



PACEM in TERRIS

HERMITAGE RETREAT CENTER

A CREATIVE'S RETREAT

Made to Make

Drawing from The Artist's Way and Scripture's vision of a Creator God — a three-day retreat for those who create, recovering the sacred source of imagination and craft.



A Three-Day Self-Directed Silent Retreat

Foundation: Before You Begin

The Artist's Way meets Scripture · What it means to create

THE PREMISE

In the beginning, God created

The first thing we know about God is that he makes things. The first thing we know about humanity is that we are made in his image. To create is not peripheral to faith — it is one of the most profoundly God-like things a human being can do. This retreat honors that.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

— Genesis 1:1

THE ARTIST'S WAY FRAMEWORK

Julia Cameron's two core practices

Morning Pages: Three pages of longhand stream-of-consciousness writing each morning — draining the internal critic and clearing the channel. Not a journal. Not art. Just the raw, unfiltered stream of your mind.

The Artist Date: A solo excursion to do something that feeds the creative spirit. Alone. Replenishing what the work draws out. Both practices appear each day. Neither is optional.

THE WOUND

For those whose creativity has been blocked or shamed

Cameron writes about ‘creative injuries’ — moments when we were told our work was wrong, worthless, or too much. This retreat creates space to name them, bring them to God, and receive healing. Creativity is not a luxury. It is your birthright as an image-bearer.

“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

— Ephesians 2:10

Day One: Uncovering the Source

Morning Pages · God as original artist · The creative wound

Before we make anything, we must remember who made us — and why. Today we reconnect with God as the original artist, and ourselves as beloved apprentices of his creative joy.

MORNING PAGES · 30–45 MIN

Three pages before anything else

Immediately upon waking, write three full pages by hand. Not a journal. Not art. Just the raw, unfiltered stream of your mind — fears, wants, dreams, complaints. The only rule: do not stop until three pages are full. This is drainage, not creation.

FIRST PRAYER PERIOD · 45 MIN

God the Artist

Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 as if for the first time. Notice: God speaks and things exist. God sees what he has made and calls it good. God rests and takes pleasure in the work.

Journal: Where do I see my own creative impulse reflected in the Creator? What creative longing has gone unfed for too long?

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

— Genesis 1:31

ARTIST DATE · 1–2 HOURS

Fill the well

Go somewhere that feeds your creative spirit — alone. A gallery, garden, record shop, river. You are not producing anything. You are receiving. Bring only your senses. Leave your phone in your pocket.

AFTERNOON PRAYER · 45 MIN

The creative wound

Read Psalm 139:13–16. Then journal: Who told you your art wasn’t good enough? Name the moment. Then read it back as a prayer, handing the wound to God and asking for his word over it.

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

— Psalm 139:14

Evening

Read Exodus 35:30–35 — Bezalel, filled with the Spirit of God specifically for artistic craftsmanship. The Spirit of God fills people for creative work. Your making is holy. Sleep with that.

Day Two: Clearing the Channel

The inner critic · The blocked artist · Receiving from the Source

Cameron identifies the internal critic — the voice that says ‘who do you think you are?’ — as the primary enemy of creative life. Today we name it, refuse to obey it, and replace it with the voice of the One who made us to make things.

MORNING PAGES · 30–45 MIN

Write through the critic

Today’s pages have one purpose: fill three pages even if the inner critic is screaming. Try alternating: ‘The critic says _____. God says _____.’ The pages are the practice. The practice is the point.

FIRST PRAYER PERIOD · 45 MIN

The still small voice

Read 1 Kings 19:1–13. Elijah, depleted and convinced his work was worthless, ran into the wilderness. God fed him, let him sleep, then spoke — not in the earthquake or the wind, but in a still small voice.

Journal: Sit in silence for fifteen minutes. What does the still small voice say about your creative gifts?

“And after the fire — a still small voice.”

— 1 Kings 19:12

CREATE · 60–90 MIN

Make something — anything

This afternoon is for making. Not a masterpiece. Not for anyone else. Write a poem no one will read. Sketch something badly. Play one song. Work with your hands.

God created and called it good. Make something today and say: this is enough, because I made it, and I am made in his image.

AFTERNOON PRAYER · 45 MIN

Abundance, not scarcity

Read John 10:10 and Philippians 4:19. Blocked artists believe in creative scarcity. Scripture counters with a theology of abundance.

Journal: Where does scarcity thinking appear in your creative life? What would it look like to create from abundance?

Evening

Read Ecclesiastes 9:10: 'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.' You were made for this. Sleep as a maker at rest.

Day Three: Sent as a Maker

Co-creating with God · Taking the retreat home

We do not create in isolation from the Creator. We are collaborators — working in the medium he invented, with gifts he gave, for a world he loves. Today we receive our commission: keep making, keep offering, keep trusting the Source.

MORNING PAGES · 30–45 MIN

A letter of gratitude and intention

Write your morning pages as a letter to God: thank him for what you received this retreat, and tell him what you intend to make next. Be specific. Name the project. Write the first line. Something has been stirred — let the pages hold it.

FIRST PRAYER PERIOD · 45 MIN

Your talent is not yours alone

Read Matthew 25:14–30. The servant condemned was not the one who failed — it was the one who hid. Fear buries gifts. Courage offers them.

Journal: What creative gift have you been burying out of fear? What would it look like to offer it, imperfectly, this week?

THE SUSCIPE — FOR CREATIVES

Lord, take what I make and use it for your glory. I offer you the work — the finished and the unfinished, the praised and the rejected. I offer you my fear of judgment, my hunger for approval, my grief over what has not yet come. Give me only your love and your grace. They are enough to keep making. (After St. Ignatius of Loyola)

CLOSING · 30 MIN

Three gifts and one creative commitment

1. Name three things God gave you in these three days.
2. Name one creative project you commit to beginning or returning to within seven days.
3. Write a blessing over your own creative work — as if blessing someone else's.

Go, Beloved Maker

You are made in the image of the God who looked at what he made and called it very good.
Go make things. The world needs what only you can offer.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”

— Colossians 3:23

Core Practices & Extra Scripture

Daily tools · Cameron's key principles · Extra scripture

PRACTICE

Keep the Morning Pages going

Cameron recommends morning pages as a permanent daily practice. Three pages every morning. Twelve weeks changes most people's creative lives. Consider committing to twelve weeks when you return.

PRACTICE

The weekly Artist Date

One solo adventure per week — something that fills the creative well. A walk in a new neighborhood. An hour in a library. Replenish what you pour out.

EXTRA SCRIPTURE

A treasury for creative prayer

- Proverbs 8:22–31 — Wisdom as craftsman at God's side
- Isaiah 64:8 — We are the clay; you are the potter
- Psalm 33:3 — Sing to him a new song; play skillfully
- Colossians 3:17 — Whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord
- Romans 12:6 — We have gifts that differ; use them
- Revelation 21:5 — Behold, I am making all things new

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