



# THE CENTER for Christian Spirituality

## Sacred Time

8:45 a.m. + June 20, 2021

*"Be aware of what season you are in and give yourself the grace to be there."  
— Kristen Dalton*

### Crossing the Threshold into Worship

#### The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above.  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand has provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

#### The Blessing of the Summer Solstice

adapted from Edward Hays

*Holy is this fire of midsummer's eve, and holy are you, O God,  
who from your burning heart drew forth a fiery ball and flung it into space.*

*Your laughter shook the empty cosmos and echoed again and again  
until the darkness of space resounded with your love and with fire.*

*You reached in again and drew forth fire and seeded it like yeast  
in each atom, plant and animal, each bird, fish, man and woman.*

*And you gave us a special star, our sun, aflame with a life-evoking energy  
to make our planet green and fertile sun-soaked in your love.*

*As we celebrate this feast, open our eyes to the countless wonders  
and to the sparks of fire-life that you have planted in each of us.*

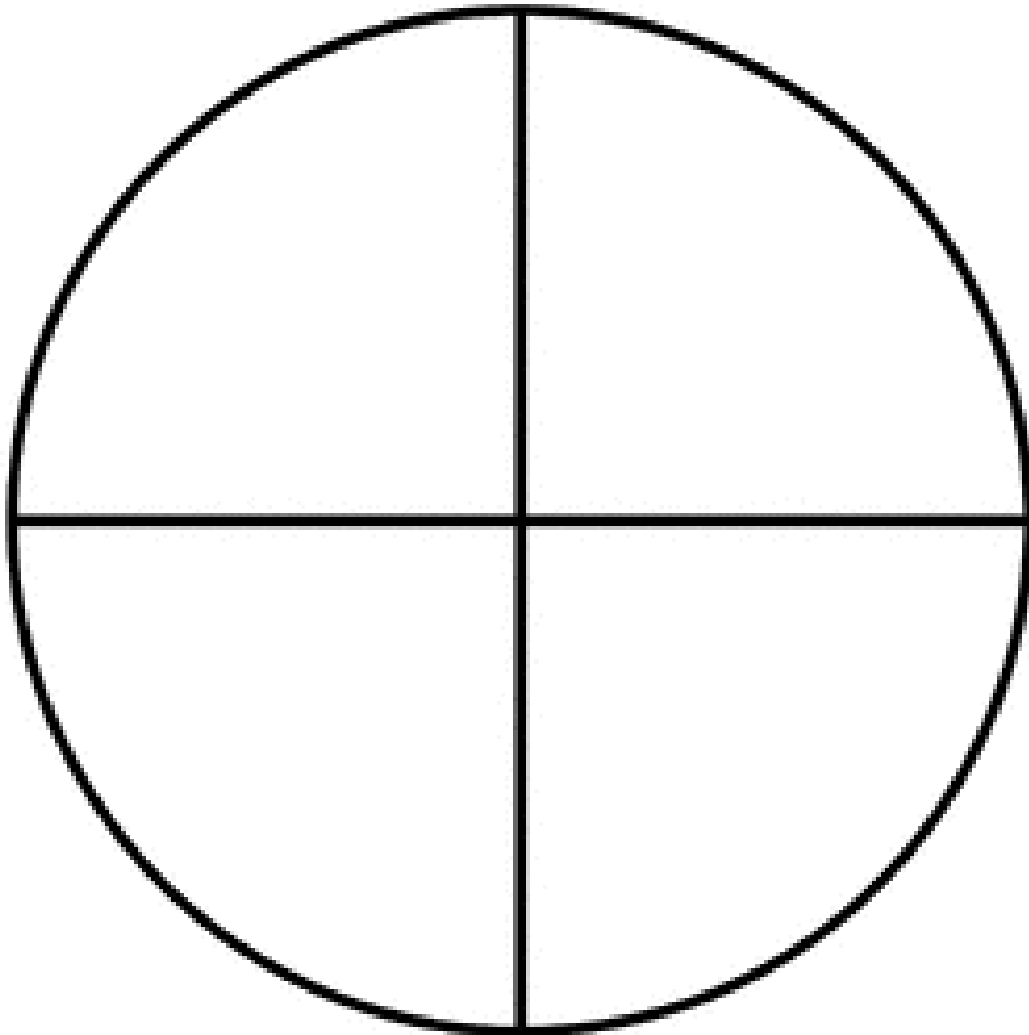
*May this holy and wonderful day be aglow with star-fire and God-light  
as we once again begin the sacred season of summer.*

#### Song of Response

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand has provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

## Considering the Seasons



### Drawing close to Summer

What words, images, memories, come to you when you consider Summer?

What do you associate with Summer?

When has your life felt like you were living in Summer?

### Song of Response

*With beauty behind me I walk, with beauty before me I walk.*

*Today as I wander, I journey in goodness.*

*Seeking out beauty I walk.*

*With beauty below me I walk, with beauty above me I walk.*

*Today as I travel a trail of contentment,*

*With calm assurance I walk.*

*That all may be beauty I walk.*

*"I Walk"*

### Drawing Close to Fall

What words, images, memories, come to you when you consider Fall?

What does Fall evoke in you?

When has your life felt like you were living in Fall?

Song of Response

*"For the Fruit of All Creation"*

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

Drawing Close to Winter

What words, images, memories, come to you when you consider Winter?  
How do you welcome Winter? How do you resist Winter?  
When has your life felt like you were living in Winter?

Song of Response

*"Within Our Darkest Night"*

*Within our darkest night,  
You kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.  
Within our darkest night,  
You kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.*

Drawing Close to Spring

What words, images, memories, come to you when you consider Spring?  
What does spiritual growth feel like for you?  
When has your life felt like you were living in Spring?

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

*"Take, O Take Me As I Am"*

*Take, O take me as I am;  
Summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

All Things in Their Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*For everything that happens in life – there is a season, a right time for everything under heaven:*

*A time to be born, a time to die;  
a time to plant, a time to collect the harvest;  
A time to kill, a time to heal;  
a time to tear down, a time to build up;  
A time to cry, a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, a time to dance;  
A time to scatter stones, a time to pile them up;  
a time for a warm embrace, a time for keeping your distance;  
A time to search, a time to give up as lost;  
a time to keep, a time to throw out;  
A time to tear apart, a time to bind together;  
a time to be quiet, a time to speak up;  
A time to love, a time to hate;  
a time to go to war, a time to make peace.*

## Centering in the Silence

During these few minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. Descend into this silence. There is nothing you need to do. Just let go. Relax. Sense your body. Breathe deeply. If it helps, use a sacred word to help you descend into this silence (such as Christ, Shine, Mercy, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit) or a breath prayer, such as "Here" (inhale) "I am" (exhale).

## The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above.  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand has provided –  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

## Holy Communion

*O sacred source of all the stars,  
We thank you for placing our small planet  
In such a course about our daystar, our sun,  
That we are neither fried nor frozen.  
This food we are about to share  
Is sun-kissed, drunk with starlight,  
And so full of life.*

*May we eat and drink of these gifts,  
In your company and in great gratitude.  
May this food and drink be blessed  
In the circle-sign of the sun,  
In the sign of our orbit around it,  
And in the holy sign of your unbroken unity.*

Edward Hays

## Receiving a Good Word

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.  
If you are worshipping online, please text the word **center** to 75787.  
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to 75787.*

*For further Contemplative Resources please visit  
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6902676>*