



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Manifesting Light, Life, and Love

8:45 a.m. + April 14, 2024 + Third Sunday of Easter



Art by Oleksandr Antonyuk

ΤΟΥ ΛΟΓΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΖΩΗΣ
“The Word of the Life”

In the most ancient Greek manuscript from the 4th century.

Crossing the Threshold

Seeking the Life-Giving One

"Heaven Touches Earth"

*Heaven touches earth every single moment,
In the setting sun, the whispers on the wind.
The gentle fall of rain, the fragrance when it's over.
We will taste, and we will see, and know that God is good.*

*May we sense your presence, O God.
May we sense your presence, O God.
Make our senses gateways to all that you are.
May we sense your presence, O God.*

Confessing Our Faith

1 John 1:1-5

*The One who was from the Beginning,
the One whom we have heard,
the One whom we have seen with our eyes,
the One we have beheld,
and our hands have touched,
concerning The Logos of the Zoe (The Word of the Life).*

*And the Life was manifested,
and we have seen and have witnessed
and have announced to you the Eternal Life
which was with the Abba and was manifested to us.*

*The One we have seen and heard we announce to you,
so that you also may have communion with us,
and our communion is with the Abba,
and with his Son, Yeshua the Anointed One.
And these things we write to you, that our joy may be full.*

*And this is the Announcement which we have heard from him and announce to you:
that God is Light (Elaha Noohra) and in God is no darkness at all.*

Meditation

God is Light

To the tune of "Erev Shel Shoshanim"

*Elaha Noohra.
Elaha Noohra.
Elaha Noohra.
Elaha Noohra.*

Confessing Our Light and Darkness

1 John 1:6-10

If we say, "We have communion with God," yet we walk in the Darkness, we are false and do not do the Truth. But if we walk in the Light, as God is in the Light, we have communion with one another, and the life-blood of Yeshua, His Son, cleanses us from all Sin.

If we say, "We have no Sin," we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, God is faithful and righteous to release us from the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say, "We have not sinned," we make God a liar, and the Logos of God is not in us.

Meditation

Praying with the Psalmist

adapted from Psalm 139:18 (Nan Merrill)

*Search me, O my Beloved, and know my heart!
Try me and discern my thoughts!
Help me to face the darkness within me;
enlighten me, that I might radiate your Love and Light!*

Stilling Ourselves

"Call My Name"

*I will wait until I hear you call my name,
Wait until my world inside has come to rest.
Many voices clamor, calling constantly to me,
So, I will wait until I hear you call my name.*

*I will wait until I hear you call my name,
In the whispers of the wind I hear your voice.
All of your creation sings a gentle melody,
A song that calms my spirit while you call my name.*

*So speak Lord,
Speak Lord,
Your servant is listening,
Speak Lord,
Come and speak Lord.
Your servant is listening.*

*I will wait until I hear you call my name,
When I hear your voice my heart begins to heal.
How my spirit longs to share your love song with the world,
Till everyone who listens hears you call their name.*

So speak Lord...

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 Christ, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

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

"Heaven Touches Earth" by Peter Johns; *"Erev Shel Shoshanim"* by Yosef Hadar; *"Call My Name"* by 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.

If you have a prayer request or seeking support, please contact Rachel Sciretti, rscoretti@chapelwood.org.

Centering Prayer

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

Pilgrimage Informational Meeting for *Rooted – A Journey with The Center to Discover the Divine Among the Trees, Leaves and Vines*

Today | The Anchor House | 10:00 am

Join us for 7 days in California (October 21 – 28) as we explore the wisdom and beauty creation has to offer us through the Coastal Redwoods and the Napa Valley vines.

Scholarship funds are available. Total cost (not including airfare) is \$3,100/person.

Contact Haley (hbrown@chapelwood.org) for the scholarship application.



Creative Space

Saturday, April 13 | The Anchor House | 9am – 12:30pm

Manifesting Light, Life, and Love: A Contemplative Bible Study on 1 John

Wednesdays, April 17 – May 8 | 6:30 pm | The Anchor House

Join Michael and the rest of The Center team for 4 weeks of Bible study. We will explore the 5 chapters of 1 John together. In particular, we will reflect on what this ancient Christian letter says about manifesting the Light, Life and Love of God. We will read this letter together using Michael's new literal and contemplative translation from the most ancient Greek and Aramaic manuscripts, which will help us understand this text in a fresh way. We will also be offered a spiritual practice that relates to the chapter of the day. There will also be time for small group discussion.

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, let Haley know after worship or email her at hbrown@chapelwood.org.

World Labyrinth Day, Saturday, May 4

May Guided Silent Retreat

9:00am – 1:00pm | The Anchor House | \$35

Join us on May 4th for a day of exploring an ancient archetype for meditation, contemplation, and reflection. Between 9am and 1pm, we will learn how to use labyrinths as a spiritual practice, we will spend time building our own "mini" labyrinths, and have time to walk the Labyrinth at The Anchor House.



World Labyrinth Day Walk

1:00pm | The Anchor House Labyrinth | Free

Folks are invited to walk the Labyrinth at the Anchor House for a special World Labyrinth Day Celebration with Cindy Serio beginning at 1pm.