



Sent For This Purpose

8:45 a.m. + January 12, 2025 + Baptism of the Lord

*I must proclaim
the Good News of the Kingdom of God
to the other cities also,
for I was sent for this purpose.
Jesus, Luke 4:43*

Crossing the Threshold

Resting in Presence

"Only Be Still"

*The Lord abides with you,
Only be still, only be still.
Believe and you will see,
Only be still, only be still.
Though fears and doubts surround,
Just wait on holy ground.
For God is all around,
Only be still, only be still.*

A Prayer from Psalm 1

From David's Crown - Sounding the Psalms, Malcolm Guite

*Come to the place, where every breath is praise,
And God is breathing through each passing breeze.
Be planted by the waterside and raise*

*Your arms with Christ beneath these rooted trees,
Who lift their breathing leaves up to the skies.
Be rooted too, as still and strong as these,*

*Open alike to sun and rain. Arise
From meditation by these waters. Bear
The fruits of that deep rootedness. Be wise*

*In the trees' long wisdom. Learn to share
The secret of their patience. Pass the day
In their green fastness and their quiet air.*

*Slowly discern a life, a truth, a way,
Where simple being flowers in delight.
Then let the chaff of life just blow away.*

Seeking Stillness

"Only Be Still"

*The Lord abides with you,
Only be still, only be still.
Believe and you will see,
Only be still, only be still.
Though fears and doubts surround,
Just wait on holy ground.
For God is all around,
Only be still, only be still.*

Contemplating Scripture

Matthew 13:3-9

*And Jesus told them many things in parables, saying:
"Listen! A sower went out to sow.
And as he sowed, some seeds fell by the way,
and the birds came and ate them up.
Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil,
and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.
But when the sun rose, they were scorched,
and since they had no root, they withered away.
Other seeds fell among thorns,
and the thorns rose up and choked them.
Other seeds fell into good soil and gave fruit,
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
If you have ears, hear!"*

Meditation

Song of Response

"A Discerning Heart"

*I do not ask for wealth or fame,
Endless riches, great acclaim,
I ask for one thing in your name:
Grant me a discerning heart.*

*Beyond the knowledge I have learned,
All experiences earned,
See Wisdom waits to be affirmed,
Held in a discerning heart.*

*Wisdom calls, Wisdom leads.
Her ways are pleasant, her paths are peace.
She is the fruit of the tree of life,
Grown in a discerning heart.*

*So let my life be fertile soil,
Spirit plant and I will toil,
To tend a crop that will not spoil,
Stored in a discerning heart.*

Wisdom calls, Wisdom leads...

Contemplating Scripture

Luke 3:21-22

*Now when all the people were baptized
and when Jesus also had been baptized
and was praying,
the heaven was opened,
and the Spirit of Holiness descended upon him
in bodily form like a dove.
And a Voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved.
In you I am well pleased."*

Meditation

Song of Response

"Ask With Your Body"

*Ask with your body, seek with your mind.
Knock on the door of your heart.
Ask with your body, seek with your mind.
Knock on the door of your heart.
Keep on asking and you will receive.
Keep on seeking and you will find.
Keep on knocking, the door will be opened.
The Kingdom of God is within your heart.*

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 Abba, Spirit, Jesus, Light, or Love.

Song of Response

"A Discerning Heart"

*So let my life be fertile soil,
Spirit plant and I will toil,
To tend a crop that will not spoil,
Stored in a discerning heart.*

*Wisdom calls, Wisdom leads.
Her ways are pleasant, her paths are peace.
She is the fruit of the tree of life,
Grown in a discerning heart.*

Communion

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

'Only Be Still' – Peter Johns, 'A Discerning Heart' – Peter Johns, 'Ask With Your Body' – 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, rsciretti@chapelwood.org.

Our Annual Aim & Pledge: Sent For This Purpose

What is our true purpose? Why are we here? At The Center for Christian Spirituality, these are some of the fundamental wisdom questions we explore together and help each other answer. The contemplative streams of spirituality have age-old guidance for us as we seek to live these questions. There is much wisdom and specific practices The Center offers to help us not only find our True Purpose but also embody it in the world. "Sent For This Purpose" is our aim and intention this year as a contemplative community. We invite you to help us be stewards of God's work in and through The Center for Christian Spirituality. To make your estimate of giving for 2025, use the QR Code to the right to be taken to a form where you can submit your estimate. Thank you for your contribution and investment.



SoulCollage: Exploring Workshop

Today | The Anchor House | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | \$10 Suggested Donation

Exploring SoulCollage is an easy and accessible way for anyone to learn the process of making a SoulCollage card. It can open up the possibilities if you are curious about learning a new spiritual practice for your journey. At the same time, Exploring SoulCollage is a great way for experienced SoulCollagers to go deeper in their current spiritual practice with SoulCollage. As we begin the new year, we'll make cards honoring "thresholds."



Yoga at The Center: A Posture of Prayer

Monday, January 20 | The Anchor House | 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | \$20 per class

In this course, led by Jonathan Mangrum, we will use the practice of yoga as a lens to explore what it means to embody spirituality. Each class will include time engaging in breath work, meditation, yoga postures, and poses.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, January 21 | The Anchor House 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Centered: Orientation to the Spiritual Journey

Saturday, January 25 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | The Anchor House | \$35

It's easy to feel disoriented on the spiritual journey, especially when you do not have a reliable map. Yet embedded in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures is an ancient map that you can use to help you live more centered and present to God. Once discovered, this map can help you to begin living more coherently and compassionately, in ways that help you to receive and embody God's grace, and form a deepening connection with God that makes a difference in who you are with God, self, others, and the world. Like college students who are going to university for the first time, it can be very helpful to have a brief orientation to the "school of transformation" that is the contemplative journey. Even if you have been on this journey for some time, this biblical map can help you understand the contemplative journey in a powerful new way.

