



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality



Contemplative Worship

8:45 a.m. + May 31st + Trinity Sunday

*May the Light of God illumine my soul.
May the Flame of Christ kindle me to love.
May the Fire of the Spirit free me to live
this day, tonight and for ever.*

J. Philip Newell

Crossing the Threshold

Entering into Silence

J. Philip Newell (adapted)

*Out of the silence at the beginning of time
You spoke the Word of Life.
Out of the world's primeval darkness
You flooded the universe with Light.
In the quiet of this place
in the darkness behind my eyelids
I wait and watch.
In the stillness of my soul
and from its fathomless depths
the senses of my heart are awake to You.
For fresh soundings of Life,
for new showing of Light,
I search in the silence of my spirit, O God.*

God's Ever Presence

"I Am Here"

*Before creation's dawn,
There was darkness filled with love.
Love that called forth all existence into life.
Love that spoke into the dark,
Till the darkness blazed with light.
Love that filled all of creation with a song.*

*I am here like a Treasure hidden deep within this world.
Every river, every mountain points the way.
I am here in creation. In the darkness. In the light.
Come and find me, Come and know me, come and love.*

Day 1: The Darkness and Light of God

Genesis 1:1-5

*In the Beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth –
the Earth was formless and empty, and Darkness was over the face of the deep.
And the Breath of God was brooding (with tender love) over the face of the waters.
Then God said, "Let there be Light!" And there was Light.
God sees the Light that it is Good, Beautiful!
And God divided the Light from the Darkness.
God called the Light "Day," and the Darkness he called "Night."
And there is an evening, and there is a morning, Day One.*

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.*

Day 2: The Wildness of God

Genesis 1:6-8

*God says, "Let there be a Dome in the middle of the waters;
let it divide the waters from the waters."
God made the Dome and divided the waters under the Dome
from the waters above the Dome.
And it is so.
And God called the Dome "Heavens."
And there is an evening, and there is a morning, Day Two.*

Embracing the Storm

J. Philip Newell

*In the beginning, O God,
Your Spirit swept over the chaotic deep like a wild wind
and creation was born.
In the turbulence of my own life
and the unsettled waters of the world today
let there be new birthings of Your Spirit.
In the currents of my own heart
and the upheavals of the world today
let there be new birthings of Your mighty Spirit.*

Letting the Wildness Out

"Creation Song"

*Set free the storm within,
Open the floodgates that hold back the tide.
Out of the turbulence bring forth new life,
Set free the storm within.*

Day 3: The Fecundity of God

Genesis 1:9-13

*God says, "Let the waters under the Heavens be collected unto one place, and let the dry land be seen."
And it is so. God calls to the dry land: "Earth,"
and to the collection of the waters He has called: "Seas."
And God sees that – Good, Beautiful!
And God says,
"Let the Earth yield tender grass,
plants bearing seeds, fruit-trees, whose seed is in itself,
bearing fruit after its kind, upon on the earth."
And it is so.
And the "Earth" brings forth tender grass,
plants yielding seed after its kind, and tree yielding fruit,
whose seed is in itself, after its kind.
And God sees that – Good, Beautiful! And there is an evening, and there is a morning, Day Three.*

Song of Response

"Creation Song"

*Set me on sacred ground,
Keep me connected to all that You are.
Let your abundance fill all that I am.
Set me on sacred ground.*

Day 4: The Harmony of God

Genesis 1:14-19

*God says, "Let there be lights in the Dome of the Heavens to divide the Day from the Night,
and let them be for signs and for seasons, for days and for years.*

And let them be for lights in the Dome of the Heavens, to give light upon the Earth."

And it is so.

And God made a duality of Great Lights –

the greater Light to rule the Day,

and the lesser Light - and the stars - to rule the Night.

And God gave them to the Dome of the Heavens,

to enlighten the Earth,

to wisely rule in the Day and in the Night

and to divide the Light from the Darkness.

And God sees that – Good, Beautiful!

And there is an evening and a morning, Day Four.

Song of Response

"Creation Song"

Keep me in harmony,

Sun, moon, and starlight illumine the way.

Let my life orbit round all that is You.

Keep me in harmony.

Day 5: The Creatureliness of God

Genesis 1:20-23

*God says, "Let the waters teem with beings that overflow with life,
and flying things that may fly above the Earth
on the face of the Dome of the Heavens."*

And God creates the great sea creatures

and every living being that moves

which the waters have teemed with, after their kind,

and every winged flying creature, after their kind.

And God sees that – Good, Beautiful!

And God blesses them, saying,

"Be fruitful and be great and fill the waters in the seas,

And let the flying things multiply on the Earth."

And there is an evening and a morning - Day Five.

Song of Response

"Creation Song"

Set free the Life within.

Trusting my senses as gateways to You.

One with creation and fully alive,

Set free the Life within.

Day 6: The Image of God

Genesis 1:24-31

*Then God says, "Let the Earth bring forth the soul of life after its kind,
animals and reptiles and life of the Earth after its kind."*

And it is so.

And God makes the life of the earth after its kind,

the animals after its kind and all the reptiles upon the dust after its kind.

And God sees that – Good, Beautiful!

And God says,

*“Let Us make Adam (the Human) in Our Image (Icon), in Our Likeness.
And let them rule over the fish of the Sea, and over the birds of the Heavens,
and over the animals on all the Earth, and over all reptiles that creep upon the Earth.”*

*So God creates the Adam (the Human) in His Image. In the Image of God he created him,
Male and Female he created them.*

And God blesses them. And God says to them,

*“Be fruitful and be great and fill the Earth and subdue it.
And rule over the fish of the Sea, and over the birds of the Heavens,
and over all the life that moves over the Earth.”*

And God says,

*“Behold! I have given you every plant-bearing seed, which is upon the Face of all the Earth,
and every tree, which has the fruit of a tree yielding seed. To you it shall be for food.
And to all life on the earth,
And to all birds in the heavens,
And to all reptiles which in it is the Soul of Life -
To all I have given all green herb for food.”*

And it is so.

And God sees all that He has made. And behold! Very Good! Very Beautiful!

And there is an evening and a morning, Day Six.

Song of Response

***You call me Beautiful.
When I forget it, remind me again.
Over and over till my heart agrees!
You call me Beautiful.***

“Creation Song”

Awakening to God’s Image Within

*In the morning light, O God,
may I glimpse again your Image deep within me,
the threads of glory woven into the fabric of every man and woman.
Again may I catch sight of the mystery of the human soul fashioned in your likeness,
deeper than knowing, more enduring than time.
And in glimpsing these threads of light amidst the weakness and distortions of my life
let me be recalled to the strength and beauty in my soul.
Let me be recalled
to the strength and beauty of your Image in every living soul. Amen.*

J. Philip Newell

Song of Response

***You call me Beautiful.
Though I am tarnished, the Beauty still shines.
Help me uncover the Treasure within.
You call me Beautiful.***

“Creation Song”

Day 7: The Stillness of God

Genesis 2:1-3

*And the Heavens and the Earth and all their Hosts are completed.
And God completed in Day Seven His angelic work which He had made,
and he ceased, he rested on Day Seven
from all His angelic work which He had made.
And God blesses the Day Seven and hallows it,
because in it he has ceased, rested from all His angelic work
which God had created for making.*

Song of Response

"Creation Song"

*Teach me the joy of rest.
Evening and morning, the cycle of life.
You recreate me so I can create.
Teach me the joy of rest.*

Prayers of Intercession

J. Philip Newell

*For the night followed by the day,
for the idle winter ground followed by the energy of spring,
for the infolding of the earth followed by bursts of unfolding,
thanks be to You, O God.
For rest and wakefulness,
stillness and creativity, reflection and action,
thanks be to You.
Let me know in my own soul and body
the rhythms of creativity that You have established.
Let me know in my family and friendships
the disciplines of withdrawal and the call to engagement.
Let me know for my world the cycles of renewal
given by You for healing and health,
the pattern of the seasons
given by You for the birth of new life.*

Centering in the 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.

Seeking the Treasure

"I Am Here"

*I am here like a Treasure hidden deep within this world.
Every river, every mountain points the way.
I am here in creation. In the darkness. In the light.
Come and find me, Come and know me, come and love.*

Silent 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

Ruby Alberto – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Today's Music

"I Am Here" – Peter Johns, *"Creation Song"* – Peter Johns

Today's Prayers

Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer – J. Philip Newell

For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit:

www.TheCenterFCS.org

Centering Prayer

Immediately following worship | The Chapel

Worship Response

10:00 a.m. | The Anchor House

Creative Space

Saturday, June 6 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Creative Space is a nurturing, encouraging gathering of people who come together to create art and spend time in personal reflection. You will get an opportunity to explore spirituality through creative expression, as well as to be creative in a setting that is intentionally designed to enhance the spiritual. Materials are provided and everyone is welcome. No reservation is required.

June Guided Silent Retreat: The Mirror of Simple Souls with Marguerite Porete

Saturday, June 13 | The Anchor House | 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

*This guided silent retreat invites participants into the luminous and daring spirituality of the French mystic Marguerite Porete, author of *The Mirror of Simple Souls*, who was condemned and burned at the stake in Paris on June 1, 1310 for her uncompromising witness to Divine Love. Through extended silence, gentle guidance, and contemplative prayer, participants are invited into the way of divine love—a way marked by surrender, consent, and deep interior freedom. Rather than striving or analysis, this retreat offers space to rest in God, allowing love itself to pray within us, and to discover the quiet freedom that emerges when the soul yields itself wholly to divine love. The cost of the retreat is \$35 and includes the price of lunch. We don't want anyone to miss out because of pricing. Contact Haley for information on scholarships at hbrown@chapelwood.org.*



The Anchor House Hours

Tuesdays – Fridays | Noon - 4pm

The Anchor House is 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 retreat outside of these hours, please let Haley know and we will make sure a room is available for you.

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 at rsciretti@chapelwood.org.*



Giving to The Center

We invite you to financially give to The Center in response to what you have received today or throughout our contemplative offerings. Using the QR code will take you to a page where you can make a one-time offering or recurring gift. Thank you for your contribution and investment.



Spiritual Direction

Most of us at some point in life know we want a deeper relationship with God, and direction for our life, but just have no idea where to start. It leaves us feeling isolated and alone. At The Center for Christian Spirituality, we believe spirituality is meant to be lived in community, and everyone deserves a Soul Friend! That is why we have launched our Spiritual Direction ministry here at The Center. Our trained and certified Spiritual Directors help you be watchful and attentive to God in your life and guide you through the ups and downs of life and faith. If you are looking for a little one-on-one guidance in your relationship with God and God's direction for your life, one of our Spiritual Directors might just be a great fit for you.



Upcoming Experiences

Summer Solstice – June 21

Serving Community Lunch at Fair Haven – June 24

Becoming a Member Sunday & Community Gathering Potluck – June 28

Summer Book Discussion: Theo of Golden – August 5