



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Held Together

8:45 a.m. + August 20, 2023

*When you are centered in oneness with God-substance,
you see through substance-colored glasses.
In a very real sense, to see abundance everywhere is to turn on the lights,
which enables you to see allness even within the illness and all-sufficiency even in lack....
Take a moment to get centered in the Allness of substance
and then turn your centered consciousness on the experience.
This is not to blind yourself to the facts, but rather to "contemplate the facts . . .
from the highest point of view," as Emerson said....
Thus, where you are in consciousness has everything to do with what you see in experience.
Eric Butterworth*

Bringing all of Ourselves to Worship

*Everything belongs.
All the broken pieces,
The hurts that will not heal,
The scars that will not fade.
God will hold them all.
Cherish them and love them,
Nurture and restore them,
Until we are complete.*

"Everything Belongs"

*Everything belongs, for God is in all things.
We abide in him and he in us.
Goodness, wisdom, love, enfolding all we are.
Every hurt is held by him for everything belongs.*

Examen

Contemplating Psalm 139

SUNG RESPONSE: *Wherever you turn there is the Face of God.*

"Wherever You Turn"

*Lord, you have searched us out and known us;
You know our sitting down and our rising up;
You discern our thoughts from afar.
You trace our journeys and our resting-places
And are acquainted with all our ways.* **RESPONSE**

*You press upon us behind and before
and lay Your hand upon us.
Where can we go then from Your Spirit?
Where can we flee then from Your Presence?* **RESPONSE**

*If we climb up to heaven, You are there.
If we make the grave our bed, You are there.
If we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there Your hand will lead us and Your right hand hold us fast.* **RESPONSE**

Meditation

Enlarging our Framework

“Everything Belongs”

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All the broken pieces,
The hurts that will not heal,
The scars that will not fade.
God will hold them all.
Cherish them and love them,
Nurture and restore them,
Until we are complete.*

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Contemplating Scripture

Genesis 50:19-21

*Joseph said to his brothers,
“Fear not, for I am of God.
As for you, you thought evil against me.
God thought the Good, in order to bring into manifestation this day, to save many people.
So fear not. I will support you and your little ones.”
And he comforted them and spoke to their hearts.*

Meditation

Held Together

Liturgy from Malcolm Guite with
"In You All Things Hold Together"

SUNG RESPONSE: *In you all things hold together*

*Everything holds together, everything,
From stars that pierce the dark like living sparks,
To secret seeds that open every spring,
From spanning galaxies to spinning quarks,
Everything holds together and coheres,
Unfolding from the center whence it came.*

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).

God in All Things

Wherever you turn there is the face of God.

"Wherever you Turn"

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.

Pilgrim Tales

Wednesday, August 23 | 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 - September 20.

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 mjsciretti@chapelwood.org or Rachel at rsciretti@chapelwood.org.

Enneagram for Beginners Workshop

Friday, September 22 | 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | The Anchor House | \$75

Through sharing exercises, self-reflection, and teaching, participants will learn more about the inner dynamics of each enneagram type and how these dynamics shape and influence behaviors. This workshop is an introduction to this system; therefore, participants do not need to know their Enneagram type. Register at <https://thecenterfcs.org/enneagram/>

Enhancing Balance Enneagram Workshop

Saturday, September 23 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | The Anchor House | \$100

Explore how understanding different Enneagram Triads can bring more inner and outer harmony to your life. Participants should have a basic working knowledge of the Enneagram. Register at <https://thecenterfcs.org/enneagram/>

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.