



Overlooked

8:45 a.m. + December 03, 2023 + First Sunday of Advent

Waiting in Advent Hope

"Blessed be the God and Lord of All"

*Blessed be the God and Lord and of all, who comes to set us free,
Who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release,
And God fulfills that promise to bring all people peace.*

*Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
A Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.*

*On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness, upon the sinner's eyes.
To guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace,
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease.*

Welcome

Singing With Mary

"Magnify"

*My soul will magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoice in my savior.
See how his favor rests on me, I am blessed in the sight of the world.
For he has raised me up on high, the Mighty has done great things.
Mercy flows out to everyone, who walks in the fear of the Lord.
Magnify, magnify, magnify the Lord with me.*

Preparing for Advent

from the Iona Community

Into our world as into Mary's womb...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the forgotten places, as into the stable...

Come, Lord Jesus.

*Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;
Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;
Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;
Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;
And into our lives and longings, whatever our estate...*

Come, Lord Jesus

This is the good news: Christ is coming, and blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

Therefore come quickly, Lord.

Singing With Mary

"Magnify"

*Come see his strength, his mighty power, has torn the proud from their illusions.
Thrones of importance cast aside, as the humble are raised up on high.
Come see the hungry satisfied, while the rich are all sent away.
For he has come to help his servant, remembering his promise of mercy.
Magnify, magnify, magnify the Lord with me.*

My soul will magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoice in my savior.

Sitting with Scripture

Luke 1:5-7, 24-25,39-46

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years....

After those days Zechariah's wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord..."

Singing With Mary

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Meditation

Song of Response

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.*

Guided Prayer

Moving towards Stillness

"Breathe on me Breath of God"

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine.
Till all this earthly part of me,
Glows with thy fire divine.*

Centering in Silence

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. You are in Christ and Christ 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 Christ, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Moving Towards the Table

"Magnify"

Magnify, magnify, magnify the Lord with me.

Holy Communion

"Ave Verum Corpus"

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

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.
If you are worshipping online, please text the word center to (844) 474-0707
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word chapel to (844) 474-0707*

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

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

Worship Response

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

Carols and Keyboards

December 7 and 8 | The Sanctuary | 7:00 p.m.

A Chapelwood favorite, the annual Carols and Keyboards concerts return with four grand pianos, organ, and choir. This year's concerts feature new tunes and classic Christmas songs in a grand setting. Join Peter Johns, Cameron Cody, James Kelly, keyboardists from around the city, the Chancel Choir, and soloists as we ring in the Christmas season.

Advent Community Gathering

Sunday, December 10 | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

Join us for some good food and fellowship with friends from our contemplative community after worship in The Anchor House. Make a favorite Christmas treat and bring to share. Your treat can be sweet or savory, we just ask that it not need to be refrigerated or kept warm. The Anchor House will be open before worship so everyone can drop their treat off on the way to the Contemplative Worship Service if you would like. We hope you'll join us and invite a friend or family member.

Service of the Longest Night

Sunday, December 17 | The Chapel | 6:00 p.m.

The Service of the Longest Night is held on the Sunday evening closest to the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. The "longest night" has also become an expression for the spiritual journey of grief and loss. Our time together will be especially appropriate for those who have experienced a significant loss this past year. In this time of worship, you are invited to quiet refuge of prayer, music, remembrance, and Holy Communion. We will acknowledge our losses and ponder the everlasting hope that shines like a light in the darkness.

Contemplative Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24 | The Anchor House Grounds | 6:00 p.m.

We will sing carols, hear the Christmas story, reflect on its meaning for us today, and light candles to celebrate the coming of Christ. It will be a lovely way to mark Christmas Eve.

Giving to The Center

All of us are part of a never-ending process of giving and receiving. Life is not possible without this organic flow. What we co-create together here at The Center for Christian Spirituality is not possible without our conscious participation in this holy activity of freely receiving and freely giving. In this light, 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.

