



The Center
for Christian Spirituality

As Above, So Below

June 1, 2025 + Seventh Sunday of Easter

*The Lord conveyed me to his Paradise, where is the wealth of the Lord's joyful pleasure.
I saw trees beautiful and fruitful, and self-grown was their wreath.
Their timber flourishes, and their fruits laughed.
Their roots were from Immortal Land, and the River of joy watered them,
even around the Land of their Eternal Life.
I worshipped the Lord because of His Glory.
And I said, "Blessed, O Lord, are they who are planted in Your Land,
those who have a place in Your Paradise and grow in the growth of Your trees:
they have passed from Darkness to Light."
Behold, all Your workers do well, who work good works,
who turn away from wickedness to kindness.
They have turned back the bitterness of trees from them when they were planted in your land....
The place of Your Paradise has plentiful room, and is not fallow but even fruitful.
Glory to You, O God, the eternal delight in Paradise!
Hallelujah!*

Odes of Solomon, number 11

Crossing the Threshold

Call To Worship

Revelation 2:7, 22:14

*Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches:
To the one who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God.
Blessed are the ones who do His commandments,
so that they may have the right to the Tree of Life,
and that they may enter into the gates of the City.*

Living the Vision

"As Above, So Below"

*As above, so below,
On the earth as in the heavens,
Till your Kingdom comes in love,
So below, as 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.*

Contemplating the Vision

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the Angel showed me a Pure River of the Water of Life, shining as crystal, proceeding out of the Throne of God-and-the-Lamb, in the middle of Her broad street. On this side and that of the River – a Tree of Life, bearing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit according to each month. And the leaves of the Tree are for the healing of the nations. There shall be no more curse, but the Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in Her. His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His Face, and His Name is upon their foreheads. And Night shall not be there. And they have no need of a Lamp and Light of the Sun, because the Lord God enlightens them and they shall reign unto the Ages of Ages.

Meditation

Wisdom from the Tree of Life

“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.

Praying a Psalm

Psalm 1, adapted Nan Merrill

Blessed are those

who walk hand in hand with goodness,

who stand beside virtue,

who sit in the seat of truth;

For their delight is in the Spirit of Love,

and in Love's heart they dwell day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

that yield fruit in due season,

and their leaves flourish;

and in all that they do, they give life.

The unloving are not so;

they are like dandelions which the wind blows away.

Turning from the Heart of Love

they will know suffering and pain.

They will be isolated from Wisdom;

for Love knows the Way of Truth, the way of ignorance will perish

as Love's penetrating Light breaks through hearts filled with illusions:

forgiveness is the Way.

Meditation

Song of Response

"Spring Up, O Well"

*I've got a River of Life flowing out of me.
Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see.
Opens prison doors, sets the captives free.
I've got a River of Life flowing out of me.*

*Spring up, O well, within my soul.
Spring up, O well, and make me whole.
Spring up, O well, and give to me,
That life abundantly.*

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 or Light.

Living the Vision

"My Soul Proclaims the Goodness of God"

*My soul proclaims the Goodness of God,
My heart overflows with God's Love for the world.
My life gives voice to the vision of God,
That all things are reconciled.*

Receiving Holy Communion

Living the Vision

"As Above, So Below"

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Till your Kingdom comes in love,
So below, as 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,
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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

Nick Cavazos – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Today's Music

'As Above, So Below' – Peter Johns, *'A Discerning Heart'* – Peter Johns,
'Spring Up, O Well' – Mary A. Lathbury, *'My Soul Proclaims the Goodness of God'* – 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.

Rafa - An Evening of Contemplative Prayer, Lament, and Healing

Sunday, June 1 | The Chapel | 6:00 p.m. | <https://thecenterfcs.org/rafa>

The Blue Zones Way: The Secret "Rules" for Living Better & Longer

Wednesdays in June | The Anchor House | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us as we explore the secrets of the Blue Zones around the table with good friends and good food. Throughout Christianity there have been many individuals and communities that have crafted a "rule of life" or "way of living" that encapsulated basic principles and practices for living a whole, healthy life in light of a higher purpose. In this class The Blue Zones Way, we will attempt to do something similar, inspired by the research of Dan Buettner. Registration is required.



June Guided Silent Retreat: The Secret Life of Bees

Saturday, June 7 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

Welcome to a day of retreat with Lori Anderson where we will explore themes of family, suffering, healing, and belovedness in "The Secret Life of Bees." Together, we will glimpse God's presence as woven through the world and characters Sue Monk Kidd created in her 2002 novel. Elements of the day include large group gathering, a shared meal, silence for individual prayer, and optional sharing at the end of the day.



SoulCollage® Mystic Pilgrimage: Quiet Pentecost

Saturday, June 14 | 9 am - 4 pm | Chapelwood Campus | Price Varies

Quiet Pentecost is the third in the SoulCollage® Mystic Pilgrimage series. Come consider the way the labyrinth invites us into the world with Rev. Cindy Serio, spiritual director, certified labyrinth facilitator with Veriditas, and trained SoulCollage® facilitator. As we journey through the day, we'll listen for the call of God upon our lives and take our mystic pilgrimage into the world. There are full-day and half-day registration options available. Please register by Friday, June 13 at 9 am.



Creative Space

Saturday, June 14 | 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.

The Anchor House Hours

Resumes August 19

The Anchor House Hours are suspended for the summer, from May 26 through August 18. You may still schedule time at the Anchor House during the summer. If you would like to request a room for spiritual direction, counseling, or for your own time of retreat, please contact Haley. Regular Anchor House Hours will resume on August 19.

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.

