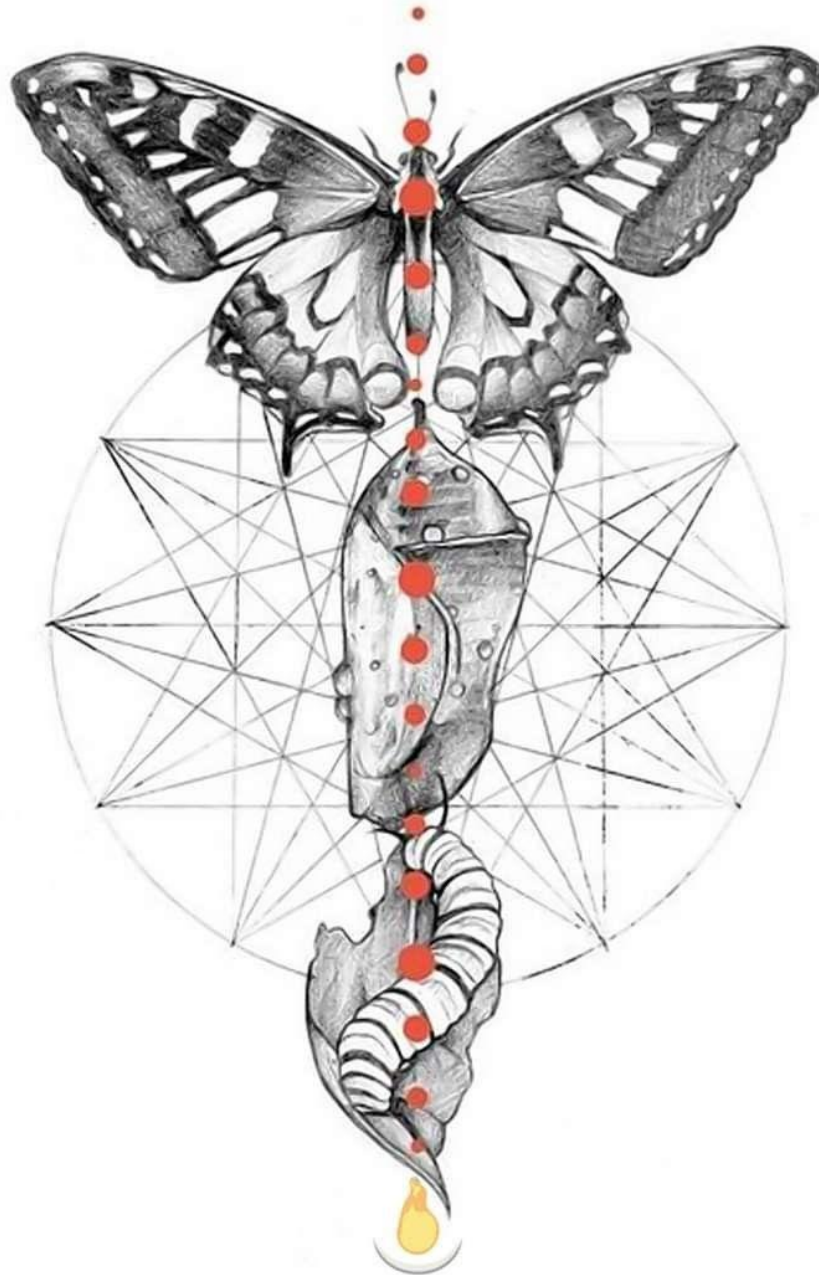




The CENTER  
for Christian Spirituality

# *Freely Receive, Freely Give*

8:45 a.m. + September 24, 2023



What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,  
the master calls a butterfly.  
Richard Bach

## Unfolding to the Unknown

*"Let Mystery Live in You"*

*Let mystery live in you. Be content to be in the unknown.  
God is greater than all you see.  
Let mystery live, let mystery live,  
Let mystery live in you.*

*Let mystery live in you. Let your questions come guide you along.  
Love sees more than the mind can know.  
Let mystery live, let mystery live,  
Let mystery live in you.*

*Let mystery live in you. As you wander a path you can't see.  
You cannot journey outside of God.  
Let mystery live, let mystery live,  
Let mystery live in you.*

## Contemplating Scripture

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

*And all of us, with unveiled faces,  
seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror,  
are being transformed into the same Image  
from one degree of glory to another,  
for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.*

## Meditation

### Love in the Midst of Change

*"I Am Loved"*

*I am not who I was, I am not who I will be.  
I am loved.  
I am not what I've done, I am not what I will do.  
I am loved.  
I am beautifully broken,  
Through my darkness shines Your light.  
I am loved.*

## Seeking Transformation

**Romans 12:1-2**

*I urge you, brothers and sisters, through the Divine Mercies,  
that you present your bodies a living sacrifice –  
holy, well-pleasing to God, your service of the Logos.  
And do not be conformed to this age,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your nous (higher mind),  
that you may prove what is the Will of God - the Good and Well-Pleasing and Perfect.*

## Meditation

Song of Response

*"I Awaken in Christ"*

*I awaken in Christ,  
Awaken as Christ awakens within me.  
All of me becomes all of Him,  
As Christ awakens so deep within.  
See my feet and my hands,  
Transfigured as Christ awakens my body.  
All my brokenness changed,  
My brokenness now is beauty,  
Transformed in Him.  
I awake in Christ,  
I awake in Christ.*

Guided Meditation

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

God's Ever Presence

*God's Eye Be Within Me"*

*God's eye be within me, God's foot be before me,  
God's spirit be round me to shield and restore me.  
God's freedom to choose me, God's justice to fuse me,  
God's purpose to liberate and transform and use me.*

Holy Communion

Praying for Transformation with Sung Response

*"Circle Me"*

*Circle me, O God.  
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.  
Circle me, O God.  
Keep calm within, keep turmoil out.  
Keep life within, keep death without.  
O circle me, O circle me.*

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

## October Guided Silent Retreat

Monday, October 2 | The Anchor House | 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

For October's guided silent retreat, we will open ourselves to the life and spirituality of Francis of Assisi (d. October 3, 1226). There will be plenty of time for reading and reflection, prayerful walking of our backyard temporary labyrinth, and space for prayerful art. Participants will receive handouts with readings, prayers and songs inspired by Francis, for use as lectio divina as well as reflective questions. Lunch is provided. The cost of the Retreat is \$20 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](mailto:hbrown@chapelwood.org).



## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 8 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m.

Hop, run or fly on over with your special pet friend for an individual blessing by Michael and Rachel. Let's give thanks for fur, feathers, and friendship in all its unique forms. We will meet in the Yard of The Anchor House. Please park in Lot C off of Greenbay and follow the signs to the east. All people and pets are welcome, but please make sure all pets are either on a leash or in a carrier. We will have a brief worship service celebrating the unique relationship we have with our pets, and then each owner is invited to bring their pet forward for an individual blessing.

## Giving to The Center

All of us are part of a never-ending process of giving and receiving. Life is not possible without this organic flow. What we co-create together here at The Center for Christian Spirituality is not possible without our conscious participation in this holy activity of freely receiving and freely giving. In this light, we invite you to financially give to The Center in response to what you have received today or throughout our contemplative offerings. Using the QR code will take you to a page where you can make a one-time offering or recurring gift. Thank you for your contribution and investment.



## 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](http://www.TheCenterFCS.org).