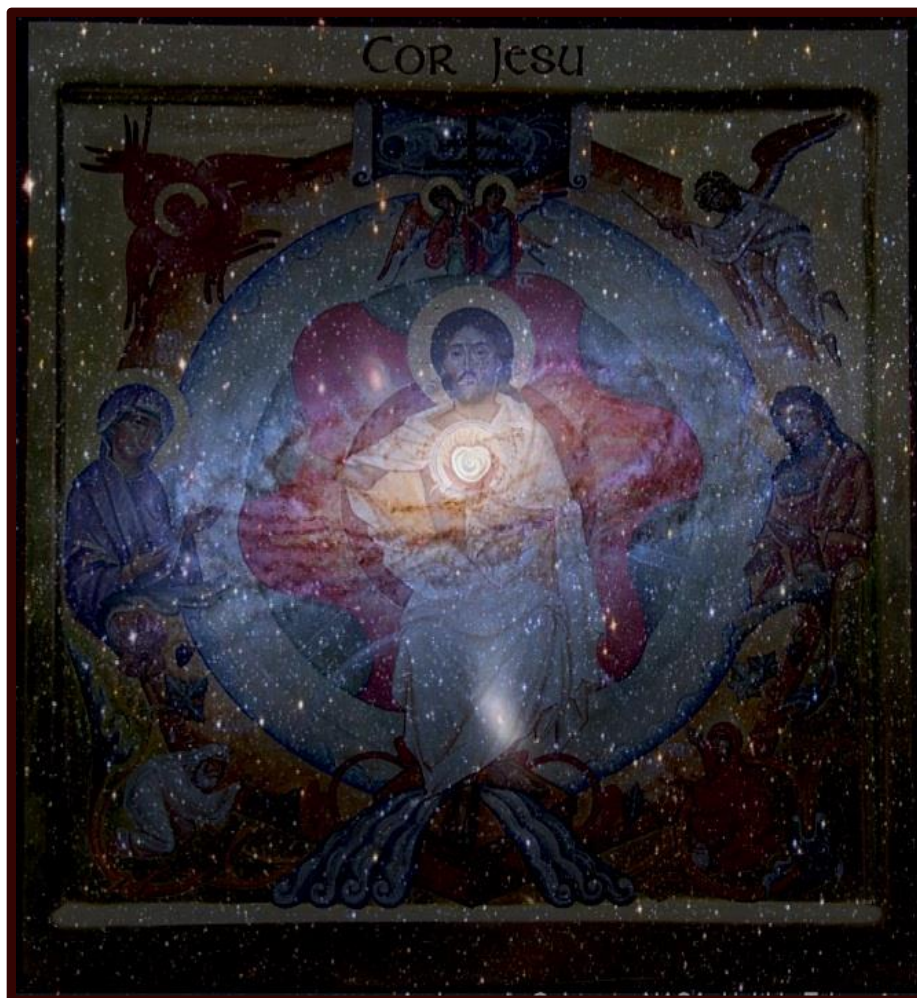




The CENTER  
for Christian Spirituality



*The Sacred Heart as the Universal Christ,  
Icon by Ian Knowles of Elias Icons  
With NASA picture of the Andromeda Galaxy superimposed*

## *Reign of Christ*

8:45 a.m. + November 26, 2023

See! I am God.

See! I am in everything.

See! I never lift my hands off my works, nor will I ever.

See! I lead everything toward the purpose for which I ordained it, without beginning,  
by the same Power, Wisdom and Love by which I created it.

How could anything be amiss?

*(Christ to Julian of Norwich, 14<sup>th</sup> c.)*

Quietly Centering

*Christ is the All and in All.*

***Colossians 3:11b***

Crossing the Threshold

Opening Praise

*Risen Christ,*

***Your Presence fills the cosmos.***

*Cosmic Christ,*

***Your Presence pulses through all galactic space, across light years of time.***

*Living Christ,*

***In this time that we call 'Now', in this space we call 'Here',***

*May we sense Your Presence among us.*

***May we know Your Presence within us.***

Praising the Beloved One

***"I Am Here"***

***Before creation's dawn, there was darkness filled with Love.***

***Love that called forth all existence into life.***

***Love that spoke into the dark. Till the darkness blazed with light.***

***Love that filled all of creation with a song.***

***I am here like a treasure hidden deep within this world.***

***Every river, every mountain points the way.***

***I am here in creation. In the darkness. In the light.***

***Come and find me, come and know me, come and love.***

The Work of the Beloved

*A contemplative rendering of Psalm 46, by Nan Merrill*

*Come, behold the works of the Beloved,  
how Love does reign even in humanity's desolation.*

*For the Beloved makes wars to cease,  
breaking the barriers of fear;  
shattering the greedy and oppressors,  
refining hearts of iron.*

*"Be still and know that I am Love.*

*I am exalted among the nations,*

*I am exalted in the earth!"*

*The One who knows all hearts is with us;*

*The Beloved is our refuge and our strength.*

Journeying Into Silence

***"Be Still and Know that I Am Love"***

***Love***

***I Am Love***

***Know that I Am Love***

***Be still and know that I am Love***

***Be still and know that I am***

***Be still and know***

***Be still***

***Be***

Looking to the Cosmic Christ

*"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!*

Centering in the Beloved

*A contemplative rendering of Psalm 46, by Nan Merrill*

*Come, behold the works of the Beloved,  
how Love does reign even in humanity's desolation....*

*For the Beloved makes wars to cease,  
breaking the barriers of fear;  
shattering the greedy and oppressors,  
refining hearts of iron....*

*"Be still and know that I am Love.  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth!"*

*The One who knows all hearts is with us;  
The Beloved is our refuge and our strength.*

Resting in Love

*"Be Still and Know that I Am Love"*

*Love  
I Am Love  
Know that I Am Love  
Be still and know that I am Love  
Be still and know that I am  
Be still and know  
Be still  
Be*

Centering in Silence

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. You are in Christ and Christ is in you. Just be and relax. Center your attention in your heart and imagine your breath flowing in and out from your heart area. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Christ, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Opening to the Cosmic Christ (with sung response)

*from Colossians 1:9-12*

Response: *I Awake in Christ.*

*O Living Christ, may we clearly know Your will  
and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. . . R  
May we walk worthy of You, Lord. May we continue to delight You  
by being fruitful in every good work and growing in the true knowledge of You. . . R  
Strengthen us with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might,  
so that we will have everything we need to hold on and endure hardship patiently. . . R*

## Holy Communion

## Receiving a Good Word

## The Sacred Heart as the Universal Christ

*And thus when we think of the Sacred Heart of the universal Jesus in terms of the 'Universal Christ' we should recall that Jesus is not simply the Christ of the Holy Land or of this planet. He is the Christ of a Holy Land which is centred on and converges on Him and encompasses all of space and time. When we see the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the "Universal Christ" we can proclaim with Teilhard de Chardin: "Voilà la theologie cosmique, la theologie de 'l'avenir!" ("There you have the cosmic theology, the theology of the future!")*

~ David W. Parsons

### 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).*

*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 | 10:00 a.m.

## Advent Guided Silent Retreat

Monday December 4 | Villa de Matel | 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

*For December's guided silent retreat, we will explore themes related to the season of Advent. 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 Advent songs, for use as lectio divina as well as reflective questions. A hot lunch is provided. The cost of the Retreat is \$20 and includes the price of lunch. Register online. We don't want anyone to miss out because of pricing. Contact Haley for information about scholarships at [hbrown@chapelwood.org](mailto: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.*

