



Audiendo Divina: Listening into Prayer

Last month, I attended a retreat in Connecticut with other New Worshiping Community leaders. While there, I met Ike and Jesse—musicians who lead a New Worshiping Community in Times Square in New York City. Their worship is rooted in improvisational music, which is... not my natural musical language.

I am very much a play-the-music-written-on-the-page kind of musician. I might add a grace note here or deconstruct a chord there, but mostly, I stick close to what's in front of me. So when Ike and Jesse invited us to join the music they were creating—with our own instruments, voices, or spoken words—I hesitated. I held back. I listened.

And then others began to join in. Tentatively at first. A sound here. A rhythm there. Eventually, I joined too.

And OH.

How freeing. How healing.

The textures and layers of that one-of-a-kind, never-to-be-repeated melody filled my soul in a way I didn't know I needed. There was no right or wrong—just listening deeply and responding as we were able. It felt like prayer released from the need to be perfect.

The next morning, I shared with Jesse that I had been wondering how to invite others into Audiendo Divina—prayer through listening and sound. Ike and Jesse had inspired me, and

suddenly I felt excited to try some new things.

Audiendo Divina is a prayer practice centered on listening: listening to God, listening to one another, and listening for what emerges when we make space for sound, silence, and Spirit. It is not about performance or musical skill. It is about loosening our grip on control and trusting that God can meet us in sound we did not plan and could never repeat.

Audiendo Divina will be the focus of the third retreat in the seven-week Grace at the Gallery practice series, following prayer with Scripture (Lectio Divina) and prayer with images (Visio Divina).

If the idea of making sound feels intimidating, please know you are not alone. I felt that way too—and what I discovered was not pressure, but permission.

You are invited to experience Audiendo Divina during the seven-week Grace at the Gallery series, beginning February 3rd. (See the Grace at the Gallery event listing below!) Each weekly gathering offers space to slow down, engage sacred story, and encounter God through wonder-filled practices. Registration details are available on our website.

STUDIO OPENS IN 15 DAYS!!

**Tell your
friends!**



Send to 10!

Help us grow the A Place of Grace community! In celebration of the tenth year of A Place of Grace and the TEN retreats *per month* offered where companions can gather in shared ministry, we invite you to send this email to ten people you believe would be blessed by participation in A Place of Grace retreats and tell them why you thought of them! Go ahead! Send to 10! Thank you!!

1/14/26 9:00 a.m. to noon

Four members of our **Mission Madness** team met at Community Hope Center on Wednesday morning. Jean worked in the warehouse. Wendy sorted and folded linens.



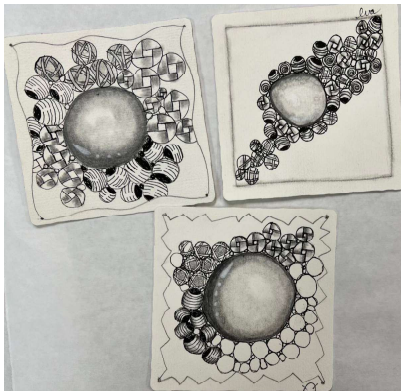
Pam worked with clothing. I cleaned, sized, and sent shoes to the store with Pam's help when she finished. We had a great day! Our Mission Madness team welcomes new members who find enjoyment in community service. A Place of Grace pastor, Julie Gvillo, handles all the arrangements with local agencies. Join us!

1/14/26 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

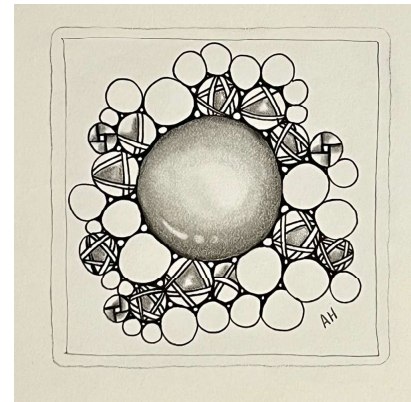


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1/15/26 6:00 to 9:00 pm
(CST)



Look at what our Prayer Art Companions created at the January Prayer Art Retreat at Von Dell Gallery & Studios on Thursday night! It was a lovely evening of art and sabbath. On the left is the art created by our in-person companions, and on the right is the art created by our Zoom companion. We worked on reticula and fragments. Here are a few of the fragments we learned filling our Tipple reticulum. <3 Come learn to tangle with us! We start Grace at the Gallery February 3rd with Prayer Art and our February Prayer Art Retreat is on the 12th.



RSVP on the APOG web site!

1/28/26 9:00 a.m. to noon



Mission Madness Retreat at Operation Blessing, 18 E Lorena, Wood River, IL. Working with local agencies is a blessing and a joy! More hands make light work, and we sure have fun doing it! **Please RSVP by 1/23 if you plan to participate.** We know you'll have a great time!

RSVP for Mission Madness



A Place of Grace pastor, Julie Gvillo, will be preaching:

2/1/26 Church of the Master United Church of Christ, Florissant, MO. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m.



7:30 to 8:00 a.m.
8:00 to 8:30 a.m.
Taste of a Practice for early birds, people on the way to work, and those with mobility challenges. Downstairs; use the back door from the parking lot.

9:00 to 11:00 a.m. 2-hour retreat

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Lunch Hour Taste of a Practice.

1:15 to 3:15 p.m. 2-hour retreat

3:30 to 4:00 p.m. Elementary students'
4:15 to 4:45 p.m. Middle School students
5:00 to 5:30 p.m. High School students
5:45 to 6:15 p.m. End of Day
Taste of a Practice



You are invited to join us for "Grace at the Gallery" each Tuesday for seven weeks, beginning February 3rd. Same practice all day. Different practice each week! See the side-bar for the time that works best for you.

2/3 Practice: Prayer Art
2/10 Practice: Worship and Wonder
2/17 Practice: Audiendo Divina

All retreats from 11:30 a.m. to 6:16 p.m. will be held upstairs in the studio.

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 2-hour retreat, downstairs; use the back door from the parking lot.

2/24 Practice: Coaching Cohort
3/3 Practice: Selah
3/10 Practice: Mission Madness Workshop
3/17 Practice: Healing and Wholeness

RSVP by 1/27 for the full seven-week series or one week ahead for individual retreats according to your schedule.

RSVP for Grace at the Gallery

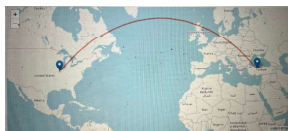
2/11/26 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Artful Expressions of Grief retreats begin. This is a six-retreat series that takes place over three months on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month (2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, and 4/22 for the first six-retreat series). Each retreat will feature a different practice *in addition to art* where companions can receive pastoral care and communal support as they work through grief over *any kind of loss*. Please RSVP by 1/27. There is a materials fee for this retreat (more info to come). No previous art experience required.

RSVP for Artful Expressions of Grief Series

2/18/26 Ash Wednesday



Walk to Jerusalem begins! On Wednesday, February 18th, the Walk to Jerusalem will begin with daily meditations/spiritual practices via email and Facebook group and podcast, daily check-ins, and our communal effort to walk the 6415 miles to Jerusalem. Register today! And invite friends!!

RSVP for Walk to Jerusalem

A Place of Grace is offering-based. Cash offerings may be made in person. Checks may be mailed to A Place of Grace, 348 Snake Road, Dorsey, IL. Electronic offerings may be made via Venmo (@A-Place-of-Grace) or PayPal.me/JulieGvillo.

If you no longer wish to receive this email, please reply with "Unsubscribe" in the body of the email. Thank you for your continued support of A Place of Grace and its ministry in the community and beyond!

Make an Offering