# Mental Health Mondays Practices for the Anxious Soul

April 15, 2024 Jenny Heckman, MS LPC

#### A. We are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

- 1. The brain and anxiety
- 2. The sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems
- 3. What we know about anxiety sufferers
- 4. What we know about environments of stress

## **B.** Baseline Habits that Mitigate Anxiety

- 1. Diet
- 2. Exercise
- 3. Sleep
- 4. Connection
- 5. Service
- 6. Play and creativity
- 7. Solitude and margin

### C. Renegotiate Your Relationship with Technology

- 1. Technology and the age of too much information
- 2. Technology and over-exposure of the "bad"
- 3. Technology and the age of hustling for a place in this world

Book Recommendation:
You are Not Your Own: Belonging to God in an Inhuman World
Alan Noble

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#### D. Spiritual Disciplines that Calm the Soul\*

- 1. **Breath Prayer**: to pray a simple, intimate prayer of heartfelt desire before God.
- 2. **Centering Prayer**: to quiet the heart and rest in God alone.
- 3. **Contemplation**: to wake up to the presence of God in all things.
- 4. **Contemplative Prayer**: to develop and open, restful receptivity to the Trinity that enables me to always be with God just as I am.
- 5. **Detachment:** to nurture the spirit of trust that is attached to God alone.
- 6. **Fixed-Hour Prayer:** to stop my work and pray throughout the day.
- 7. **Gratitude:** to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting to live with a grateful heart, cognizant of God's work in my life and abundant resources.
- 8. **Intercessory Prayer:** to turn my concerns and worries into prayer; to enter God's heart for the world and pray from there.
- 9. **Journaling:** to be alert to my life through writing and reflecting on God's presence and activity in, around and through me.
- 10. **Listening Prayer:** to quiet the inner and outer noise so I can open my heart and listen for God's voice.
- 11. **Meditation:** to more deeply gaze on God through the written Word and created order.
- 12. **Mindfulness/Attentiveness:** to live wholeheartedly in the present moment, alert to God and without judgment.
- 13. **Practicing the Presence:** to develop a continual openness and awareness of Christ's presence living in me.
- 14. **Prayer of Lament:** to take my complaints, anger, sufferings, frustrations, and heartaches to God.
- 15. **Prayer of Recollection:** to rest in God, allowing him to calm and heal my fragmented and distracted self.
- 16. **Rest:** to honor God and my human limitations through restful rhythms.
- 17. **Retreat:** to pull back from daily life and spend extended time with God.
- 18. **Rule for Life:** to live a sane and holy rhythm that reflects a deep love for God and respect for how he has made me.
- 19. **Sabbath:** to set apart one day a week for rest and worship of God.
- 20. **Self-Care:** to value myself as my heavenly Father values me.
- 21. **Silence:** to free myself from the addiction to and distraction of noise so I can be totally present to the Lord; to open myself to God in the place beyond words.
- 22. **Simplicity:** to uncomplicate and untangle my life so I can focus on what really matters.
- 23. **Slowing:** to curb my addiction to busyness, hurry and workaholism; to learn to savor the moment.
- 24. **Solitude:** to leave people behind and enter into time alone with God.
- 25. **Unplugging:** to be fully present to and uninterrupted in my interactions with God and others.
- 26. **Visio Divina:** to worship God in the beauty of created things.
- 27. **Waiting:** to patiently trust in God's goodness and timing in the events and relationships of my life.
- 28. **Welcoming Prayer:** to welcome Jesus into every part of my life, body, circumstances, and relationships.