



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

The Mindful Christian: Awakening to Liberating Wisdom

8:45 a.m. + October 29, 2023

The contemplative is one who minds the light.
If we mind the light, we come to live in the light.
In this process we become images (or icons) of the light in the world.
As an icon of the light, we become visible signs of the invisible Divine Reality.
Alan Kolp

Returning to Source

"You Lead Me Home"

*I trust you have guided the road that I travel,
Although I have been unaware.
So, I'll keep believing though life may unravel,
Yes, I will choose faith amid fear.
For there is a place that I long to return to,
That calms my desire to roam.
And so, as I journey it's you that I turn to,
Believing you're leading me home.*

*You lead me home, by paths unknown,
You lead me home, by ways unfamiliar.
Wherever I turn, still you are there.
A compassionate Friend when I choose to stray,
Leading me home by another way.*

Sitting with Scripture

Philippians 3:12

*Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I press on if only I might take hold
of that for which the Anointed One, Yeshua, took hold of me.*

Where Am I Going?

Returning to Source

"You Lead Me Home"

*You lead me home, by paths unknown,
You lead me home, by ways unfamiliar.
Wherever I turn, still you are there.
A compassionate Friend when I choose to stray,
Leading me home by another way.*

Seeking Wisdom and Guidance

Contemplative adaptation of Psalm 26, Nan Merrill

*Speak on my behalf, O Beloved,
for I would choose the path that leads back Home,
trusting in your love without reserve.*

***May my heart be as your Heart;
May my mind be as your Mind.***

*May your steadfast love guide me
As I live according to your Will,
You, O Counselor, are my strength and my guide;
So I choose the path of peace and wholeness.*

***May my heart be as your Heart;
May my mind be as your Mind.***

*O Loving Presence,
I cherish your dwelling place, my heart;
O, that I might radiate Love Divine.
Keep me always in your presence,
Ever-ready to praise your Name.
Make me holy, complete in You,
For I choose the path of peace and wholeness.*

***May my heart be as your Heart;
May my mind be as your Mind.***

Song of the Presence

“God in My Words”

***God in my words,
God in my hands.
God in my mind and in my heart.***

Sitting with Scripture

Philippians 3:13-15

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself as having taken hold of this. But this one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and stretching forward to what is ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward calling of God in Yeshua the Anointed One. Let those who are mature be thus minded; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that also to you.

Meditation

Song of Response

“In the Secret”

***I am reaching for the highest goal,
That I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward, pushing every hindrance aside, out of my way,
'Cause I want to know you more.***

***I want to know you, I want to hear your voice.
I want to know you more.
I want to know you, I want to see your face,
I want to know you more.***

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 "May my mind" (inhale), "be as Your Mind" (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Moving to the Table

"In the Secret"

I want to know you, I want to hear your voice.

I want to know you more.

I want to know you, I want to see your face,

I want to know you more

Communion

Receiving a Good Word

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.

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

November Guided Silent Retreat

Saturday, November 4 | The Anchor House | 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

For November's guided silent retreat, we will personally explore the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. We ask that you consider bringing an icon or picture of a person who has been a "saint" for you – whether they are officially recognized by the Church as a saint and have an icon written of them, or if they are one of your personal "saints" that have radiated the light of Christ to you. Also, consider bringing the picture of a departed loved one that radiated Christ's love to you, someone you wish to especially remember at the retreat. There will be plenty of time for reading and reflection, prayerful walking, and space for prayerful art. Participants will receive handouts with readings, prayers and songs related to All Saints and All Souls, 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.



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.

