



As Above, So Below

May 18, 2025 + Fifth Sunday of Easter

To sum up: fear and hope, constriction and expansion, awe and intimacy, and Majesty and Beauty, are no more than two states the names of which change with changes in persons and stations.... Hence fear and hope are for the beginner, constriction and expansion are for the intermediate, awe and intimacy are for the perfect, and Majesty and Beauty are for the viceregent of God.
Shayk Al-Shabrawi

Crossing the Threshold

Call to Worship

"As Above, So Below"

*As above, so below,
On the earth as in the heavens,
Till your Kingdom comes in love,
As below, so above.
As in Christ, so in me.
Born beloved of the Father,
Called to selfless sacrifice.
So, in me as in Christ.*

*Far beyond the struggles of each moment,
There is hope for those who believe.
Hope that lifts our spirits up to heaven,
Hope that helps our hearts to perceive.*

Praying the Psalm (with sung response)

Psalm 95 with "Come, Worship the Lord"

*O come! Let us sing to the LORD!
Let us make a joyful song to the Rock of our Salvation!
Let us come before the Radiant Presence with thanksgiving
and sing to Him with songs!
For God the LORD is great! A Sovereign above all gods.*

*Come, worship the Lord,
For we are his people,
The flock that he shepherds.
Alleluia.*

Today, listen to His Voice:

*"Do not harden your heart in striving as in the day of testing in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested and tried me and saw my Work.
For forty long years I grieved over this generation and said,
'They are a people that wander in their heart, and they have not known my Ways.
So I affirmed: 'If they are in my Wrath, they shall not enter my Rest.'"*

*Come, worship the Lord,
For we are his people,
The flock that he shepherds.
Alleluia.*

Lifting Our Eyes to Heaven

Revelation 14:12-13, 15:1-2

*Here is the endurance of the saints –
the ones keeping the commandments of God and the Faith of Yeshua....*

*And I heard a Voice from Heaven, saying to me,
“Write! Blessed are the dead who have died in the Lord from now on.
Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their troubles,
and their works follow with them.”*

*And I saw another Sign in Heaven – great and marvelous!
Seven Angels having seven plagues – for in them is completed the Wrath of God.*

And I saw – something like a Glassy Sea, mingled with Fire. And the ones conquering the Beast and his image and the number of his name were standing upon the Glassy Sea....

Joining the Worship in Heaven

“Holy! Holy! Holy!”

*Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and Mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

*Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore Thee.
Casting down their golden crowns around the Glassy Sea.
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

The Vision Continues

Revelation 15:3-4

*And the saints sing the Song of Moses (the servant of God) and the Song of the Lamb, singing,
“Great and Marvelous are Your Works, Lord God Almighty!
Righteous and True are Your Ways, O Sovereign of the Ages!
Who will not revere You, Lord, and glorify Your Name?
For You alone are Holy. All the nations shall come and worship before You,
for Your Righteous acts are revealed.”*

Singing our Confession

“Holy! Holy! Holy!”

*Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful flesh thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and Mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.*

Meditation

Song of Response

"As Above, so Below"

*As above, so below,
On the earth as in the heavens,
Till your Kingdom comes in love,
As below, so above.
As in Christ, so in me.
Born beloved of the Father,
Called to selfless sacrifice.
So, in me as in Christ.*

*Far beyond the struggles of each moment,
There is hope for those who believe.
Hope that lifts our spirits up to heaven,
Hope that helps our hearts to perceive.*

Offering Ourselves

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 the "Temple" of 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, Light, or Love. Or use a breath prayer, such as "Merciful" (*inhale*), "Mighty" (*exhale*) or "Majesty" (*inhale*), "Beauty" (*exhale*).

Stilling Ourselves

"Be at Peace"

*Be at peace my child,
I am closer than you know.
Be at peace my child,
I am here.
Be at peace my child,
For I never will forsake you.
Let fears and longings cease,
Be at peace.*

Receiving Holy Communion

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

Quartet

Jimena Montserrat – Soprano, **Krista Pape** – Alto, **Dallas Gray** – Tenor, **Nathan Holmes** – Bass

Today's Music

'Come, Worship the Lord' – John Michael Talbot, *'As Above, So Below'* – Peter Johns

'Holy! Holy! Holy!' – Reginald Heber, *'Be At Peace'* – Peter Johns

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.

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

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

Community Gathering

Today | Saint Arnold Brewing Company | 11:30 a.m.

Join us for food and fellowship at Saint Arnold Brewing Company. It's a great time to get to know folks from our contemplative community. R.S.V.P. to Haley by email or in person so we can save you a seat!

SoulCollage: Exploring

Sunday, May 18 | The Anchor House | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The word OPEN is such a simple often used four-letter word. And yet, if we explore this familiar word in new ways, it can bring to light explorations and experiences we haven't thought of or noticed before. Our time together will be filled with fun, fellowship and reflection with Ginny Itz leading and Cindy Serio as our facilitator. It's a time to rekindle friendships, meet new explorers and see where our OPENNESS might be leading us. This is a time for people wanting to dip their toe into the world of SoulCollage® to come explore, a time for seasoned SoulCollagers to go deeper and a time to invite a friend to come share the experience. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



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, May 19 | 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.



Holding One Another in the Light

As our commitment to one another deepens, we want to be able to pray for one another – bearing burdens and joining in celebrations. Here is how to participate:

1. *Make a request for prayer or thanksgiving using the QR link or go to thecenterfcs.org*
2. *Opt in to receive the weekly prayer list by emailing Rachel.*
3. *Then spend time holding one another in the Light.*



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, May 20 | 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

Ora et Labora on the Labyrinth

Tuesday, May 27 | The Labyrinth at The Anchor House | 6:30 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. This will be our last gathering before breaking for the summer and would really appreciate your help in getting the labyrinth ready to be unattended for a few months.