Fountain was dedicated in November 1990. The fountain memorializes Baylor students who have lost their lives prior to obtaining a Baylor degree. The fountain reminds us that the University brims with young life, and, yet, the long rows of student names etched in stone remind us of life's brevity.

**10 Wilson-Jones Memorial Garden**

The 2005 senior class funded the Wilson-Jones Memorial Garden in honor of two outstanding professors: Ray Wilson and Robert B. Jones. Surrounded by scenes of a bustling University, take a moment to consider the dedicated faculty and staff who have made Baylor what it is today. This location includes a perennial garden, a walking path, and areas for prayer and meditation.

SACRED SPACES