



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Held Together

8:45 a.m. + August 13, 2023

*Living Life and Sustaining Love, help me feel your attracting grace in the universe,
which keeps everything from coming apart.*

May the Word of Christ hold me together with wisdom and love.

*I give thanks for your Word and consent to being held by it,
so as to remain at center with you.*

Peter Traben Haas

Seeking Together

*We come here to worship,
We come here to pray.
Aware of our weakness,
In need of your grace.
Some of us hiding,
Some of us found.
Standing together upon holy ground.*

*Boundless love and beautiful grace,
Filling this place, filling our hearts.
In our delight and in our despair,
Still you are there, flooding our lives with boundless love.*

“Boundless Love”

Welcome

The Master Builder

Contemplative prayer inspired by Psalm 127, Nan Merrill
with *“Build A Home”*

*Build a home right here with the rubble of our lives.
Build a home right now with our weakness and our strength.
Build a home in us where we long and fear to live,
Because all of us together are home.*

*Unless You, O Divine Creator, build the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless You watch over the city,
the watchers stay awake in vain.
For it is in co-operating with You from morn to evening,
eating the bread of your Word,
that we rest in peace throughout the night.*

*Build a home right here with the rubble of our lives.
Build a home right now with our weakness and our strength.
Build a home in us where we long and fear to live,
Because all of us together are home.*

*Reverence the sacred gift of life that nourishes all.
Who will grow in wisdom,
abandoning themselves into the chalice of Love?
Who will open themselves
to the imprint of Love's gifts upon their hearts?
Unless You, O Divine Spirit, make your home within us,
we wander through life in vain.*

*Build a home right here with the rubble of our lives.
Build a home right now with our weakness and our strength.
Build a home in us where we long and fear to live,
Because all of us together are home.*

Sitting with Scripture

Jude 1:20-21

*And you, beloved, in your most holy faith building yourselves up, praying in the Spirit of Holiness;
keep yourselves in the love of God, looking forward to the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads
to eternal life.*

Meditation

Song of Response

"A Discerning Heart"

*I do not ask for wealth or fame,
Endless riches, great acclaim.
I ask for one thing in your name:
Grant me a discerning heart.*

*Beyond the knowledge I have learned,
All experiences earned.
See wisdom waits to be affirmed,
Held in a discerning heart.*

*Wisdom calls, wisdom leads.
Her ways are pleasant, her paths are peace.
She is the fruit of the tree of life.
Grown in a discerning heart.*

*So let my life be fertile soil.
Spirit plant and I will toil,
To tend a crop that will not spoil.
Held in a discerning heart.*

Wisdom calls, wisdom leads...

Meditation

Song of Response

"The Power of Your Love"

*Lord, I come to you,
Let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I've found in you.
And Lord, I've come to know,
The weaknesses I see in me,
Will be stripped away, by the power of your love.*

*Hold me close, let your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle.
And I will soar with you, your Spirit leads me on,
In the power of your love.*

*Lord, unveil my eyes,
Let me see you, face to face,
The knowledge of your love as you live in me.
And Lord, renew my mind,
As your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day by the power of your love.*

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 "Loving" (inhale), "Wisdom" (exhale), or "Your Love" (inhale), "surrounds me" (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Beloved, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Communion

Receiving a Good Word



Centering Prayer

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

If you would like to linger in silence as centering prayer for a bit longer after Contemplative Worship, join the group that gathers near the organ to be led in an additional 10 minutes of silence.

Fall Kick-Off & Potluck

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

Join us for a special community gathering today after worship. After our time of eating and fellowship, Michael will share information concerning our Fall schedule and offerings, including updates about the labyrinth installation in the backyard of The Anchor House and a new album of original songs by Peter Johns.

Pilgrim Tales

Wednesday, August 16 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m.

Come learn about the spiritual journeys of individuals who are part of our contemplative community. You'll learn about how they started their contemplative journey; what life events and moments shaped them; the wisdom they carry; and the teachers, books, and practices that have been formative for them. This series will take place on Wednesdays, from August 16 to September 20. This week Sally Brown will share with us.

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.