



In Communion... with God

8:45 a.m. + November 10, 2024

*The goal of the Christian life – both in this world and the world to come – is union with God.
But this union should not be identified with ecstatic states, even though such states occur.
More fundamental to union with God is our sense of God's continual presence,
an inner stillness that is available to all Christians.
This habitual presence is to be in constant prayer,
to be always present to God and to know that God is always present to us.
Diogenes Allen, Spiritual Theology*

Entering Worship

Psalm 5:3

*Every morning you'll hear me at it again.
Every morning I lay out the pieces of my life on your altar
and watch for fire to descend.*

Quietly Laying out the Pieces of Our Lives

- *I quietly ask God for the grace to be as fully present to this time of worship as possible.*
- *I gently become aware of what I am carrying in my body this morning.*
- *I offer myself, as completely as possible, to God.*

Offering Ourselves

"Always We Begin Again"

*Always we begin again, every moment new,
Giving back the good we have received from you.
Waking up with grateful hearts, as we greet the day.
All creation sings with us a song of praise.
We will arise and seek the common good and welcome all in love.
Offering grace to all humanity as reflections of above.
Living with sacrifice, simplicity, and wisdom till the end,
Because always we begin again.*

Morning Time

Psalm 143:8-10, 17:15

*Cause me to hear in the morning Thy Loving-kindness,
for in Thee do I trust.
Cause me to know the Way wherein I should walk,
for I lift up my soul unto Thee.
Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD,
in Thee I am clothed.
Teach me to do Thy Will,
For Thou art my God.
Thy Spirit is Good,
guide me into the Land of Uprightness....
As for me, I shall behold Thy Face in Righteousness;
when I awake I shall be satisfied with Thy Likeness.*

Meditation

Song of Response

"When I Awake I Am Still with You"

*When I awake, I am still with you.
When I awake, I am still with you.*

*In you I live.
In you I move.
In you I find my being.*

Daytime

Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying, Psalm 16

*Remain ever before me, O Living Presence, for in You am I safe.
You are my Beloved; in You and through You I can do all things.*

*I look to those who are at one with You and learn from them of your ways.
My delight increases each time I sense your Presence within me!
Songs of praise well up from my heart!*

*Love is my chosen food, my cup, holding me in its power.
Where I have come from, where'er I shall go,
Love is my birthright, my true estate.*

*I bless the Counselor who guides my way;
in the night also does my heart instruct me.
I walk beside the Spirit of Truth;
I celebrate the Light.
I bask in The Oneness of All!
Thus my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
I shall not be afraid, nor fall into the pit of despair;
For in Love's presence I know the fullness of joy.*

Meditation

Song of Response

"Remain in the Company of God"

*Remain in the company of God this day,
Remain in the company of God.
Remain in the company of God this day,
Remain, remain, remain.*

Nighttime

Psalm 63:6

*I think of you on my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.*

Meditation

Song of Response

"Vespers"

*Slowly shadows fade to darkness.
Raise a lamp to guide us through the night.
Lay aside the work of daytime,
Offering to God all we have done.
Welcoming the peace of evening.*

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.

The Grace to Remain

*Holy Beloved One,
rend this veil between us.
Holy Beloved One,
we are one with you.*

"Holy Beloved One"

Holy Communion

Beginning Again

*Always we begin again, every moment new,
Giving back the good we have received from you.
Waking up with grateful hearts, as we greet the day.
All creation sings with us a song of praise.
We will arise and seek the common good and welcome all in love.
Offering grace to all humanity as reflections of above.
Living with sacrifice, simplicity, and wisdom till the end,
Because always we begin again.*

"Always We Begin Again"

Unison Benediction

*My Beloved, I ask You for the grace to cultivate a still heart,
a deep peace, an attentiveness to Your still, small voice,
a quiet strength that rests at my core and ties my being to You without fail;
And then the grace, my Strength, to speak the Truth and live the Praise that captures my heart.
In love and praise I offer my prayer. Amen.*

Psalms 19:14 Prayer

Receiving a Good Word



Our Staff

Haley Brown – Associate Director of The Anchor House

Courtney Garrison – Ministry Assistant

Peter Johns – Associate Director of Contemplative Worship

Zachary Montasser – Violinist

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Today's Music

"Always We Begin Again" – Peter Johns, *"When I Awake, I Am Still With You"* – Michael Sciretti Jr.,
"Remain in the Company of God" – David Keller, *"Vespers"* – Peter Johns, *"Holy Beloved One"* – Michael Sciretti Jr.

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

Worship Response

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

Everything Belongs: Songs from The Center, Volume 2 - Contemplative Concert

Tonight 10 | 6:00 p.m. | The Chapel

Join us in the Chapel for the launch of our new Contemplative Worship album – Everything Belongs: Songs from The Center, Volume 2. All the songs on this album were composed by Peter Johns for worship here at The Center for Christian Spirituality on Sunday mornings. Peter will be joined by a host of other musicians for an evening of Contemplative Worship.

1946 Special Screening and Dinner Event

November 15 | 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. | 14 Pews

Join Reconciling United Methodist Texas Conference at 14 Pews for a special screening of 1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture, a film about how 'Homosexuality' made it into Scripture. Please use the QR code for more information and tickets.



Creative Space

November 16 | 9:00 a.m. | The Anchor House

Exploring SoulCollage and Labyrinth

November 16 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | The Labyrinth

This will be an open drop in evening of prayer and creativity! We'll make cards featuring an image of the labyrinth and then engage in a candlelight labyrinth walk under an almost full moon! OR if you prefer, you can come at 7 pm and walk the labyrinth before you create your card. You can even come for just SoulCollage® OR just walking the Labyrinth!

