



All the Light We Cannot See: God's Presence in the Darkness

8:45 a.m. + September 22, 2024

*Once life has almost been taken from you.
When for some strange reason you emerge from death
and blink with new eyes upon the old almost forgotten universe,
then you can understand once more the value of sea and stars,
of happiness uncontainable, the sheer relief and delight of being alive
that turns your eyes repeatedly upwards with thanksgiving
then straight outward declaring peace over and over again
to those who with heads bent low see mud not stars.*

Kathy Keay

Crossing the Threshold

The Light Within

"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 Light Shines in the Darkness

Welcoming Your Love

"Thank You"

*Thank you, thank you.
You chose to bless me before I was born.
So, I thank you, thank you.
Thank you for loving me.*

*Help me to grasp just how much I am loved,
Whenever I feel afraid.
And when doubts overwhelm, I'll remember your words,
And trust you will come to my aid*

And say thank you, thank you.....

Contemplating the Psalm

Psalms for Praying, 102 (Nan Merrill)

*I sing of loyalty and of justice;
to You, O Beloved, I sing.
I give heed to the Way that lead to peace.
Come, O Blessed One, make your home in my heart.
May I be a mirror of your love to all that I meet;
May I reflect the freedom of your truth,
and live as a beneficial presence in the world.*

***O, that I might walk in the Light with a grateful heart,
and radiate peace to the world!***

*I accompany those who love You,
that I may grow in wisdom;
I enter into the Silence, into the Eternal Light,
and listen to your Word.
For, no one who oppresses another,
who keeps company with injustice,
will dwell in the house of Love.
And, no one who prefers darkness
will live in the glory of Light.*

***O, that I might walk in the Light with a grateful heart,
and radiate peace to the world!***

Allowing Ourselves to Shine

“Creation Song”

***Set free the Light within.
Cast off the covers that keep it concealed.
Father of Light let me shine like the sun.
Set free the Light within.***

Contemplating the Gospel

Matthew 4:12-17

*Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.
Leaving Nazareth behind, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun
and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*

*“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
on the way by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the nations –*

*the people who sat in darkness saw a great Light,
and to those who sat in the region and shadow of death – Light has risen upon them.”*

From that time Jesus began to proclaim and say,

“Change your awareness – Turn to God – for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.”

Meditation

Song of Response

“Creation Song”

*Set free the Light within.
Cast off the covers that keep it concealed.
Father of Light let me shine like the sun.
Set free the Light within.*

Being Light for Others (with sung response)

“Bring Your Best To Their Worst”

*Bring your best to their worst,
Bring your peace to their pain,
God of love, heal your people.*

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.

Communion

Journeying Together

“Servant Song”

*We are travelers on a journey,
Fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other,
Walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you,
In the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

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

*“Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines Within Us” – Jacques Bertier, “Thank You” – Peter Johns,
“Creation Song” – Peter Johns, “Bring Your Best To Their Worst” – John Bell, “Servant Song” – Richard Gillard*

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
Today | The Anchor House | 6:00 p.m.

Enneagram Workshops

Friday, September 27 | The Anchor House | 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Free

Deepening Self Awareness with the Enneagram Map: An Introductory Workshop
In this workshop, participants will learn

- each type's first placement of attention and the associated blind spots
- the world view and ego ideal of each of the nine types
- inherent strengths of the types that include drawing from the resource points
- the three centers of intelligence



Saturday, September 28 | The Anchor House | 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free

Relaxing into Our Wholeness: Enneagram Type as Portal to Essence

In this advanced Enneagram workshop, participants will reflect on these questions as well as explore how our Enneagram type's ego ideal operates to limit us. When we become conscious of its role in our lives we see that it is actually imitating our Holy Idea or enlightened spiritual perspective rather than supporting the sacredness of our lives. The ego ideal and our type's motivation create a "needing to strive towards" mentality. Engaging in this striving, distances us from our wholeness, our Essence.



The Enneagram Map to Your Deeper Self Book Launch and Potluck.

Sunday, September 29 | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Free

Join us after worship for the launch of Sandra Smith's book. Sandra will read excerpts from the book followed by Q and A. Books will be available for purchase. People are invited to bring a dish to share that embodies their Enneagram Type.

Blessing of the Animals

Wednesday, October 2 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m.

Hop, run or fly on over with your special pet friend for an individual blessing by Michael and Rachel. Let's give thanks for fur, feathers, and friendship in all its unique forms. We will meet on the labyrinth at The Anchor House. All people and pets are welcome, but please make sure all pets are either on a leash or in a carrier. We will have a brief worship service celebrating the unique relationship we have with our pets, and then each owner is invited to bring their pet forward for an individual blessing.

October Guided Silent Retreat

Saturday, October 5 | The Anchor House | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | \$25

For October's guided silent retreat, we will open ourselves to the life and spirituality of Francis of Assisi (d. October 3, 1226). There will be plenty of time for reading and reflection, prayerful walking of our backyard labyrinth, and space for prayerful art. Participants will receive handouts with readings, prayers and songs inspired by Francis, for use as lectio divina as well as reflective questions.



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

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