

Contemplative Worship



8:45 a.m. + April 7, 2024 + Second Sunday of Easter

*In the case of Eastertide, what's at stake - the aim we are striving for –
is our physical capacity to be available to truth at a subtle and much more intense level. . . .
I believe firmly that during these great fifty days of Easter, [the] same invitation is extended to each one of us:
to catch the drift of what Jesus is really inviting us to and to deepen our capacity to receive the intense spiritual energy available to us during this
sacred season as a catapult to our own transformation - rather than merely sloughing it off in partying and business as usual. Jesus is headed
somewhere amazing during these fifty days, and we can follow right along if we can keep up.*

Cynthia Bourgeault

Welcome

Remembering and Returning to Love

*We come here to worship, we come here to pray.
Aware of our weakness, in need of your grace.
Some of us hiding, some of us found.
Standing together upon holy ground.*

*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.*

“Boundless Love”

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-24

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem - the City of Shalom. And they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from knowing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

For Reflection

- When have you experienced a time of confusion, uncertainty, and conflicting messages about God?
- How did that feel? How did you respond?

Offering Our Reflection (with sung response)

"Without Seeing You"

*Without seeing you, we love you;
without touching you, we embrace;
without knowing you, we follow;
without seeing you, we believe.*

- I offer to God times when I felt loved and connected... **Response**
- I offer to God times where I felt doubt and abandoned ... **Response**
- I offer to God how I honestly feel right now ... **Response**

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:25-27

And Jesus said to them, "O unmindful ones, and slow of heart to trust all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Anointed One should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he unfolded the inner meaning, interpreting to them in all the Writings the things concerning himself.

For Reflection

- When have you experienced scripture in a new way?

Song of Response

"Open the Eyes of my Heart"

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you. I want to see you.*

*To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love, as we sing holy, holy holy.*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord...

*To see your presence all around, shining in the heart of creation.
Unveil your power and love, and let my heavy see your salvation.*

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:28-35

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to abide with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him. And he became non-manifest to them. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn in us while he talked to us on the way, while he opened to us the Writings?" And they rose up – they "resurrected" – that same hour and returned to Jerusalem – the City of Shalom. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the way, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Meditation

Finding Refuge

"Earth Song"

*Sing, be, live, see.
This dark stormy hour, the wind, it stirs.
The scorched Earth cries out in vain,
Oh war and power, you blind and blur,
The torn heart cries out in pain.
But music and singing have been my refuge,
And music and singing shall be my light.
A light of song, shining strong,
Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Through darkness and pain and strife,
I'll sing, I'll be, live, see. Peace*

Silence

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. You are in God and God 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.

Consecration

Camino Divina

"Eat This Bread"

*Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.*

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

Zachary Montasser – Violinist

Today's Music

"Boundless Love" – Peter Johns, "Without Seeing You" – David Haas
"Open the Eyes of my Heart" – Paul Baloche, "Earth Song" – Frank Ticheli
"Eat this Bread" – Taize.

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.

If you have a prayer request or seeking support, please contact Rachel Sciretti, rsciretti@chapelwood.org.

Centering Prayer

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

Worship Response

Today | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

The Anchor House Hours

Tuesdays - Fridays | Noon - 4pm

The Anchor House will be open in the afternoons for you to come and pray, meditate, walk the Labyrinth or just be still. If you would like to request a specific room for spiritual direction, counseling or for your own time of Centering Prayer outside of these hours, please let Haley know and we will make sure a room is available for you. If you'd like to become an Anchor House Host, let Haley know after worship or email her at hbrown@chapelwood.org.

Rafa - An Evening of Contemplative Prayer, Lament, and Healing

Sunday, April 7 | The Anchor House Labyrinth | 6:00 p.m. | <https://thecenterfcs.org/rafa>

Our monthly evening contemplative worship service will take place next Sunday evening on The Anchor House Labyrinth. Using readings and chants from Taizé, we will mark and reflect on the total solar eclipse taking place Monday, April 8.

SoulCollage®

Saturday, April 13 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | <https://thecenterfcs.org/soul-collage/>

SoulCollage® is a spiritual practice that helps us know ourselves and grow closer to the person God has created us to be. Our 2024 theme is "Embodied Spirituality." Your body is a temple of the Spirit, who dwells in you. ~from 1 Corinthians 6:19. There are full-day and morning-only registration options available. See the registration link for more details about options and fees.



Rooted – A Journey with The Center to Discover the Divine Among the Trees, Leaves and Vines

October 21 – October 28 | North Coast of California & Napa Valley | \$3,100 / person

Join us for 7 days in California as we explore the wisdom and beauty creation has to offer us through the Coastal Redwoods and the Napa Valley vines. As a council of wise elders, these gentle giants and teachers of delight hold space as we search for our personal and collective roots. Scholarship funds are available. Contact Haley (hbrown@chapelwood.org) for the scholarship application.

