

Freely Receive, Freely Give

8:45 a.m. + September 17, 2023



*How did the rose ever open its heart and give to this world all of its beauty?
It felt the encouragement of light against its being —
otherwise, we all remain too frightened.
Hafez*

Opening Ourselves to God's Presence

*Heaven touches 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.*

"Heaven Touches Earth"

Gazing at the Rose

Unfolding into Love

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!*

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Praying with the Psalmist

*Awaken us to the Oneness of all things,
To the beauty and truth of Unity.
 May we unfold to your Light.
May we become aware of the interdependence of all living things
And come to know You in every thing, and all things in You.
 May we unfold to your Light.
For as we attune to your Presence within us,
We know not separation,
And joy becomes our dwelling place.
 May we unfold to your Light.*

adapted from *Psalms for Praying Psalm 106*

Unfolding into Love

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Listening to the Word

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

Song of Solomon 2:1, 10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me:

*"Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away,
for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.*

*The fig tree ripens its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.*

Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away."

The Rose Within

"Slowly Blooms the Rose"

Slow-ly blooms the rose with - in. Slow-ly blooms the rose with - in.

Being the Rose

The Rose Within

"Slowly Blooms the Rose"

Slow-ly blooms the rose with - in. Slow-ly blooms the rose with - in.

An Invitation to Unfold

Rainer Maria Rilke

*I want to unfold.
 Let no place in me hold itself closed, for where I am closed, I am false.
 I want to stay clear in your sight.*

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 "Opening" (inhale), "to Your Light (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Beloved, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Opening Ourselves to God's Presence

"Heaven Touches Earth"

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Holy Communion

Receiving a Good Word

Please register your presence in the notebooks in the foyer.



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 20 | 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.

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.