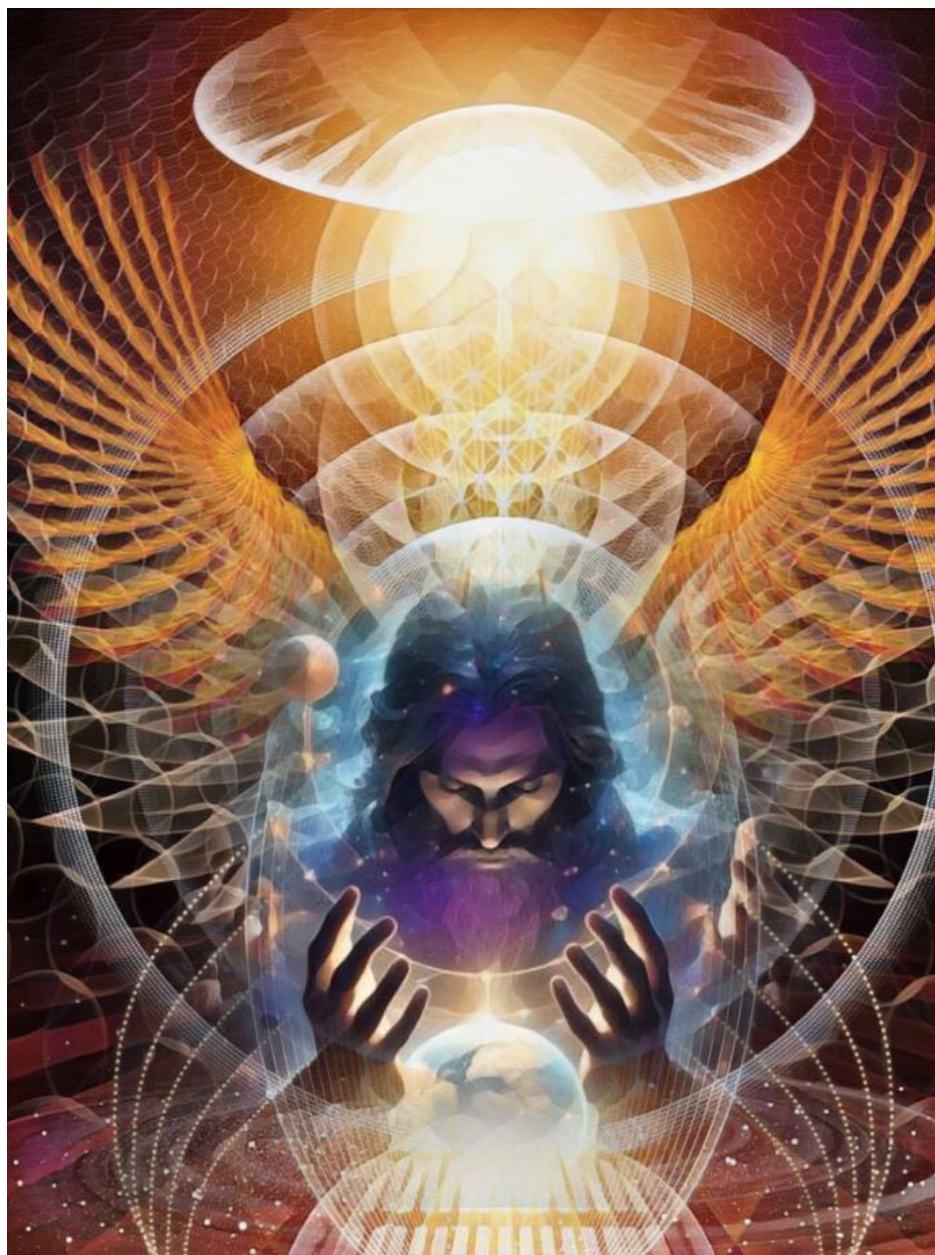




The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Manifesting Light, Life, and Love

8:45 a.m. + May 5, 2024 + Sixth Sunday of Easter



Opening Ourselves
*God is always here,
Where Love abides.
God is always here,
Leading you to Life.*

"Ubi Caritas"

Silent Prayer in Response to Psalm 31

Malcolm Guite

*The night withdrew and joy came in the morning,
When I remembered that I was remembered,
That even through the bitter tears of mourning*

*I was sustained. The darkest powers were hindered
In their insidious work within my soul,
And I was held together and re-membered*

*By your unceasing love. You made me whole
When all the world was tearing me apart.
When there was fear on every side, you stole*

*Into the secret garden of my heart,
A good thief in the night, and hid with me
In your strong tabernacle, held apart*

*From all that strife of tongues, cacophony
Of condemnations, so you kept me safe
In your deep silence and your mystery.*

Becoming One

"Holy Beloved One"

***Holy Beloved One,
Rend this veil between us.
Holy Beloved One,
We are one with you.***

Contemplating Scripture

1 John 4:9-10

*In this was manifested
the Love of God in us:
God sent into the world his Son,
the Ihidaya,
that we might live through his hand.*

*In this is Love:
not that we loved God,
but that God loved us,
and sent his Son –
a Mercy Seat for our sins.*

Meditation

Becoming One

"Holy Beloved One"

***Holy Beloved One,
Rend this veil between us.
Holy Beloved One,
We are one with you.***

Contemplating Scripture

1 John 4:16-19

*We have believed and have known
the Love which God has towards us.
For God is Love.
And whoever abides in Love,
abides in God.*

*By this Love is completed in us,
that we might have openness of face in the Day of Judgment.
Because as he is, so also are we in this world.*

*In Love there is no fear,
but perfect, fully formed Love casts fear outside,
because those who fear are those in danger.
So the one who fears is not perfected – fully formed – in Love.*

*We therefore love God,
because he aforesaid loved us.*

Meditation

Song of Response

“God in My Words”

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

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.

Communion

“The Lord is My Shepherd”

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

*“Ubi Caritas” – Jacques Berthier, “Holy Beloved One” – Michael Sciretti, Jr., “God in My Words” – Deeji Killian
“The Lord is My Shepherd” – Howard Goodall*

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 | 10:00am

Rafa - An Evening of Contemplative Prayer, Lament, and Healing
Today | 6:00pm | Westminster United Methodist Church | <https://thecenterfcs.org/rafa>

Rooted Pilgrimage Informational Meeting
Wednesday, May 8 | 5:30pm | The Anchor House

Manifesting Light, Life, and Love: A Contemplative Bible Study on 1 John
Wednesday, May 8 | 6:30pm | The Anchor House

Music of Hope
May 15 | The Chapel | 6:00 p.m.

This relaxed mini-concert will feature inspiring music performed by the Chancel Bells, directed by Diana Montgomery, and the Contemplative Choir, directed by Peter Johns.

Rooted – A Journey with The Center to Discover the Divine Among the Trees, Leaves and Vines
October 21 - 28

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. Scholarship funds are available. Total cost (not including airfare) is \$3,100/person. Contact Haley (hbrown@chapelwood.org) for the scholarship application. Our next informational meeting for those interested in going is Wednesday, May 8, at 5:30 p.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.