



The CENTER  
for Christian Spirituality

## *Revelations of Divine Love*

8:45 a.m. + April 16, 2023

And from the time that it was revealed, I desired many times to know in what was our Lord's meaning. And fifteen years after and more, I was answered in spiritual understanding, and it was said: What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, Love was his meaning. Who reveals it to you? Love. What did he reveal to you? Love. Why does he reveal it to you? For Love. Remain in this, and you will know more of the same.... So I was taught that Love is our Lord's meaning.

*Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, Chapter 86*

### Crossing the Threshold

#### Remembering and Returning to Love

*Before creation's dawn, there was darkness filled with Love.  
Love that called forth all existence into life.  
Love that spoke into the dark, till the darkness blazed with light.  
Love that filled all of creation with a song.*

*I am here like a treasure hidden deep within this world.  
Every river, every mountain points the Way.  
I am here in creation: in the darkness, in the light.  
Come and find me, come and know me,  
Come and love.*

*"I Am Here"*

### Examen

#### Remembering and Returning to Love

*I am here like a treasure hidden deep within this world.  
Every river, every mountain points the way.  
I am here in creation: in the darkness, in the light.  
Come and find me, come and know me,  
Come and love.*

*"I Am Here"*

### Lectio Divina

*And Jesus said to them,  
"O unmindful ones, and slow of heart  
to trust all that the prophets have spoken!  
Was it not necessary that the Anointed One should suffer these things  
and enter into his glory?"  
And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he unfolded the inner meaning,  
interpreting to them in all the Writings the things concerning himself.*

*Luke 24:25-27*

## Song of Response

**"Beyond Belief"**

*In the knowing of the heart no words are needed.  
As I gaze within myself, I see your face.  
In the landscape of my soul you run towards me.  
Although now I know in part,  
With my body, mind, and heart,  
I am opening up to you,  
Beyond belief.*

## Gospel Reading

**Luke 24:28-35**

*So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent."*

*So he went in to abide with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him. And he became non-manifest to them.*

*They said to each other, "Was not our heart burning in us while he talked to us in the way, while he opened to us the Writings?"*

*And they rose up – they "resurrected" – that same hour and returned to Jerusalem – the City of Shalom. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the way, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

## Meditation

### Prayer of the Heart

Contemplative Prayer is sometimes called the Prayer of the Heart. We enter our own "cave" of the heart by "stooping down" in humility, with our attention directed towards our heart. From this place, we breathe deeply and pray. If it helps, use a sacred word to help you descend into the place of the heart in silence (such as Beloved, Teacher, Mercy, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit) or a breath prayer, such as "Lord" (*inhale*) "Jesus" (*exhale*). If a thought, feeling, or sensation tries to take you away from this interior place, don't "cling" to it – simply and gently let it go by returning to your heart with the aid of your sacred word or breath prayer. In this way, we become more open and receptive to Divine Love.

## Song of Response

**"I Walk" - inspired by a Diné (Navajo) prayer**

*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.*

## Camino Divina and Holy Communion

## Revelations of Divine Love



## Informational Meeting for “Saints & Pilgrims: A Pilgrimage along the Coast of East England” (October 16 – 27, 2023)

Today | 10:00 a.m. | The Anchor House

*Come hear more about our upcoming pilgrimage and go through the itinerary with Michael and Peter. On this pilgrimage we will journey in the footsteps of medieval British saints and pilgrims along the eastern coast of England. There are three primary anchor pilgrimage sites and saints: Julian of Norwich, Hilda of Whitby, and Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Along the way we will also visit the Shrine of Our Lady in the town of Walsingham (which was a major pilgrimage site in the medieval period); Rievaulx Abbey, home of St. Aelred; and Durham Cathedral. We conclude our pilgrimage in Edinburgh. This contemplative pilgrimage will be an opportunity to deepen your spirituality through exploring the literary texts as well as the historical contexts of these great British saints of medieval Christianity. To reserve a spot please see Michael or Peter for a Registration Form, the deposit is \$300. For more information go to [www.thecenterfcs.org/pilgrimage](http://www.thecenterfcs.org/pilgrimage)*

## Becoming an Ally: a conversation about our relationship with the earth

Saturday, April 22 | 6:00 p.m. | Central City Co-Op

*This Earth Day we wanted to highlight a group here in the community that embodies what it means to take care of the Earth every single day, not just once a year. This group and its members are warriors, teachers, healers and visionaries. Join us for our second of six gastrochurch experiences focused on social justice issues, in partnership with gastrochurch. This month we will gather at Central City Co-Op, Houston’s oldest, organic, sustainable food co-op, as we explore some of the most Earth friendly things you can do on a regular basis. We will enjoy a local and seasonal three course meal, discuss ways to minimize your carbon footprint, learn about regenerative practices and the importance of collaborating with our neighbors. Tickets are \$45 per person. Register online through the link found on our weekly email. We never want the cost of tickets to be a barrier to someone. Please reach out to Haley if you need assistance with a ticket. We have folks often buy extra tickets for us to giveaway! Contact Haley at 281-797-6754 or by email at [hbrown@chapelwood.org](mailto:hbrown@chapelwood.org).*

## Freedman's Town Pilgrimage

Saturday, April 29th | 9:00am - 2:00pm

*Join us for a spiritual pilgrimage to see, hear, and honor the foundation and founders of an important part of our city, established around Faith, Family and Community. Freedmen’s Town (aka Fourth Ward and Mother Ward) is a critical part not only of Houston’s and Texas’s history, but our nation’s history. It is the city’s oldest established African American community and encompasses homes, churches, and parks built over 150 years ago. In many ways, we stand on the shoulders of these original members of our city and our faith. For more information, please contact Noel Denison ([noel@tr-engr.com](mailto:noel@tr-engr.com)) or Nancy Sterling ([nlsterling@aol.com](mailto:nlsterling@aol.com)).*

## Fighting Human Trafficking through Card-Making

Saturday, April 29th | 9:00am - 1:00pm | The Anchor House

*Calling all CREATIVES- Join us for the work of ACTION through a card making event to support and encourage the work of United Against Human Trafficking and International Justice Mission. Join us to learn more about these two amazing ministries and their work of Justice in our world. Both organizations work to help fight Human trafficking and Modern day slavery. We’ll gather to make inspirational and encouraging greeting/ art cards that are distributed to victims of trafficking and cards made to support the staff in this hard work of Justice. For more information please contact: Robin Brady: [robinbrady0330@gmail.com](mailto:robinbrady0330@gmail.com) or Mary Wenzel: [artqua5815@gmail.com](mailto:artqua5815@gmail.com).*

## Our Staff

*Haley Brown – Ministry Assistant & Director of gastrochurch  
Peter Johns – Associate Director*

*Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. – Pastor of The Center*

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.*

*If you are worshipping online, please text the word center to (844) 474-0707*

*If you are worshipping in person, please text the word chapel to (844) 474-0707*

*For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events,  
visit: [www.TheCenterFCS.org](http://www.TheCenterFCS.org).*