



Shaped by the Story

The Building of the Temple and the Virtue of Wisdom

July 13, 2025

*Therefore I prayed, and Understanding was given me; I called on God, and the Spirit of Wisdom came to me...
In every generation She passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets.
For God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with Wisdom.*
Wisdom of Solomon 7:7, 27-28

Crossing the Threshold

Looking for God

"Quiet My Heart"

*Hear in the silence the whispers of memory,
Be still and listen, be still and wait.
Wait for the voice that once echoed through Eden,
That speaks affirmation, that longs to create.
The voice in the garden, the voice in the cloud,
The voice in the temple, still speaks aloud.*

*Quiet my heart, till I can hear, there are distractions ever near.
Quiet my heart, help me discern what are the lessons I must learn.
Quiet my heart.*

Reaching for Wisdom

Proverbs 2:2-6; 4:5-9

*Open your ears to Wisdom, stretch out your heart to Understanding.
If you cry out to Insight, and raise your voice to Understanding,
If you seek for Her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures,
Then you will understand the awesomeness of the LORD, and discover the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives Wisdom. . . .
So get Wisdom; get Insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake Her, and she will keep you; love Her, and She will guard you.
The beginning of Wisdom is this: Get Wisdom, and whatever else you get, get Insight.
Prize Her highly, and She will raise you; She will enrich you if you embrace Her.
She will place a garland of grace on your head, She will bestow on you a beautiful crown.*

Becoming Aware

"Quiet My Heart"

*Help me awaken and rise up from slumber,
Shake off the darkness, shine with your light.
Willing to listen, to learn and to follow,
To love with your passion, to see with your sight.
Help me be watchful for where I'm asleep,
Attentive and mindful, God come and speak!*

Quiet my heart...

Contemplating Scripture

1 Kings 3:5-6, 9-14; 6:11-14

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said ... "Give your servant ... an understanding heart to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning heart; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, "Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes, obey my ordinances, and keep all my commandments by walking in them, then I will establish my promise with you that I made to your father David. I will tabernacle among the Israelites and will not forsake my people Israel." So Solomon built the house and finished it.

Praying with Solomon

"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.*

Meditation

Opening Ourselves to Wisdom

"Spirit of Truth"

*Spirit of Truth, enter my mind.
Soul of Wisdom, enter my heart.*

Dialogue Prayer

Song of Response

"Spirit of Truth"

*Spirit of Truth, enter my mind.
Soul of Wisdom, enter my heart.*

Centering in God

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, Light, or Love.

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.*

Receiving Holy Communion

*Beloved One, You are here. We rejoice in Your Presence.
We open our hearts to You. Our spirits rise to meet You.
God of our mothers and fathers, God of our prophets and seers, God of our saints and sages,
we come as seekers and as pilgrims.
We thank You for your unfailing care and offer our praise and gratitude to You,
For when we ask, You give; when we seek, You show the way; when we knock, You answer us.
O Beloved One, through Wisdom You birth all that is: time and space, galaxies and stars, our sun and its
planets, our earth and its moon. In a moment beyond recall, out of Abundance beyond measure, You
nurtured this earth that it might give birth to life and consciousness, and bring forth beings of great variety
and wonder – each knowing You in its own way.
Some of what we birth is life-giving, fulfilling Your desire to know and be known.
Some of what we birth is destructive, denying You and destroying Your world.
We are in ever need of Your Wisdom.
We come together as family now to make this offering of praise and thanksgiving to You,
to seek Your Face, to ask for guidance so that we might transform it all by love.
O Holy One who manifests the many, O Majesty beyond all space and time,
O Wisdom and Beloved of all worlds, O Center and Circumference of All Being,
but veiled, unseen, and hidden from our sight, yet near to every creature from within.
Here at this Table You give us broken bread to eat,
this wine poured out that we may drink,
to revive us and restore the world we serve.
Here at this threshold the veil is lifted, and where many awaken and rise.
Here at this threshold Your Kingdom comes to us,
and where Your will is done on earth as in heaven.
Source and Substance of all being and becoming, What was, What is, and What will be.
Reveal Yourself to us, among us, between us, and within us,
Here at the crossing of this threshold and every threshold of our lives.*

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

Assisting in Worship Today

Rev. Noel Denison

Today's Music

'Quiet My Heart' – Peter Johns, *'A Discerning Heart'* – Peter Johns,
'Spirit of Truth' – Michael Sciretti Jr., *'Ask With Your Body'* – 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.

Centering Prayer

Immediately following worship | The Chapel

SoulCollage: Open House

Today, July 13 | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Come by The Anchor House during this open house opportunity to explore SoulCollage, interact with the canvas labyrinth (indoors) and enjoy one of Cindy's delicious labyrinth cookies. This will be a perfect opportunity for those wanting to get a "taste" of the SoulCollage offerings at The Center.

"How We Learn To Be Brave"

July 13 - August 6 | 9:45 – 11:00 a.m. | Williams 101-102

Join master-teacher and contemplative Elaine Scott, Rev. Andrew Wolfe, and Rev. Rachel Sciretti for a thoughtful look at Bishop Mariann Budde's timely book on the virtue of courage (bravery). While The Center is on break from Worship Response in July, this is a great option. Please register in advance and know that you can participate via Zoom as well.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, July 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

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.*



The School for Contemplative Living

Fall Courses 2025

The Fall Courses and their registrations are all now open. Visit the table in the foyer to grab a copy of our Course Catalog or visit the landing page on our website.

