

As Above, So Below

April 27, 2025 + Second Sunday of Easter



*Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best
as above, so below.
From Matthew 6
(The Message Translation)*

Crossing the Threshold

Listening to the Prophecy

Revelation 1:1-3

The Revelation of Jesus the Anointed One, which the Divine gave to him, to show to his servants the things which must come to be soon. And he sent and signified through his Angel to his servant John – the witness of the Logos of God and of the Witness of Jesus the Anointed One, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads and the ones who listen to the words of the Prophecy and keeps those things which are written in it. For the Time is near.

Preparing for Worship

"Boundless Love"

*We come here to worship, we come here to pray.
Aware of our weakness, in need of your grace.
Some of us hiding, some of us found.
Standing together upon holy ground.*

*Boundless Love and Beautiful Grace,
Filling this place, filling our hearts.
In our delight and in our despair,
Still, you are there,
Flooding our lives with Boundless Love.*

Contemplating a Psalm

contemplative adaptation of Psalm 97 (Nan Merrill)

*The Bestower of Life reigns with mercy.
Let the earth rejoice! Let the heavens be glad!
Justice preserves creation, allowing it to blossom and thrive;
hidden within creation, You are the Heart of everything.
Fire goes before You, burning away the chaff and the tares.
Your Light enlightens the world;
there is none to compare with You, O Great Transformer!
All of creation is clothed with your majesty,
mirroring your Love throughout the cosmos.
The heavens proclaim your righteousness;
and the peoples behold your glory.
Those who walk in darkness dwell in the abode of fear,
Zealously following their desire for power;
they live in the shadows of reality.
Heaven delights and rejoices when a hardened heart breaks open
and recognizes Love's ever-present Presence abiding within.
For You, O Beloved, are most high over all the earth;
You overlook our wrongdoings and welcome us home.
You, O Beloved, are known by those who are true to the Promise,
You are the Light of the saints; You hide yourself in every soul.
Light dawns for the just, and joy for the upright of heart.*

Song of Response

"Shout to the Lord"

*My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days, I want to praise, the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength.
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.*

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing,
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar,
At the sound of your Name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.*

Contemplating the Revelation

Revelation 1:4-8

*John, to the seven churches in Asia: Grace and Shalom to you,
from the One Who Is and the One Who Was and the One Who Comes;
and from the Seven Spirits which are before His Throne;
and from Jesus the Anointed One, the Witness, the Faithful One,
the Firstborn from the dead ones, and the Ruler and the Commander of the earth.
To the One who loves us and liberated us from our sins by his own blood,
and has made us sovereigns and priests before God – even his Father –
to him be Glory and Power unto the Ages of Ages. Amen.
Behold! He comes with the clouds. And every eye shall see him.
And they who pierced him, all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over him. Yes. Amen.
“I – I Am the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending,” says the Lord God –
“the One Who Is, the One Who Was, and the One Who Comes, the Ruler of All.”*

Meditation

Loved

“I Am Loved”

*I am not who I was, I am not who I will be, I am loved.
I am not what I’ve done, I am not what I will do, I am loved.
I am beautifully broken, through my darkness shines your light,
I am loved.*

Resting in the Love

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.

Liberated

“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.*

Receiving Holy Communion

Made

“O Enlightened One”

*O Enlightened One, Life-giving Spirit.
May I bear your Image, and be a child of Light.*

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

'Boundless Love' – Peter Johns, *'Shout to the Lord'* – Darlene Zschech,
'I Am Loved' – Peter Johns, *'Love Like a Waterfall'* – Peter Johns, *'O Enlightened 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, rsciretti@chapelwood.org.

"As Above, So Below": A Contextual & Contemplative Exploration of The Revelation

Sundays, April 27 – June 1 | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

This is a 6-week study on the last book of our Bible: The Revelation of Jesus. This text has been drastically misinterpreted and misused throughout history and has led to disastrous political policies and military force – including today. It is critical we have a better understanding of the actual historical and mystical background and context of this text to have a chance of discerning what this Revelation meant to its first recipient(s). Only then can we more faithfully apply its wisdom and mysteries for the living of our days. This class will take place instead of Worship Response, which will return on June 8.

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 28 | The Anchor House | 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | \$10 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.



Ora et Labora on the Labyrinth

Tuesday, April 29 | The Labyrinth at The Anchor House | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Labyrinth Ministry invites you to their monthly gathering for some "ora et labora". We will gather for a time of blessing, tending, and walking the labyrinth.

Blessing and Celebrating Sally Brown

Wednesday, April 30 | The Anchor House | 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Come join us for after-lunch 'dessert and coffee' in honor of Sally Brown before her move to Chicago next month. Sally has attended the contemplative service for many years. We will gather at the Anchor House for fellowship and an opportunity to offer a blessing for Sally as she moves into her next chapter. Feel free to drop by as your schedule allows. Please contact Virginia Siegfried at 713-885-5395 if you have any questions.

May Guided Silent Retreat & World Labyrinth Day

Saturday, May 3 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

Join us on May 3rd for a day of exploring an ancient archetype for meditation, contemplation, and reflection. Historically Labyrinths have been around for thousands of years and appear across all the continents - carved in caves, illustrated in ancient manuscripts, made with mosaic tiles, and installed in medieval cathedral floors. We will learn how to use labyrinths as a spiritual practice and have time to walk the Labyrinth at The Anchor House. We will end our time with lunch and sharing our reflections from the day. Then we will gather together to celebrate and pray for oneness and peace on World Labyrinth Day with others across the world by walking together at 1:00 p.m.

