



All the Light We Cannot See: Encountering the Divine in Darkness

8:45 a.m. + September 1, 2024

"Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was" (Exodus 20:21).

Moses entered into the darkness and there he saw God...

John the contemplative, who had penetrated this luminous darkness, says, "No one has ever seen God," declaring by this negation that the divine essence is beyond the reach not only of humans but of every rational nature as well. And so, when Moses grew in knowledge, he declared that he saw God in the darkness, or in other words that he recognized that the Divinity is essentially that which transcends all knowledge and which no mind can apprehend.

For the text says: "Moses entered into the darkness where God was." What God? He who "made the darkness his hiding place," as David declared, who was also initiated into the divine mysteries in that same inner sanctuary.

Gregory of Nyssa, The Life of Moses (4th century)

Opening our Hearts

Let mystery live in you.

Be content to be in the unknown.

God is greater than all you see.

Let mystery live, let mystery live,

Let mystery live in you.

Let mystery live in you.

Let your questions come guide you along.

Love sees more than the mind can know.

Let mystery live, let mystery live,

Let mystery live in you.

Let mystery live in you.

As you wander a path you can't see.

You cannot journey outside of God.

Let mystery live, let mystery live,

Let mystery live in you.

"Let Mystery Live in You"

Crossing the Threshold

Remembering the Voice of Love

"Quiet My Heart"

*Hear in the silence the whispers of memory,
Be still and listen, be still and wait.
Wait for the voice that once echoed through Eden,
That speaks affirmation, that longs to create.
The voice in the garden, the voice in the cloud,
The voice in the temple, still speaks aloud.*

*Quiet my heart, till I can hear.
There are distractions ever near.
Quiet my heart, help me discern,
What are the lessons I must learn.
Quiet my heart.*

*Help me awaken and rise up from slumber,
Shake off the darkness, shine with your light.
Willing to listen, to learn, and to follow,
To love with your passion, to see with your sight.
Help me be watchful for where I'm asleep,
Attentive and mindful. God come and speak!*

Quiet my heart...

God Dwelling in Darkness

1 Kings 8:12, Psalm 18:9, Psalm 97:2

*The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.
He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.*

Darkness Full of God

"Meet Us in the Darkness"

*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.*

Contemplating Scripture

Exodus 20:21

*The people stood far away
and Moses entered the thick darkness
where God is.*

Meditation

Song of the Presence

“Only Wonder Can Comprehend”

(St. Maximus the Confessor, 7th century)

***Only wonder can comprehend,
Your incomprehensible power.***

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, Light, or Love.

Seeking God

“Meet Us in the Darkness”

***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.***

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

*“Let Mystery Live in You” – Peter Johns, “Quiet My Heart” – Peter Johns,
“Meet Us in the Darkness” – Peter Johns, “Only Wonder Can Comprehend” – Michael Sciretti Jr.*

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, rscoretti@chapelwood.org.

Centering Prayer

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

Worship Response

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

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.



The Wisdom of the Vineyard: September Guided Silent Retreat
Saturday, September 7th | 9:00am - 2:00pm | The Anchor House | \$35

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

Join us for a day of learning and exploring the wisdom creation has to offer us through the vines. Many of us enjoy glasses of wine without much thought. We might order a glass to celebrate the end of a long day or to celebrate someone we love becoming another year older. We might enjoy a glass of wine because we like the way it tastes or because it's the only name we recognized on a menu. But when we take time to learn about the grapes that have been grown, the soil it was planted in, the part of the world it was nurtured and tended to in, we can begin unravel the beautiful and unique storytelling capabilities wine has to offer and how it might teach us more about ourselves, our Creator and creation.

The cost of the retreat is \$35 and includes the price of lunch as well as materials. We don't want anyone to miss out because of pricing. Contact Haley for information on scholarships at hbrown@chapelwood.org.



Rafa - An Evening of Contemplative Prayer, Lament, and Healing
Sunday, September 8 | The Chapel | 6:00 p.m. | <https://thecenterfcs.org/rafa>

Everything Belongs: A Contemplative Journey through Songs from The Center, Volume 2
Sunday, September 15 | 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. This week we will explore the song 'Creation 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



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.