



Faith Works

April 6, 2025 + Fifth Sunday of Lent

*To a visitor who described himself as a seeker after Truth the Master said,
"If what you seek is Truth, there is one thing you must have above all else."*

"I know. An overwhelming passion for it."

"No. An unrelenting readiness to admit you may be wrong."

~Anthony de Mello

Singing Our Desire

"This My Soul Loves"

*Wisdom, simplicity, poverty, humility,
Holy love, and surrender.
God within all.
Vices fade away, as these virtues guide my way.
Help me walk in obedience,
God over all.
This is my mission,
Perfect submission.
This I desire,
This my soul loves.
Virtues transcending,
Love never ending.
This I desire,
This my soul loves.*

Looking Backwards

Song of Response

"The Heart You Require"

*A heart of devotion that loves who you are,
Contented to rest in your Presence.
A heart of reflection in love with your Word,
That's seeking your Wisdom and guidance.
A heart full of action that loves as you love,
That selflessly lives out your calling.
Devotion, reflection, and action combined,
This is the heart you require.*

*To act justly, and love mercy,
And walk humbly with you, God.
To act justly, and love mercy,
And walk humbly with you, God.*

Listening to Scripture

James 4:1-4, 6-10

So what, then, are the causes of warfare and human unrest? What is the source of our internal conflicts and discord? Do they not stem from our passions – the competing desires at war within us? We lust for things and cannot obtain them, so we jealously “go to war” to get what we want. We are constantly striving for things that are always out of reach, and fail to possess what we ultimately desire because we have never truly asked. And when we do ask, we never receive anything because our asking arises out of our pursuit of pure pleasure misspent on our own egoic desires. Remember this, to prostitute yourself to the human order is to make yourself an alien to God.

So God must give a greater grace, and thus it is said: God resists the arrogant, but responds graciously toward the humble. Surrender yourselves, therefore, to the Holy One and resist the Diabolical One – the Destroyer – resist and it will flee from you. Draw closer to God and the Beloved One will come ever closer to you. Wash your hands of every offense. Purify yourselves from double-heartedness. Be willing to endure suffering and to weep in sorrow. Even allow laughter to be turned to grief, and joy to despair in order that you may stand in true humility before the Master who will raise you up.

Meditation

Song of Response

“Bring Your Best to Our Worst”

***Bring your best to our worst,
Bring your peace to our pain,
God of love,
Heal your people.***

Reflecting on a Psalm-Prayer

Inspired by ***Psalm 131*** Malcolm Guite

*You sound the depths to draw me out from them.
And though I feel the trauma of what's past,
I simply cling to you and feel no shame*

*In my complete dependence. For at last
I've found the one who fully cares for me,
The one in whom I can completely trust.*

*And yet in that dependence I am free,
Weaned from a false reliance on the world
With its click-baited co-dependency.*

*Instead I lean on you, and I am held
So gently, and I nestle in so near,
That pride and haughtiness just lose their hold,*

*Worldliness falls away from me. I hear
Your heartbeat and I feel the pulse of love,
The perfect love that casts out every fear.*

Song of Response

“Bring Your Best to Our Worst”

***Bring your best to our worst,
Bring your peace to our pain,
God of love,
Heal your people.***

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, Beloved, Mercy, Light, or Love.

Receiving Holy Communion

*Agnus Dei,
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Misere nobis.
Agnus Dei,
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem*

"Agnus Dei"

*Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sins of the world.
Have Mercy upon us.
Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sins of the world.
Grant us peace.*

Singing Our Desire

*Wisdom, simplicity, poverty, humility,
Holy love, and surrender.
God within all.
Vices fade away, as these virtues guide my way.
Help me walk in obedience,
God over all.
This is my mission,
Perfect submission.
This I desire,
This my soul loves.
Virtues transcending,
Love never ending.
This I desire,
This my soul loves.*

"This My Soul Loves"

Receiving a Good Word



Our Staff

Haley Brown – Associate Director of The Anchor House

Courtney Garrison – Ministry Assistant

Christian Ibanez – AV Production

Peter Johns – Associate Director of Contemplative Worship

Zachary Montasser – Violinist

Sebastian Quintanilla – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Today's Music

'This My Soul Loves' – Peter Johns, *'The Heart You Require'* – Peter Johns,
'Bring Your Best to Our Worst' – John L. Bell, *'Agnus Dei'* – Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki

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.

The Anchor House Hours

Tuesdays – Fridays | Noon - 4pm

The Anchor House is 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 retreat outside of these hours, please let Haley know and we will make sure a room is available for you.



Yoga at The Center: A Posture of Prayer

Monday, April 7 | 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.

Faith Works: Contemplative Bible Study in James

Wednesday, March 19 – April 9 | The Anchor House | 11:00 a.m.

Join us in The Anchor House, for a closer look at the New Testament book of James. We will begin with a time of singing and centering before examining the passage, followed by some time spent in small groups reflecting and optional opportunity for community lunch. Registration is required.



Lent on the Labyrinth

Wednesday, March 19 – April 16 | The Labyrinth | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us on the Labyrinth at The Anchor House, Wednesdays before sunset as we journey through Lent. Walking the labyrinth is a way to pray and meditate with your whole being – body, mind, and heart. It's a tangible way to "walk humbly with God", to quiet your mind, and open your heart. You may go at your own pace with materials and prompts available to guide you should you have need. This is a "come and go" offering.

Taize Service

Saturday April 12 | St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Bunker Hill | 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The Center's Contemplative Choir is facilitating a Taizé worship service at St. Cecilia Catholic Church. All are welcome.

Creative Space

Saturday, April 12 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Creative Space is a nurturing, encouraging gathering of people who come together to create art and spend time in personal reflection. You will get an opportunity to explore spirituality through creative expression, as well as to be creative in a setting that is intentionally designed to enhance the spiritual. Materials are provided and everyone is welcome. No reservation is required.

Mystic Pilgrimage #2: Journey to Jerusalem

Saturday, April 12 | Chapelwood Campus | Times & Cost Vary

Come experience prayer and the Labyrinth with Rev. Cindy Serio, spiritual director, certified labyrinth facilitator with Veriditas and trained SoulCollage® facilitator. One of the most beautiful labyrinth metaphors is the "Journey to Jerusalem." As we journey through the day we'll take our mystic pilgrimage into Holy Week with experiential prayer stations to draw us into the story. Please register by Friday, April 11 at 9:00 am to receive your reminder with a handout packet on Friday afternoon.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, April 15 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 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. For more information, contact Mark Jodon at MJodon@littler.com