

Summer By the Sea

8:45 a.m. + June 18, 2023

We can read the history of our 13.7 billion year old universe as the rising up of Divine Love incarnate, which bursts forth in the person of Jesus, who reveals Love's urge toward wholeness through reconciliation, mercy, peace, and forgiveness. Jesus is the love of God incarnate, the wholemaker who shows the way of evolution toward unity in love.

In Jesus, God breaks through and points us in a new direction; not one of chance or blindness but one of ever-deepening wholeness in love. In Jesus, God comes to us from the future to be our future. Those who follow Jesus are to become wholemakers, uniting what is scattered, creating a deeper unity in love.

*Ilia Delio, "Love at the Heart of the Universe" in *Oneing**



From the Chapel of the Encounter, in Magdala, Israel

Faith in All Circumstances

*Sometimes this heart will overflow.
A taste of heaven here below.
A feeling in the soul,
That God is in control.
So we sing an alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
So we sing an alleluia.*

*Some alleluias grow from pain.
A cry of faith we can't explain.
Although the heart feels numb,
We know that joy will come.
So we sing an alleluia.*

"We Sing an Alleluia"

Opening Ourselves to Love (with sung response "*Circle Me*")

*A contemplative adaptation of
Psalm 3 (Nan Merrill)*

*O Beloved, how numerous are my fears!
They rise up within me whispering there is no help for you.
Yet You, O Beloved, radiate Love around me, my glory;
gratitude becomes my song.*

*Circle me, O God.
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.
Circle me, O God.
Keep calm within, keep turmoil out.
Keep life within, keep death without.
O circle me, O circle me.*

*When I cry out to You, You answer within my heart.
Rise up, Love! Set me free!
For through your guidance, my fears will fade into love.
I shall be free to serve Love with a glad and open heart.*

Circle me, O God...

Entering the Story by the Sea

Matthew 9:18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a synagogue leader came in and bowed before him, saying,

"My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

And Jesus rose up and followed him, with his disciples.

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she was saying within herself,

"If I only touch his garment, I will be made whole."

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said,

"Take courage, daughter; your faith has made you whole."

And the woman was made whole from that moment.

When Jesus came to the synagogue leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said,

"Withdraw, for the girl is not dead but sleeping."

And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he entered and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the report of this spread through that whole land.

Meditation

Song of Response

"The Sorrow"

*Don't tell me of a faith that fears to face the world around.
Don't dull my mind with easy thoughts of grace without a ground.*

*I need to know that God is real,
I need to know that Christ can feel.
The need to touch and love and heal,
The world including me.*

*Don't speak of piety and prayers absolved from human need.
Don't talk of spirit without flesh like harvest without seed.*

I need to know...

*So let the gospel come alive in actions plain to see,
In imitation of the one whose love extends to me.*

I need to know...

Extending the Circle

"Circle Me"

*Circle me, O God.
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.
Circle me, O God.
Keep calm within, keep turmoil out.
Keep life within, keep death without.
O circle me, O circle me.*

Circle them...

Circle us...

Resting in the Silence

During these 5 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 relax. Sense your body. Breathe more deeply than usual. It can help to focus on the region of the heart. You might use a breath prayer to help you descend into this silence at the level of the heart, such as "Through You" (inhale), "I am whole" (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Beloved, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Communion

Receiving a Good Word



June Book Discussion

Wednesday, June 28 | 6:30 p.m. | The Anchor House

Our Book of the month for June is Fire of the North: The Life of St. Cuthbert, written by David Adam, who was the Vicar of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne for 13 years. St. Cuthbert was a 7th century monk and bishop of Lindisfarne, which was a major epicenter of Celtic Christianity. Drawing out the qualities which make Cuthbert so important in our own time, Fire of the North celebrates the saint's ready sense of God's presence and eager response to nature. The narrative is complemented throughout by prayers specially composed to help us experience the direct force of Celtic spirituality for ourselves.

"Saints & Pilgrims: A Pilgrimage along the Coast of East England"

October 16-27, 2023

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.

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.