



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Summer by the Sea

8:45 a.m. + July 30, 2023

Renewed contact with the Gospel of faith, of hope and of love invites us to assume a creative and renewed spirit. In this way, we will be able to transform the roots of our physical, spiritual and social infirmities and the destructive practices that separate us from each other, threatening the human family and our planet.

~Pope Francis

Practicing Awareness

“Heaven Touches Earth”

*Heaven touches earth every single moment,
In the setting sun, the whispers on the wind.
The gentle fall of rain, the fragrance when it's over.
We will taste and we will see,
And know that God is good.
May we sense your presence, O God.
May we sense your presence, O God.
Make our senses gateways to all that you are.
May we sense your presence, O God.*

Looking Backwards

Sitting with a Psalm

“Listen, Listen” with Psalm 69 Nan Merrill

*Listen, listen, wait in silence listening.
For the one from whom all mercy flows.*

*O Beloved,
create within me
a wholesome heart.*

*Let me live simply,
sharing what I have
with those in need,
that the abundance of your creation
might be reflected.*

*Let me speak out of the Silence,
that through the words given,
others will learn of You.*

*Come to my aid, Gentle Healer,
for my prayer is to You.
In your perfect timing, Beloved,
in the abundance of your Love,
answer my cry.*

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:1-4

The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." Then he left them and went away.

Meditation

Song of Response

"Lord Have Mercy"

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.*

Praying with Psalm 69

Nan Merrill

*Let me live simply,
sharing what I have
with those in need,
that the abundance of your creation
might be reflected.*

*Let me speak out of the Silence,
that through the words given,
others will learn of You.*

*Come to my aid, Gentle Healer,
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Song of Response

"Lord Have Mercy"

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy,
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Meditation

Being Agents of Healing

"Always We Begin Again"

*Always we begin again,
Every moment new,
Giving back the good we have received from you.
Waking up with grateful hearts,
As we greet the day.
All creation sings with us a song of praise.
We will arise and seek the common good and welcome all in love.
Offering grace to all humanity as reflections of above.
Living with sacrifice, simplicity, and wisdom till the end,
Because always we begin again.*

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).

Practicing Awareness

*May we sense your presence, O God.
May we sense your presence, O God.
Make our senses gateways to all that you are.
May we sense your presence, O God.*

"Heaven Touches Earth"

Communion

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 | \$25

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 \$25 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.