



All the Light We Cannot See: Encountering the Divine in Darkness

8:45 a.m. + August 18, 2024

*On that glad night in secret, for no one saw me, nor did I look at anything,
with no other light or guide than the one that burned in my heart. . . .*

*This guided me more surely than the light of noon,
to where he was awaiting me – him I knew so well.*

John of the Cross
(*"Noche Oscura" – "The Dark Night"*)

Singing Lament

"Where Are You Hiding, Lord?"

*Have you abandoned me?
Darkness is all around.
I raise my voice to heaven,
You do not make a sound.*

*Have you abandoned me?
See, the storm rages on.
I look for you for shelter,
It feels like you have gone.*

*Where are you hiding Lord?
Do not be far from me.
You are my strength and shield,
Come rescue me!*

*Still, I believe in you.
Let me not trust in vain.
Still, I will sing your praises,
Rather than curse your Name.*

Where are you hiding Lord?...

*Have you abandoned me?
Darkness is all around.
I raise my voice to heaven,
Waiting on holy ground.*

Reflecting in the Darkness

Seeking God

"Meet Us in the Darkness"

*Meet us in the darkness where we wait for you.
Empty us of everything that is not true.
Laying down what we desire,
We seek the truth beyond the fire.
So, meet us in the darkness where we wait for you.*

Divine Presence in the Darkness

From Psalms for Praying, Psalm 139 Nan Merrill

*Where could I go from your Spirit?
Or how could I flee from your Presence?
If I ascend into heaven,
You are there!
If I make me bed in darkness,
You are there!
If I soar on the wings of the morning
or dwell in the deepest parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me,
and your Love will embrace me.
If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to You,
the night dazzles as with the sun;
the darkness is as light with You.*

Divine Love in the Darkness

"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.*

Contemplating Scripture

Psalm 139:11-12

*"If I say,
'Surely the darkness will overwhelm me
and the light become night around me,'
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you."*

Meditation

Song of Response

"Things Unseen"

*Life is more than all we see.
Faith is more than all we know.
For we hope in things unseen,
Trusting God to help us grow.
God help us see what we're blind to,
Hear the cries we ignore.
See beyond just this moment,
To the glory in store.
Grant us faith in the darkness,
In the cold of the night,
To see goodness and light.*

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.

Seeking Comfort

"Meet Us in the Darkness"

*Meet us in the darkness where we wait for you.
Empty us of everything that is not true.
Laying down what we desire,
We seek the truth beyond the fire.
So, meet us in the darkness where we wait for you.*

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

*"Where are You Hiding, Lord?" – Peter Johns, "Meet Us in the Darkness" – Peter Johns,
"I Am Here" – Peter Johns, "Things Unseen" – 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, 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, August 18 | The Anchor House | 6:00 p.m.

In this course we will explore the contemplative teachings behind each song on our upcoming album, Everything Belongs, as well as related contemplative practices for each song. This week we will explore the songs 'I Am Here' and 'Heaven Touches Earth'. There is no cost for this course, but registration is required.

Contact Haley (hbrown@chapelwood.org) if you have any questions.



Manifesting the Qualities of God: A Minaret Foundation Discussion and Dinner

Wednesday, August 28 | The Fellowship Hall | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Join Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr., Rabbi Steve Gross, and Shaykh Ammar AlShukry as they have a round-table discussion about what it means to “manifest the qualities of God” according to the sacred faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. How does each faith’s understanding of the nature of God influence how we live? Representatives from each community will be present, offering a unique opportunity for inter-faith dialogue and fellowship. A 3-course meal will be included. This is offered in partnership with the Minaret Foundation.

The Yoga of Jesus: Practice and Discussion

Saturday, August 31 | The Great Room | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

In this course, we will use the practice of yoga as well as this book, The Yoga of Jesus as a lens to explore the gospels and what it means to embody spirituality. Each class will include time engaging in breath work, meditation, yoga postures and poses, as well as a discussion at the end of each class.



Enneagram Workshops

Friday, September 27 | The Anchor House | 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | \$95

Deepening Self Awareness with the Enneagram Map: An Introductory Workshop



Saturday, September 28 | The Anchor House | 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | \$185

Relaxing into Our Wholeness: Enneagram Type as Portal to Essence

