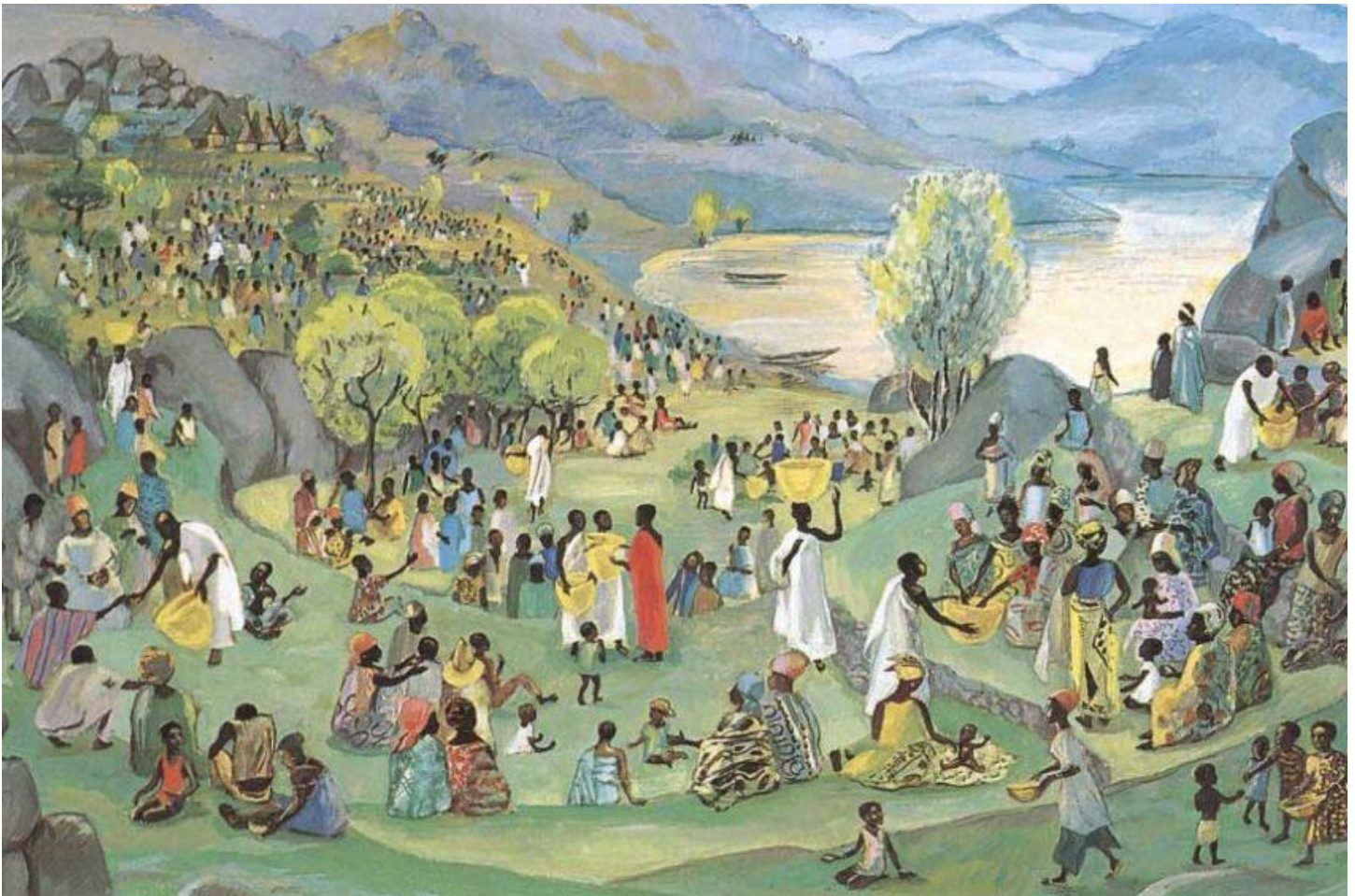


Summer by the Sea

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

The physical law of scarcity can only understand giving away as a process of diminishment leading to nothing. The spiritual law of abundance understands giving away as a process of expansion that leads to a sacred fullness.
~ John Shea



Vie de Jesus Mafa, Cameroon 1970s

Singing with Saint Columba

*Alone with none but you, my God, I journey on my way.
What need I fear when you are near, O Lord of night and day?
More safe am I within your hand than if a host did round me stand.*

“Alone with None but You, My God”

Entering the Story by the Sea

And when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a solitary place by himself.

Matthew 14:13a

Declaring Our Trust

"Alone with None but You, My God"

*Alone with none but you, my God, I journey on my way.
What need I fear when you are near, O Lord of night and day?
More safe am I within your hand than if a host did round me stand.*

Continuing the Story

Matthew 14:13-14

And when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a solitary place by himself. When the people heard of it, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

Jesus came forth and saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their weak ones.

Song of Response

"Soften My Heart"

*Soften my heart, Lord,
Soften my heart.
From all indifference,
Set me apart.
To feel your compassion,
To weep with your tears.
Come soften my heart, O Lord,
Soften my heart.*

Continuing the Story

Matthew 14:15-21

When it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, "The place is solitary, and the time is now past. Send the people away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "They have no need to go away. You give them to eat."

They said to him, "We have nothing here except five loaves and two fish."

Jesus said, "Bring them here to me."

He commanded the multitude to recline on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, and, looking up into the heavens, he blessed and he broke and gave to his disciples the loaves, and the disciples to the multitude. And they all ate and were filled. And they took up of the remaining fragments twelve baskets full. And the ones eating were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

Song of Response

"Quiet My Heart"

*Hear in the silence the whispers of memory,
Be still and listen, be still and wait.
Wait for the voice that once echoed through Eden.
That speaks affirmation, that longs to create.
The voice in the garden, the voice in the cloud.
The voice in the temple, still speaks aloud.*

*Quiet my heart, till I can hear,
There are distractions ever near.
Quiet my heart, help me discern,
What are the lessons I must learn.
Quiet my heart.*

*Help me awaken and rise up from slumber,
Shake off the darkness, shine with your light.
Willing to listen to learn and to follow,
To love with your passion, to see with your sight.
Help me be watchful for where I'm asleep,
Attentive and mindful, God come and speak!*

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 "Quiet" (inhale), "my heart" (exhale), or "Soften" (inhale), "my heart" (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Beloved, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Approaching the Table

*Quiet my heart, till I can hear,
There are distractions ever near.
Quiet my heart, help me discern,
What are the lessons I must learn.
Quiet my heart.*

"Quiet My Heart"

Communion

Journeying with God

*Alone with none but you, my God, I journey on my way.
What need I fear when you are near, O Lord of night and day?
More safe am I within your hand than if a host did round me stand*

"Alone with None but You, My God"

Receiving a Good Word



No Worship Response Time

For the rest of July we will not have a worship response time after Contemplative Worship.

Summer Book Series

Wednesday, August 2 | 6:30 p.m.

Join us in The Anchor House on August 2 to discuss Ilia Delio's autobiography, [Birth of a Dancing Star: My Journey from Cradle Catholic to Cyborg Christian](#). This will be our primary book for discussion. But another book that we recommend is her work [The Emergent Christ: Exploring the Meaning of Catholic in an Evolutionary Universe](#).

August Guided Silent Retreat

Saturday, August 5 | 9:00 am – 2:30pm | Villa de Matel | \$20

For August's guided silent retreat, we will open ourselves to the life and spirituality of Aidan of Lindisfarne (d. 651), who said: "Leave me alone with God as much as may be. As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore, make me an island, set apart, alone with you, God, holy to you. Then with the turning of the tide prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond, the world that rushes in on me till the waters come again and fold me back to you." Join us for this time of being alone with God as a way to prepare ourselves to be God's presence in the world. There will be plenty of time for reading and reflection, prayerful walking, and space for prayerful art. Participants will receive handouts with readings and prayers inspired by Aidan, for us as lectio divina as well as reflective questions. (Aidan will be one of our primary spiritual guides on our October pilgrimage, and Lindisfarne is final destination before returning home). A hot lunch is provided. The cost of the Retreat is \$20 and includes the price of lunch. We don't want anyone to miss out because of pricing. Contact Haley for information on scholarships at hbrown@chapelwood.org.

Spiritual Director Supervisory Group Exploratory Meeting

Tuesday, August 8 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m.

If you are a spiritual director and would like to be a part of a spiritual director supervisory group sponsored by The Center, come to this exploratory meeting on August 8. Spiritual director supervision is a contemplative and professional process supporting the ongoing formation of spiritual directors, and offers a safe and supportive group for exploring their ministry in accompanying seekers in a deepening relationship with God. Reach out to Michael for more details.

Fall Kick-Off & Potluck

Sunday, August 13 | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

Pilgrimage of Pain & Hope

Thursday, September 7 | The Holocaust Museum | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Join Michael and Rachel Sciretti and Robert Westheimer for this contemplative "pilgrimage" and docent-led tour through the Holocaust Museum in Houston. As an intentional pilgrimage, we will be taken through the four phases of a "pilgrimage of pain & hope": preparing ourselves, encountering our suffering neighbor, reflecting on our experiences, and transforming how we engage the world in compassion and justice. In addition to learning about the suffering of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, this spiritual formation opportunity will open us to larger issues of genocide and human rights – with the end of becoming more intentional manifestations of the Christ, who is the Whole-Maker. There will be large group touring time, periods of personal reflection, as well as times for group sharing. The group will be limited to 15 participants. Lunch will be from a local Jewish Deli. Total price depends on if you are already a member of the Holocaust Museum or if you would like to be. For price details and to sign up, email Michael at msciretti@chapelwood.org or Rachel at rsciretti@chapelwood.org.

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.