



Sent For This Purpose

8:45 a.m. + January 19, 2025

*The treasure lies in what you may consider a most unlikely field – yourself.
It takes most of us a long time and we have many obstacles to overcome
before we begin to recognize the field where our treasure is hidden,
that is, before we learn to find and accept ourselves, where God is.
Gerard W. Hughes, God of Surprises*

God all Around

“Love, Like a Waterfall”

*Love, like a waterfall,
Falling on us,
Flooding our hearts with grace and peace.
Healing waters flow,
Flowing on us.
Flooding our hearts with Love.*

*Every moment of every day God is loving us.
Showers of mercy and waves of forgiveness are covering us.*

Sitting with Scripture

Luke 17:20-21

*Jesus said,
“The Kingdom of God comes not with observation.
Nor will they say, ‘Behold, here!’ or ‘Behold, there!’
For the Kingdom of God is within you.”*

Meditation

Treasure All Around

“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.*

Sitting with a Prayer

Nan Merrill, inspired by Psalm 49

*Be not afraid to discover the Treasure within,
to seek the gold hidden in the garden of your heart.*

*For inasmuch as you root out each fear,
will truth and peace and joy become your riches.*

*You will live in the Realm of Love becoming a light,
a beneficial presence in the world.*

*Future generations will be blessed,
the bonds of ignorance broken forever.*

*O Spirit of Truth, You are our strength
and our guiding light.*

*Lead us, O Love, to the eternal Treasure,
the Heart of all hearts.*

Reprise

"I Am Here"

***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 a Parable

Matthew 13:44

*The Realm of the Heavens is like treasure hidden in the field,
which a human found and hid.
And from his joy he goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.*

Accidental Discoveries

Looking for God

"Open the Eyes of my Heart"

***Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you, I want to see you.
(repeat)***

***To see you high and lifted up.
Shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love,
As we sing holy, holy, holy.***

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord...

***To see your presence all around,
Shining in the heart of creation.
Unveil your power and love,
And let my heart see your salvation.***

Contemplating a Parable

Matthew 13:45-46

*Again, the Realm of the Heavens is like a human –
one on a journey seeking beautiful, good pearls.
On finding one pearl of great value,
he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

Seeking out Treasure

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.

Communion

“We Are One”

*I am here, I am with you, we are one.
I am here, I am with you, we are one.*

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

Quartet

Jimena Montserrat – Soprano, Cody Arthur – Alto, Dallas Gray – Tenor, Scott Lee – Bass

Today’s Music

*‘Love, Like a Waterfall’ – Peter Johns, ‘I Am Here’ – Peter Johns, ‘Open the Eyes of my Heart’ – Paul Baloche,
‘Ask With Your Body’ – Michael Sciretti Jr., ‘We Are One’ – Lynn Bauman*

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.

Anchor House Hours
Tuesdays – Fridays | The Anchor House | Noon – 4:00 p.m.

The Anchor House will be open in the afternoons for anyone 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, a small group meeting or for your own time of Centering Prayer outside of these hours, please contact Haley to coordinate an available space for you, hbrown@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.



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.

Join us for the next meeting of the Poetry Circle with Mark Jodon. The Center's poetry circle will share and critique our poems, explore poetic forms and devices, try our hands at writing prompts, and grow together in fellowship and community. This circle is for anyone who loves poetry, no matter your writing experience level. If you're interested in joining the Poetry Circle, contact Mark Jodon at mjodon@littler.com

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.



February Guided Silent Retreat

Saturday, February 1 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

In this February Guided Silent Retreat, we will begin with a time of centering prayer followed by a brief discussion by Dylan Cumberland on the contemplative history of journaling. A collection of journaling prompts will be provided along with a journal and pen. We will hold silence for the majority of the day as we embark on our writing journey.

