



# *All the Light we Cannot See* T r e a s u r e s   o f   D a r k n e s s

8:45 a.m. + August 25, 2024

*Trinity! Higher than any being,  
any divinity, any goodness!  
Guide of Christians in the wisdom of heaven!  
Lead us up beyond unknowing and light,  
up to the farthest, highest peak  
of mystic scripture,  
where the mysteries of God's Word  
lie simple, absolute and unchangeable  
in the brilliant darkness of a hidden silence.  
Amid the deepest shadow they pour overwhelming light  
on what is most manifest.  
Amid the wholly unsensed and unseen  
they completely fill our sightless minds  
with treasures beyond all beauty.  
St. Dionysius the Areopagite*

Seeking God

*Meet us in the darkness where we wait for you.  
Empty us of everything that is not true.  
Laying down what we desire,  
We seek the truth beyond the fire.  
So, meet us in the darkness where we wait for you.*

*"Meet Us in the Darkness"*

A Box Full of Darkness

*(In my sleep I dreamed this poem)*

*Someone I loved once gave me  
a box full of darkness.*

*It took me years to understand  
that this, too, was a gift.*

*"The Uses of Sorrow" (Mary Oliver)*

Opening to the Unknown

*I will show you,  
Hidden things,  
Hidden things you have not known.*

*"Hidden Things"*

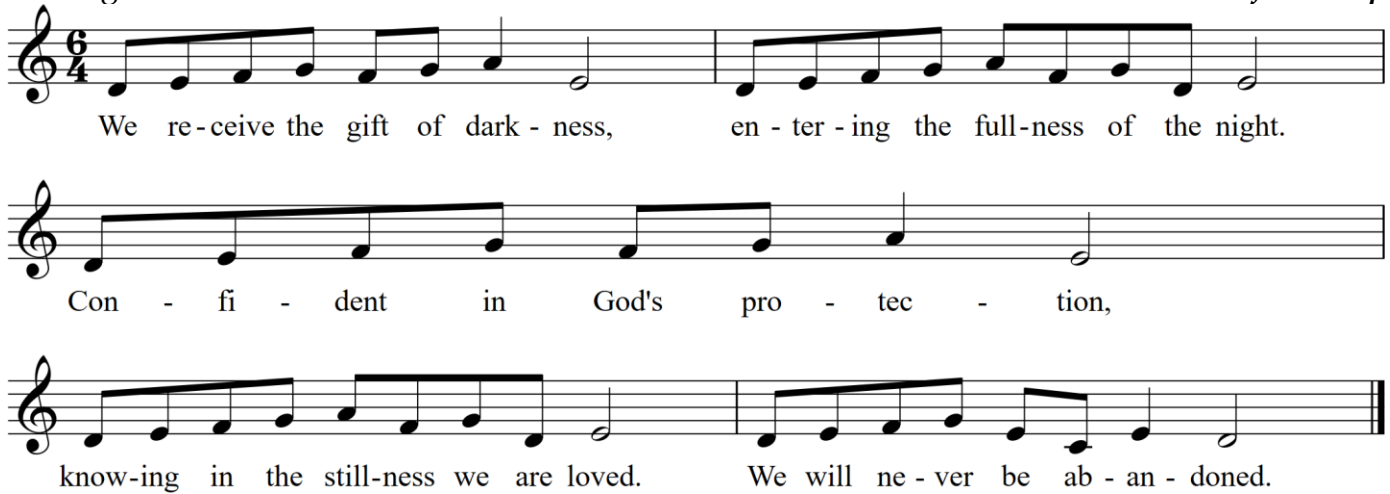
## Contemplating Scripture

Isaiah 45:3

*I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and hidden treasures of secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.*

## Seeking Treasure

Chant for Compline



We re-ceive the gift of dark - ness, en - ter - ing the full-ness of the night.  
Con - fi - dent in God's pro - tec - tion,  
know-ing in the still-ness we are loved. We will ne - ver be ab - an - doned.

## Sitting with Scripture

Isaiah 45:3

*I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and hidden treasures of secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.*

## Meditation

### 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.*

## 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.

## Opening to the Unknown

*I will show you,  
Hidden things,  
Hidden things you have not known.*

*"Hidden Things"*

## 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

*"Meet Us in the Darkness"* – Peter Johns, *"Hidden Things"* – J. Phillip Newell,  
*"Chant for Compline"* – Peter Johns, *"Within"* – 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

## Worship Response

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

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

Today, August 25 | The Anchor Housel 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. This week we will explore the songs 'Boundless Love' and 'Within.' There is no cost for this course, but registration is required. Contact Haley ([hbrown@chapelwood.org](mailto:hbrown@chapelwood.org)) if you have any questions.*



## Manifesting the Qualities of God: A Minaret Foundation Discussion and Dinner

Wednesday, August 28 | The Fellowship Hall | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

*Join Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr., Rabbi Steve Gross, and Shaykh Ammar AlShukry as they have a round-table discussion about what it means to "manifest the qualities of God" according to the sacred faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. How does each faith's understanding of the nature of God influence how we live? Representatives from each community will be present, offering a unique opportunity for inter-faith dialogue and fellowship. A 3-course meal will be included. This is offered in partnership with the Minaret Foundation.*

## Green Leaves for Later Years: The Spiritual Path of Wisdom

Thursdays, Beginning August 29 | The Great Room | 10:00am – 11:15am

*When thinking about getting older, do you feel fatigued? Do you want to move beyond your inherited ideas of aging? Have you ever wondered where is God in the aging angst? Are you interested in reinterpreting your later years? Join others on the aging journey in a book group that will help us take a loving look into our aging and how we might inhabit our later years with meaning and spiritual vitality. Registration with hard copies of the book is full, if you would like to participate in this course you must have an e-reader and buy the book digitally, then email Haley to let her know at [hbrown@chapelwood.org](mailto:hbrown@chapelwood.org)*

## The Yoga of Jesus: Practice and Discussion

Saturday, August 31 | The Great Room | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | \$60

*In this course, we will use the practice of yoga as well as this book, *The Yoga of Jesus as a lens to explore the gospels and what it means to embody spirituality. Each class will include time engaging in breath work, meditation, yoga postures and poses, as well as a discussion at the end of each class.**



## Means of Grace: The Contemplative Life of John Wesley

Thursdays, Beginning Sept 5 | The Great Room | 6:30pm – 8:30pm | \$120

*Part family dinner, part history lesson, the aim of this class is to engage in “holy fellowship”, as John Wesley understood it, and to look at the life and beliefs of the man who started the Methodist Movement. Each class will start with a delicious meal and an abbreviated version of a Methodist Class meeting and will end with a discussion on the topic for the evening. Join us for a 6 week “holy experiment” as we eat together, learn together, and have our hearts strangely warmed.*



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

Sunday, September 8 | The Chapel | 6:00 p.m. | <https://thecenterfcs.org/rafa>

## 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*



## 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, email Haley at [hbrown@chapelwood.org](mailto:hbrown@chapelwood.org).*