

Freely Receive, Freely Give

8:45 a.m. + September 10, 2023



One meditates on creation in order to view and marvel at divine wisdom. Each creature is made as a witness to God insofar as each creature is a witness to God's power and omnipotence; and its beauty is a witness to the divine wisdom.

Thomas Aquinas

Crossing the Threshold

Looking Forward with Intention



As we see the work be - fore us, we see God in all that lies a - head.



Be - ing o - pen to each mo - ment, chang - es ev - ery ac - tion in - to prayer.



Listen - ing to the life God gives us.

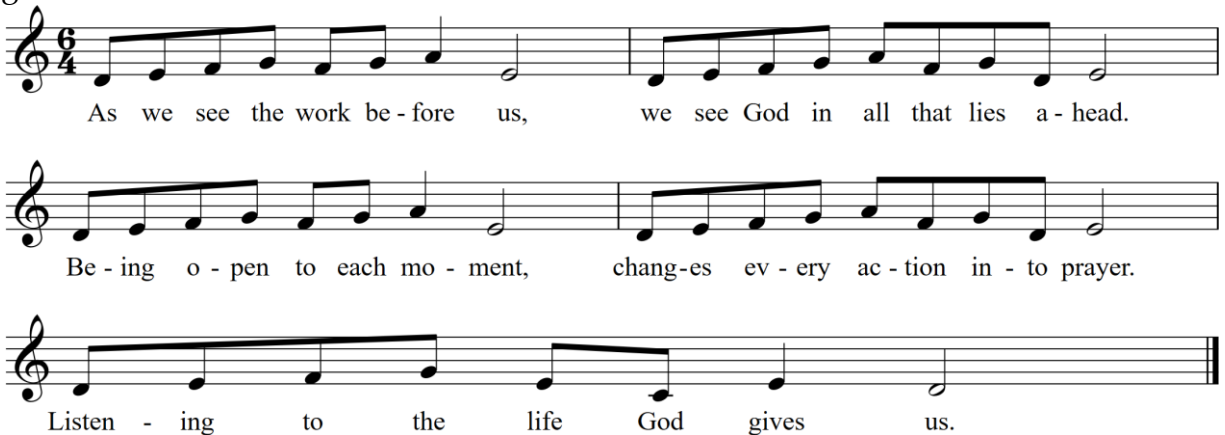
Contemplating a Poem

from 'The Chambered Nautilus' - Oliver Wendell Holmes

*Year after year beheld the silent toil
That spread his lustrous coil;
Still, as the spiral grew,
He left the past year's dwelling for the new,
Stole with soft step its shining archway through,
Built up its idle door,
Stretched in his last-found home, and knew the old no more.*

*Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!*

Growing with Intention



As we see the work be - fore us, we see God in all that lies a - head.
Be - ing o - pen to each mo - ment, chang - es ev - ery ac - tion in - to prayer.
Listen - ing to the life God gives us.

Contemplating the Word

Luke 9:23-25

*And Jesus says to all,
"If anyone intends to come after me, let them forget themselves
and take up their cross daily, and be my disciple.
For whoever intends to save their soul shall lose it.
And whoever may lose their soul for my sake, that one shall save it.
For what does it profit a person to gain the whole world but lose or damage themselves?"*

Meditation

Time for Reflection

Enlarging the Soul

"Boundless Love"

*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.*

Meditation

Unfolding Love

“Qualities of Love”

*I am patience, I am kindness, I am love.
I am contentment and compassion, I am love.
I am presence and abundance,
As I'm growing into who I'm called to be.
I am wholeness, I am mercy, I am love.
I am forgiveness and completeness, I am love.
Though I see myself unclearly,
I know one day I'll embrace all that I am.*

*All these qualities of love.
They are what I long to be.
As a bearer of God's image,
All these traits exist in me.
I will cultivate this love,
Let my character be changed.
Let my heart grow more expansive,
Let my spirit bear the name -
I am 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 "I am" (inhale), "Love (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Beloved, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Holy 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.

Worship Response

Today | The Anchor House | after Contemplative Worship

Pilgrim Tales

Wednesday, September 13 | 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. day |

Gastrochurch: becoming an ally – a conversation about restoration

Friday, September 15 | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Westminster United Methodist Church | \$40

Join us for our next gastrochurch experience focused on social issues of vulnerability, in partnership with The Restoration Team. We will gather to share a three-course meal and discuss what restoration looks like in our homes, in our lives and in our communities.

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.