



At The Center

August 17, 2025

God is an infinite circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.
Nicholas of Cusa (1401 – 1464)

Crossing the Threshold

*Welcome to this sacred space.
We gather not to perform, but to be.
We gather not to consume, but to become.
This is a space for the inward journey to the Center –
where God dwells in stillness.
And the outward journey –
where we live and embody what we have received.
Let us move with breath, with grace, and with one another.*

Stilling Ourselves

“Breathe”

*This is the air I breathe,
This is the air I breathe.
Your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread,
This is my daily bread.
Your very word, spoken to me.

And I, I’m desperate for you.
And I, I’m lost without you.*

Listening to Thomas Merton

from *“Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander”*

At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us. It is so to speak His name written in us, as our poverty, as our indigence, as our dependence, as our sonship. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely.... I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is everywhere.

The Truth Inside

“The Center”

*Hidden deep within,
undefiled by sin,
is a refuge for the soul.
Filled with sacred light,
shining pure and bright,
where the heart can be made whole.*

*Universal grace,
floods this holy place,
and can heal the deepest scar.
As the false self dies,
underneath the lies,
is the truth of who we are.*

*At the Center, at the Center, at the Center of my life is you.
At the Center, at the Center, at the Center of my life is you.*

Contemplating a Psalm-Prayer from 'Fingerprints on Every Moment', Jerry Webber

*In some life-moments we experience a holy place,
a geographical center that pulls everything around it upward, inward,
drawing persons into that sacred orbit.
Mount Zion is that kind of physical space.
My inner space, though, has that same kind of spiritual center,
a summit to which all the scattered pieces of my life are invited to gather.*

*You care about every place
and You meet us in every space;
But to this inner core You draw us deeper and deeper,
for from this place we draw our life from You.*

*In the towns and villages of our lives,
the places that survive on the frontier, on the periphery,
we spend ourselves;
we shell out the coinage we've gathered at the center.*

*From the inner reservoir we draw life and soul;
And in those outlying areas of work and worship, friendship and marriage,
integrity and character, leisure and creativity,
we pour out what we've carried down the Mount....*

*You, God, awaken us to this center.
You, God, make us alive to the core.
You, God, dance outward from this middle point.
You, God, invite us continually to the holy place.
At this inner center, God, we are each most at home.
Opening myself to You at the center...*

Questions for Reflection

The Truth Inside

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Praying with St Aidan of Lindesfarne

*Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,
Make me an island, set apart, alone with you, God, holy to you.
Then, with the turning of the tide,
prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me,
till the waters come again and fold me back to you.*

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, the center of your being, 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.

Surrounded by Love

"Make Me an Island"

*Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
Make me a holy island, held by the sea.
As the tide swirls around me, set me apart,
Leave me alone with God, let love fill my heart.*

*Make me an island, make me an island,
Held in the ocean of your love.
Cradled and grounded, ever surrounded,
Make me an island, held in your love.*

*Help me to face the world that rushes at me.
Face it and offer peace to all that I see.
Bearing your presence till the tide turns once more.
Folding me back to you as I was before.*

Contemplating Scripture

Luke 17:20-21, Matthew 10:7-8

*The Kingdom of God does not come with observation. Nor will they say, "Look here!" or "Look there!"
For the Kingdom of God is within you.*

*As you go, proclaim, "The Kingdom of Heaven has come near." Heal the sick; raise the dead;
cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*

Meditation

Bearing the Kingdom to the World

"The Kingdom of God"

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace,
And joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us,
The gates of your Kingdom.*

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

Nick Cavazos – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Quartet

Krista Pape – Soprano, **Cody Arthur** – Tenor, **Dallas Gray** – Tenor, **Nathan Holmes** – Baritone

Today's Music

'Breathe' – Marie Barnett, **'The Center'** – Peter Johns, **'Make Me an Island'** – Peter Johns,
'The Kingdom of God' – Jaques Berthier.

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.

Poetry Circle

Tuesday, August 19 | 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

Surprise of Living: Praying with the Saints and Mystics

Begins Saturday, August 23 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | \$40

In this class led by Dylan Cumberland, we will use the lives of saints and mystics from the past to explore the prayer practices they are most associated with. Join us for this four week class as we discuss Visio Divina, Lectio Divina, Imaginative Prayer, and Ora et Labora (work as prayer). Each class will have optional free time to explore the practices at The Anchor House till Noon.



September Guided Silent Retreat

Saturday, September 6 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

Mary the Magdalene...healed, faithful, enlightened, courageous, present, commissioned. As the first witness to the resurrection, she was the Apostle to the Apostles whose ministry reaches through time and space to us today. Join us for a day of prayer inspired by the wisdom of Mary Magdalene, led by Rachel Sciretti. Through silence, sacred texts, poetry, art, and sensorial experiences, participants are invited to find themselves in her story and encounter the Living Christ.



Laity UNLEASHED: Explore Your God-Given Gifts & How to Use Them

Course begins Sunday, September 7 | 6:00-7:30 p.m. | The Anchor House | \$80

God created all of us on purpose, for a purpose. In this course, we will use the Birkman Method as a tool to discover more about ourselves, our strengths, our interests, how we see God in the world, and where all of that might intersect with the needs of the world around us. The \$80 registration fee includes the costs associated with the Birkman Assessment. In your registration confirmation email, you will receive a link to take the assessment, which must be completed by Sunday, August 24.

