



The CENTER  
for Christian Spirituality

# On the Way with Jesus

8:45 a.m. + July 7, 2024

*What is required [to see] is not that my vision be heightened or aggrandized but that it be smeared with reality, that my eyes be bathed in spittle. Otherwise, what I am looking for and therefore looking at is likely to be not flesh and blood reality but some idealized vision of my own imagining. Once I accept that people are people and not gods or goddesses then my attention can be focused. Otherwise, it is irretrievably attuned to another wavelength and the actual beauty of the real world passes me by.*

Mark Patrick Hederman

## Beginning Worship in Recollection

- I sit still for a moment. God is here, meeting me in my depths. I become aware of God within me.
- God is around me, in the lives of others in this Chapel. I am aware of God's presence within this community.
- God is alive in the created world and the ordinary lives of people. I want to be aware of God in "the big picture."
- I offer a breath prayer as I move into worship:
 

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Exhale: | <i>Your Spirit of Truth . . .</i>          |
| Inhale: | <i>Dwells within me . . . (John 14:17)</i> |

## Affirming God's Presence

*"Within"*

*Within, within,  
Within my soul a treasure lies,  
The God of heaven and earth resides within, within.  
This temple built of flesh and bone,  
Contains inside God's holy throne!  
Within, within, within.*

*In faith, in fear,  
No matter what may come along,  
Within my heart you sing a song of hope, of love.  
A reassuring melody,  
That stirs from deep inside of me,  
Within, within, within.*

## Praying Psalm 46

Adapted from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan Merrill

*The Beloved is our refuge and our strength,  
a Loving Presence in times of trouble.  
Therefore we need not fear though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
Though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
The Beloved is ever with us,  
the infinite Heart of Love.*

*There is a river whose streams make glad the Holy City,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
The Beloved is in the midst of it, it shall not be moved;  
Our loving Creator is an ever-present help.  
The nations may be at war, countries left in ruins,  
yet is the Voice of the Almighty heard,  
slowly breaking through hearts of stone.  
**The Beloved is ever with us,  
the infinite Heart of Love.***

*Come, behold the works of the Beloved,  
how love does reign even in humanity's desolation.  
For the Beloved yearns for wars to cease,  
shining light into fearful hearts;  
loving even those who oppress the weak,  
refining hearts of steel!  
**The Beloved is ever with us,  
the infinite Heart of Love.***

The Beloved with Us

*"Lord Jesus Christ Your Light Shines Within Us"*

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
Your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
Your light shines within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

The Gospel Reading

*Mark 8:22-25*

*They arrived at Bethsaida. Some people brought a sightless man and begged Jesus to give him a healing touch. Taking him by the hand, he led him out of the village. He put spit in the man's eyes, laid hands on him, and asked, "Do you see anything?"*

*He looked up. "I see men. They look like walking trees." So Jesus laid hands on his eyes again. The man looked hard and realized that he had recovered perfect sight, saw everything in bright, twenty-twenty focus.*

Meditation

Song of Response

*"The Face of Christ"*

*Help us be the face of Christ to world,  
Help us see the face of Christ in the world.  
Open our eyes,  
Open our hearts.*

Time of Confession

*Loving God,  
Give us the audacity to live as though we believe our eyes and ears, our hands and feet, our speech  
and silences . . . are all instruments of healing and prayer.*

Song of Response

*"The Face of Christ"*

*Help us be the face of Christ to world,  
Help us see the face of Christ in the world.  
Open our eyes,  
Open our hearts.*

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 Jesus, Abba, Spirit, or Love.

Offering Grace to All

*"Always we Begin Again"*

*Always we begin again, every moment new,  
Giving back the good we have received from you.  
Waking up with grateful hearts, as we greet the day.  
All creation sings with us a song of praise.  
We will arise and seek the common good and welcome all in love.  
Offering grace to all humanity as reflections of above.  
Living with sacrifice, simplicity, and wisdom till the end,  
Because always we begin again.*

Communion Prayer (from the Book of Common Prayer)

*Lord God of our ancestors; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
Open our eyes to see your hand at work in us and in the world around us.  
Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only . . .  
And not for strength;  
For pardon only . . .  
And not for renewal.  
By these holy elements . . .  
Pour into our lives the very being of Jesus.  
By the grace of this Holy Communion, make us one body and one spirit in Christ . . .  
That we may worthily serve the world in your name. Amen.*

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

*“Within”* – Peter Johns, *“Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines Within Us”* – Taize,  
*“The Face of Christ”* – Peter Johns, *Always We Begin Again”* – Peter Johns

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.

If you have a prayer request or seeking support, please contact Rachel Sciretti, [rsciretti@chapelwood.org](mailto:rsciretti@chapelwood.org).

### Centering Prayer

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

### July Sabbatical

*During the month of July, The Center will take a sabbatical from activities other than Sunday morning worship services and weekly Centering Prayer.*

### SoulCollage Open Studio

July 21 | The Anchor House | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*This is a creative offering that will help you find what you need in a space without a theme or agenda. It is great for a newcomer's introduction! Cost: \$15 or \$25 with introduction.*



### Summer Book Reading Discussion *Braiding Sweetgrass*

August 7 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m.

*Join us this summer as we read this beautiful selection of Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants, followed by a gathering for discussion on August 7<sup>th</sup>.*

### *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](mailto:hbrown@chapelwood.org)) for the scholarship application.*

