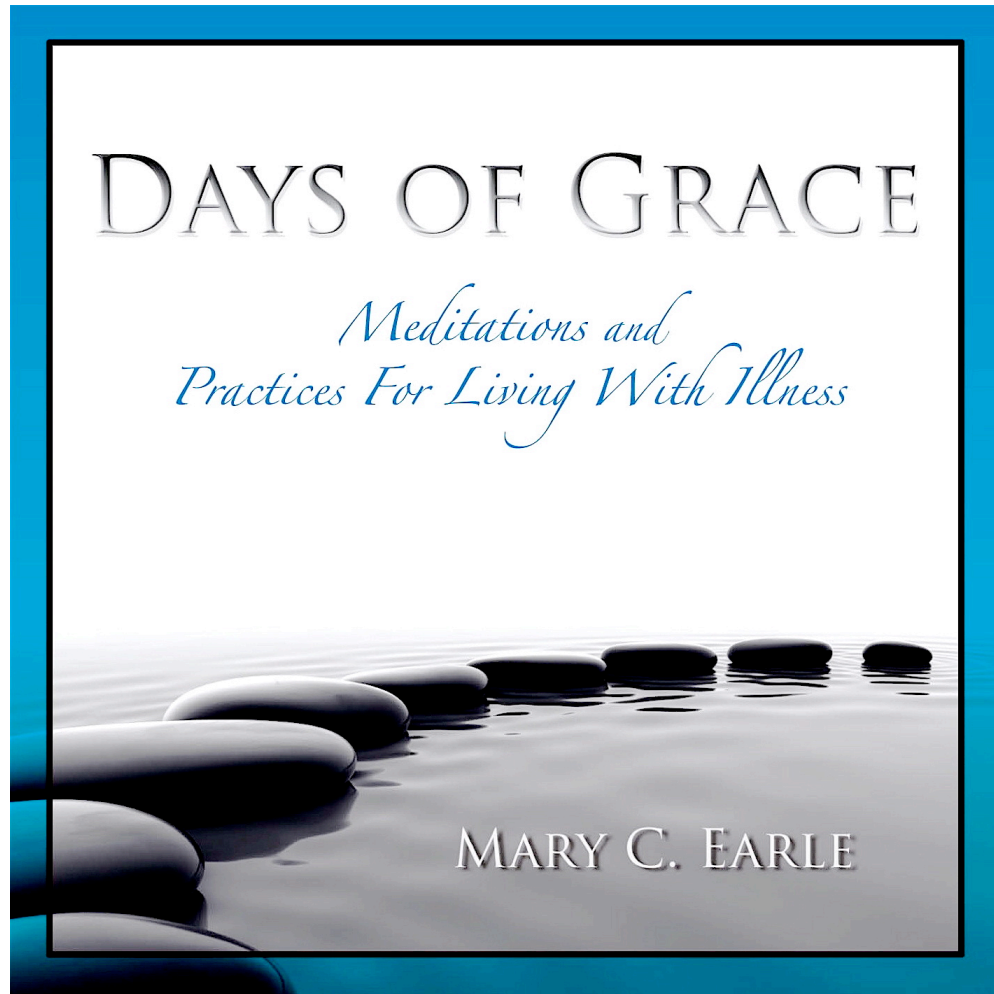


Announcing the release of a new spoken word CD by

The Rev. Mary C. Earle

Days of Grace: Meditations and Practices for Living With Illness



Details

WHAT: CD Release (AUDIO) – 30 Days of Meditation

TITLE: *Days of Grace: Meditations and Practices for Living with Illness*

WHO: This CD is produced in partnership with www.explorefaith.org and Material Media. Written by the Rev. Mary C. Earle; read by the author.

For More Details Contact: Elizabeth Cauthorn
Material Media
5150 Broadway #466
San Antonio, Texas 78209
www.MaterialMedia.Net
Toll Free: 877-822-1923

AVAILABLE: Amazon.com, MaterialMedia,Net and iTunes.com as well as in retail outlets.

EXCERPTS (© Mary C. Earle) from:

DAYS OF GRACE: MEDITATIONS AND PRACTICES FOR LIVING WITH ILLNESS

Day One

“You will show me the path of life”

Ps. 16:11

If you are reading this meditation, in all probability you are learning to live with illness. Your illness may be chronic or progressive or terminal. In any case, you are entering a school of experience for which our culture offers little wisdom. You are seeking to find a way to live with the stresses and the discomforts of a body that is somehow weakened. You are trying to live within new limitations. You are also coming face to face with the fact of your own mortality. ...

Day Eight

“I call upon you from the ends of the earth

With heaviness in my heart”

Ps. 61:2

... The psalms tell us to pray the heaviness of heart. Don't gussy it up. Don't try to make it pretty. Bring the heaviness of heart to speech. If you are sad, pray the sadness. If you are feeling hard pressed, pray that feeling. If you are feeling besieged by diagnostic procedures, name that sense of being besieged. ...

Day Ten

“I will dwell in your house forever,

I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.”

Ps. 61:4

Living with illness is all the more difficult if I am struggling with a punitive image of God. If I have a notion that God decided to strike me with illness, it will be very difficult to sense that God is merciful. If I have been brought up to believe that God has nothing better to do than find mean ways to hurt the people God has made, I am not likely to trust that God. ...

Day Twenty Six

“You trace my journeys and my resting-places

And are acquainted with all my ways.”

Ps. 139:2

Sometimes it makes me smile to imagine that God is acquainted with all my ways. God knows that I sing to my border collie. And God knows that I love the aroma of newly turned earth in the spring. God knows I am a Texan through and through and that I love being bilingual.

And God knows that my way through illness is an odd journey. No one besides me and God knows what this body feels like from the inside out. No one besides me and God knows the subtle signs of trouble which can be addressed or ignored (to my peril). No one besides me and God is acquainted with my inner conversation about the various daily decisions that might support my healing (or not). ...

Praise for author, teacher, priest, Mary C. Earle

The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from Women of the Wilderness

(Morehouse Publishing, 2007)

Also available in Audio form (Material Media, 2008)

“Mary C. Earle is a modern day-Desert Mother, and we are fortunate, indeed, for her introduction to the Desert Ammas’ ancient wisdom, and for her gentle guidance on ways to incorporate that wisdom into contemporary spiritual practices.”

—**Debra. K. Farrington, author**

Beginning Again: Benedictine Wisdom for Living with Illness

(Morehouse Publishing, 2004)

Also available in Audio form (Material Media, 2007)

“Mary Earle, who knows from experience what she is talking about, writes,

‘When we live with illness and let it help us establish a new rule of life, we act in faith.’ Earle’s own re-patterning of her life has risen out of the reality of acute pancreatitis. Hers is no greeting card theology, but a thoughtful crafting of daily life grounded in Christian belief and practice. You do not have to be ill to benefit and grow from reading this remarkable account of a life transformed.”

—**Corinne Ware, D.Min., Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest**

Broken Body, Healing Spirit: Lectio Divina and Living with Illness

(Morehouse Publishing, 2003)

“Mary Earle brings her fine qualities to this book - clarity of mind, depth of spirit and an integrated experience of brokenness. She does all of this with passion, imagination and rare sensitivity.”

—**Rev. Philip Newell, poet, scholar, teacher**

Holy Companions: Spiritual Practices from the Celtic Saints, coauthored with Sylvia Maddox, Morehouse Publishing, 2004 and

Praying with the Celtic Saints, coauthored with Sylvia Maddox, St. Mary's

Press, 2000

“A delightful companion to the inner life, offering healing, integration, and luminosity.” — **John O'Donohue, Irish poet and philosopher**

“Hers is no greeting card theology, but a thoughtful crafting of daily life grounded in Christian belief and practice.”

About Mary C. Earle



Mary C. Earle is an Episcopal priest, poet, author and spiritual director, who teaches classes, both on campus and online, for the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. A resident of San Antonio, Mary is also the author-in-residence at The Work+Shop, a ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Since 1995, she has been living with chronic pancreatitis, a condition that, despite her constant vigilance, has led to no less than seven trips to the emergency room. Mary's ministry is grounded in healing, the natural world and Benedictine spiritual teachings.

Her most recently published book, *The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness*, has proved to offer fruitful material for retreats and quiet days.

She has also authored *Beginning Again: Benedictine Wisdom for Living with Illness and Broken Body*, *Healing Spirit: Lectio Divina and Living with Illness*.

About the former book, author Barbara Cawthorne Crafton wrote, "In this extraordinarily comforting and challenging book, Mary Earle takes the setbacks of chronic illness or disability and reframes them as powerful tools for keeping a rule of life."

Mary has offered presentations and retreats in a variety of ecumenical settings, including conferences of Spiritual Directors International, the International Thomas Merton Society and hospice organizations. In 2003 she received the Durstan R. McDonald Award for excellence in teaching from the Seminary of the Southwest.

Of her most recent CD, "Days of Grace," she writes, "The meditations—I hope—do not intend to diminish the difficulties of living with an illness. They are offered from the perspective of having to live with the limitations, and with chronic pain, and with no easy answers."

She and her husband, Doug, live in San Antonio with their border collie, Maggie, and their six-toed cat, Cuthbert, and a "grand-cat" named Leftovers.

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www.MaryCEarle.com

Jpg pictures available on request

About the Music

Days of Grace: Meditations and Practices for living with Illness

“[King] offers radiant takes of traditional gospel tunes—these tracks are at once soothing and invigorating—like a good choir rave-up.”

Living Blues Magazine, University of Mississippi

Ben Bowen King, blues guitarist, music historian and owner/producer of Talking Taco Records, has drawn from the hymns of his latest CD, “**A Laying on of Songs**” to provide a haunting, soothing and engaging accompaniment to the spoken words of *Days of Grace: Meditations and Practices for Living With Illness* by Mary C. Earle.

Woven throughout Earle’s meditations are traditional hymns originally interpreted by a master musician, Ben Bowen King, and his steel guitar.

“Ben’s music comes from the truth of its origins--composed out of pain and struggle, offering hope,” said Mary C. Earle.

Listeners who are versed in the American hymn traditions will recognize “Amazing Grace,” “In the Sweet By and By,” and “Shall We Gather by the River” along with many other examples of this beloved canon. The full recordings of these tunes are available “A Laying on of Songs.” The CD joins King’s critically acclaimed roots gospel release “Sidewalk Saints” as well as numerous recordings of Latino, Mexican, jazz and Native American music performed and produced by this multi-talented musician. For a complete catalog of Ben’s recordings, go to www.talkingtaco.com.

King’s recently released CD harks back to pre-war gospel music in its adoption of unusual guitar tunings favored by circuit-riding preachers of the day.

“In The Sweet By and By” was actually written as a prescription for depression by a part-time pharmacist/pastor. The church-camp classic “Kum-Bah-Yah” was actually a plea for deliverance by the slaves of the Georgia Sea Island. King’s reflections or devotionals on the songs and their history are available by request via his website. In addition, the nationally known Web site Explorefaith.org, which receives more than 3 millions hits annually, will be running his series of devotionals with music beginning in November 2008.

