



Hope in Focus

October 12, 2025

In art Francis praises the Artist; whatever he discovers in creatures he guides to the Creator. He rejoices in all the works of the Lord's hands, and through their delightful display he gazes on their life-giving reason and cause. In beautiful things he discerns Beauty Itself; all good things cry out to him: "The One who made us is the Best." Following the footprints imprinted on creatures, he follows his Beloved everywhere; out of them all he makes for himself a ladder by which he might reach the Throne. He embraces all things with an intensity of unheard devotion, speaking to them about the Lord and exhorting them to praise Him.

Thomas Celano (13th c.)

Early biographer of St. Francis of Assisi

Crossing the Threshold **'Illuminated Life: Monastic Wisdom for Seekers of Light' Joan Chittister**

See everything in life as sacred. This neighborhood calls something out in us. This tree stirs in us. This work touches hope in us. Everything in life, in fact, is speaking to us of something. It is only when we learn to ask what the world around us is saying to us at this very moment, in this particular situation, that we tend to the seedbed of the soul.

God's Ever-Presence

"Heaven Touches Earth"

*Heaven touches earth every single moment:
In the setting sun, the whispers on the wind.
The gentle fall of rain, the fragrance when it's over.
We will taste and we will see and know that God is good.*

*May we sense your presence, O God. May we sense your presence, O God.
Make our senses gateways to all that you are. May we sense your presence, O God.*

The Morning Psalm

Psalm 85:10-13 (Psalms for Praying)

*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
Righteousness and peace will embrace one another.
Wisdom will spring up from the ground
And truth will look down from the sky.
Yes, the Eternal Giver will grant what is good,
And the lands will yield abundantly.
Mercy and compassion are Love's way,
And will guide our footsteps upon the path of peace.*

Opening to the Divine

"Heaven Touches Earth"

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In the setting sun, the whispers on the wind.
The gentle fall of rain, the fragrance when it's over.
We will taste and we will see and know that God is good.*

*May we sense your presence, O God. May we sense your presence, O God.
Make our senses gateways to all that you are. May we sense your presence, O God.*

Praying with St. Francis

Canticle of the Creatures

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing.*

***Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.***

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.*

***Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.***

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

***Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.***

*Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.*

***Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.***

The Blessing of Creation

“The Peace of the Earth Be With You”

***The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you.
Deep peace growing in you.***

Contemplating Scripture

Genesis 2:4b–9, 15

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up – for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground – then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to serve it and keep it.

Meditation

Song of Response

"Grounded in You"

*Every mountain points the way to you.
Every clump of earth recalls how we were made.
Every rock sings out songs of faithfulness,
And reminds us all that is true:
We are grounded in you.*

Centering in the Silence

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.

Blessing Each Other

"The Peace of the Earth Be With You"

*The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you.
Deep peace growing in you.*

Receiving Holy Communion

Seeing and Cultivating Beauty

"With Beauty I Walk"

*With beauty behind me I walk.
With beauty before me I walk.
Today as I travel I journey in goodness,
Seeking out beauty I walk.
With beauty below me I walk.
With beauty above me I walk.
Today as I wander the way of contentment,
With calm assurance I walk,
That all may be beauty I walk.*

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

'Heaven Touches Earth' – Peter Johns, *'The Peace of the Earth Be With You'* – Traditional,

'Grounded in You' – Peter Johns, *'With Beauty I Walk'* – 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.

Community Gathering

Today, October 12 | Dish Society (Memorial) | 11:30 a.m.

Join us for food and fellowship at Dish Society (12525 Memorial Dr). 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!

Yoga at The Center: A Posture of Prayer

Monday, October 13 | The Anchor House | 6:00 – 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.



SoulCollage® Workshop: Honoring Our Wisdom Keepers

Sunday, October 19 | The Anchor House | 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. | \$20

As we near the time of All Saints Day in the church, we will gather to create cards for our Wisdom Keepers, persons who have influenced and changed our lives with their presence. We honor those who are living and remember those who have journeyed into eternal life. Wisdom Keepers can be people we know and love OR can be Saints from history that have influenced our spiritual journey. Join us for this special time of SoulCollage. For more details and to register use the QR Code here.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, October 28 | The Anchor House | 6:30 – 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

November Guided Silent Retreat: The Feast of All Souls and All Saints

Saturday, November 1 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

For November's guided silent retreat, we will personally explore the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. We ask that you consider bringing an icon or picture of a person who has been a "saint" for you – whether they are officially recognized by the Church as a saint and have an icon written of them, or if they are one of your personal "saints" that have radiated the light of Christ to you. For more details and to register scan the QR code here.



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.

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 at rscoretti@chapelwood.org.



Giving to The Center

We invite you to financially give to The Center in response to what you have received today or throughout our contemplative offerings. Using the QR code will take you to a page where you can make a one-time offering or recurring gift. Thank you for your contribution and investment.

