



Shaped by the Story

The Great Family and the Virtue of Faith

June 22, 2025

*Faith is the means by which the soul journeys to God,
and the more faith a soul has, the closer is its union with God.*
John of the Cross (16th century)

Crossing the Threshold

Praying with St. Francis

"This My Soul Loves"

*Wisdom, simplicity,
Poverty, humility.
Holy love and surrender.
God within all.
Vices fade away,
As these virtues guide my way.
Help me walk in obedience,
God over all.
This is my mission,
Perfect submission.
This I desire, this my soul loves.
Virtues transcending,
Grace never ending.
This I desire, this my soul loves.*

Sitting with Scripture

Genesis 12:1-2; 15:1,5-6

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

After these things the Word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great....Look now toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Journey of Faith

"Alone with None But You My God"

*Alone with none but you, my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear when you are near,
O Lord of night and day?
More safe am I within your hand,
Than if a host did round me stand.*

Meditation

Interior Knowing

"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.*

Guided Prayer

Song of Response

"Circle Me"

*Circle me, O God,
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.
Circle me, O God,
Keep calm within, keep turmoil out.
Keep life within, keep death without,
O circle me, O circle me.*

A Psalm of Trust

contemplative adaptation of Psalm 139 (Jerry Webber)

*O Lord of light,
You shine the searchlight of Your love into my life;
You illumine my life with Your brightness;
You know everything there is to know about where I go,
what I do,
and who I am.*

*Sometimes I walk a well-trod path,
and sometimes I venture out where there is no trail to follow.
Wherever I am, You find me,
in order to guide my steps.*

*Though my journey may seem frightening to me,
it is not unknown to You.
Even when I don't know my way,
I am not lost to You.
You are in front of me and You are behind me,
surrounding me with love wherever I go.*

*Your strength and peace are constant companions,
as if you laid a hand on my shoulders Yourself,
as if You were closer to me than my next breath.*

*I can't go anywhere to be away from You.
I can't shake Your encompassing Spirit.
Whether I go to the heights or the depths,
to the east or to the west,
You are still present to me.*

*I may soar with the eagles or be in deepest agony,
and even then Your hands hold me fearlessly;
You embrace me in determined love.*

Song of Response

"Circle Me"

*Circle me O God,
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.
Circle me O God,
Keep calm within, keep turmoil out.
Keep life within, keep death without,
O circle me, O circle me.*

Centering in God

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 Abba, Spirit, Jesus, Beloved, Light, or Love.

Interior Knowing

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Contains inside God's holy throne!
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A reassuring melody,
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Receiving Holy Communion

Receiving a Good Word



Our Staff

Haley Brown – Associate Director of The Anchor House

Courtney Garrison – Ministry Assistant

Christian Ibanez – AV Production

Peter Johns – Associate Director of Contemplative Worship

Zachary Montasser – Violinist

Nick Cavazos – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. – Pastor of The Center

Today's Music

'This My Soul Loves' – Peter Johns, *'Alone with None But You, My God'* – Peter Johns,
'Within' – Peter Johns, *'Circle Me'* – Peter Johns

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.

Centering Prayer

Immediately following worship | The Chapel

Worship Response

10:00 a.m. | The Anchor House

Community Gathering and Potluck

Sunday, June 29 | The Anchor House | Immediately following worship

Join us for a community gathering and potluck in The Anchor House for a time of fellowship before we break for our time of sabbath during July. Bring your favorite summer sweet or savory dish to share. The Anchor House will be open before worship for folks to drop off their dish.

The Anchor House Hours

Resumes August 19

The Anchor House Hours are suspended for the summer, from May 26 through August 18. You may still schedule time at the Anchor House during the summer. If you would like to request a room for spiritual direction, counseling, or for your own time of retreat, please contact Haley. Regular Anchor House Hours will resume on August 19.

Holding One Another in the Light

As our commitment to one another deepens, we want to be able to pray for one another – bearing burdens and joining in celebrations. Here is how to participate:

- 1. Make a request for prayer or thanksgiving using the QR link or go to thecenterfcs.org*
- 2. Opt in to receive the weekly prayer list by emailing Rachel.*
- 3. Then spend time holding one another in the Light.*

