



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

On the Way with Jesus

8:45 a.m. + August 11, 2024

Stilling Ourselves

"The Heart of God"

*Faith that moves mountains, grace that forgives.
Peace that calms stormy seas.
Love that brings healing, trust that endures.
Truth that can set us free.
Help us embody all that you are,
And live lives that reflect your grace.
To walk with the stranger, until we are friends,
And we all find our place,
At home in the heart of God.*

*Make us faithful to forgive,
When we're wounded by the world.
Peaceful bearers of your grace.
Help us love as you love.*

Seeking the Heart of Love

from Psalms for Praying, Psalm 122, Nan Merrill

*My spirit soared when a Voice spoke to me:
"Come, come to the Heart of Love!"
How long I had stood within the house of fear
yearning to enter the gates of Love!*

*The New Jerusalem, the Holy City,
is bound firmly together;
All who seek the Heart of Love,
those who have faced their fears,
Enter the gates in peace and with great joy,
singing songs of thanksgiving.
There, in harmony with the cosmos,
the community gathers united in love.*

*Pray for the peace of the world!
May all nations prosper as one!
May peace reign among all peoples,
and integrity dwell within every heart!
Then will friends and neighbors,
and former enemies as well,
cry out, "Peace be within you!"
For the good of the universe and
in gratitude to the Beloved,
Let us serve the Holy One of all nations
with glad hearts.*

Singing in Harmony with the Cosmos

"The Heart of God"

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Until we are friends,
And we all find our place,
At home in the heart of God.*

Prayers inspired by Psalms 48 & 49

from David's Crown - Sounding the Psalms, Malcolm Guite

*For heaven's king has made the earth his home,
Not just the hill of Sion, but the whole
Round world. From anywhere you call to him*

*Where Christ himself is there to welcome you
Then you are home, wherever you may fare.
And Christ will keep your inner compass true*

*He'll come to you and make his dwelling. Hail
Your God in any language, he replies
In your own mother-tongue. For now your soul*

*Though all the world is rushing everywhere,
This way and that before the winds of fear,
Between false hopes and premature despair.*

*Is his true Sion, and each day you rise
Already in the city of your God.
So mark the towers and turrets, and apprise*

*But you can hear a different tune. You hear
The strong song of his love. Open your ears
To hear his parables. The foolish veer*

*Again the beauty of your new abode.
Your soul is greater than you ever knew:
Walk round its walls, then take the holy road*

*Between their fatuous desires and fears,
With fickle fortunes that they fear to share.
Keep your security in Christ, who hears*

*That winds towards its center, where the new
Temple of his spirit shines and stands,
Where Christ himself is there to welcome you.*

*The slightest murmur of your smallest prayer,
And do not be afraid, but trust in him,
Your heart's in heaven, keep your treasure there.*

God's Inner 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.*

Contemplating Scripture

Luke 19:41-42, Matthew 23:37-39

As Yeshua came near and saw the city of Yerushalayim, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for shalom! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

"Yerushalayim, Yerushalayim, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.'"

Meditation

Song of Response

"Qualities of Love"

I am patience, I am kindness, I am love.

I am contentment and compassion, I am love.

I am presence and abundance as I'm growing into who I'm called to be.

I am wholeness, I am mercy, I am love.

I am forgiveness and completeness, I am love.

Though I see myself unclearly, I know one day I'll embrace all that I am.

All these qualities of love, they are what I long to be.

As a bearer of God's image, all these traits exist in me.

I will cultivate this love, let my character be changed.

Let my heart grow more expansive, let my spirit bear the name,

I am love.

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.

Song

"Shalom"

Shalom, shalom,

Shalom, shalom.

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

"The Heart of God" – Peter Johns, **"Within"** – Peter Johns,

"Qualities of Love" – Peter Johns, **"Shalom"** - Traditional

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.

Everything Belongs: A Contemplative Journey through Songs from The Center, Volume 2

Sunday, August 18 | The Anchor House | 6:00 p.m.

In this course we will explore the contemplative teachings behind each song on our upcoming album, Everything Belongs, as well as related contemplative practices for each song. There is no cost for this course, but registration is required. Contact Haley (hbrown@chapelwood.org) if you have any questions.



Enneagram Workshops

Friday, September 27 | The Anchor House | 1:30 – 5:00pm | \$95

Deepening Self Awareness with the Enneagram Map: An Introductory Workshop



Saturday, September 28 | The Anchor House | 8:45am – 4:00pm | \$185

Relaxing into Our Wholeness: Enneagram Type as Portal to Essence



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.

