



Becoming Whole:

A Threefold Path into the Way of Christ

Obedience: Listening Attentively with Events

8:45 a.m. + November 23, 2025 + Christ the King Sunday

The word obedience derives from the Latin ob and audire, meaning in English, "to listen to." Obedience in the widest sense entails the graced openness of people to the providential meaning of events in their life.... Disobedience is the proud stance of people who isolate themselves from the flow of divine disclosures in everydayness.... The openness asked of us by Jesus is not merely a question of gathering information; it invites us also to develop a disposition of surrender to anything that manifests itself as a possible disclosure of the divine direction of our life.

Fr. Adrian van Kaam and Susan Muto

Crossing The Threshold

Singing our Expectation

"Dwell"

*Dwell in the midst of us, come and dwell in this place.
Dwell in the midst of us, come and have your way.
Dwell in the midst of us, wipe all the tears from our faces.
Dwell in the midst of us, You can have your way.*

*Not our will but Yours be done, come and change us.
Not our will but Yours be done, come sustain us.
Not our will but Yours be done, come and change us.
Not our will but Yours be done, come sustain us.*

Contemplating a Psalm

Adapted from Psalm 25, Nan Merrill

*To You, O Love, I lift up my soul!
O Heart within my heart,
in You I place my trust.
Let me not feel unworthy;
let not fear rule over me.
Yes! May all who open their hearts
savor You and bless the earth!*

*Compel me to know your ways, O Love;
instruct me upon your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for through You will I know wholeness;
I shall reflect your Light
both day and night.
I know of your mercy, Blessed One,
and of your unconditional Love.*

*You have been with me
from the beginning.
Forgive the many times I have walked away from You
choosing to follow my own will.
I seek your guidance, once again,
I yearn to know your Peace.
Companion me as I open to your Will!*

*You are gracious and just, O Spirit of Truth,
happy to guide those who miss their way;
You enjoy teaching all who are open,
All who choose to live in truth.
Your paths are loving and sure, O Holy One,
And those who give witness to You through their lives
are blessed beyond measure.*

Praying with Thomas Merton

"I Desire to Please You"

*I desire to please You, I desire to go where You lead.
I can't know for certain, but this is my desire.*

*I don't know where I'm going,
Where this pathway will lead.
And I've no way of knowing where it ends.
In my doubt and confusion,
When I'm tempted to fear.
I will not be discouraged,
I know you are there.*

Contemplating Scripture

Matthew 6:10; 7:21, 24-27

Jesus prays, "Your Reign come. Your Will be done, as in the heavens so on earth."

Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Realm of the heavens, but the one doing the Will of my Father, the One in the heavens.... Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – and great was its fall!"

Meditation

Song of Response

"Listen, Listen"

*Listen, listen, wait in silence listening
For the One from whom all Mercy flows.*

Examining & Envisioning

Song of Response

"Listen, Listen"

*Listen, listen, wait in silence listening
For the One from whom all Mercy flows.*

Resting in the Silence

During these 5 minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. Descend into this Silence. There is nothing you need to do. Just relax. Sense your body. Breathe more deeply than usual. It can help to focus on the region of the heart. You might use a breath prayer to help you descend into this silence at the level of the heart, such as "Not my will" (inhale), "but Yours" (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Holy Communion

Praying with Thomas Merton

*I desire to please You, I desire to go where You lead.
I can't know for certain, but this is my desire.*

*I don't know where I'm going,
Where this pathway will lead.
And I've no way of knowing where it ends.
In my doubt and confusion,
When I'm tempted to fear.
I will not be discouraged,
I know you are there*

"I Desire to Please You"

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

'Dwell' – Casey Corum, *'I Desire to Please You'* – Peter Johns,
'Listen, Listen' – Rajesh David

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

Today | The Chapel | Immediately following worship

Worship Response

Today | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

Yoga at The Center: A Posture of Prayer

Monday, November 24 | 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.



December 2025 Guided Silent Retreat: Walking in the Way of St. Nicholas of Myra

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

*Step away from the busyness of life and enter a day of stillness with St. Nicholas of Myra as your companion. Known for his hidden generosity, courageous mercy, and wonder-filled faith, Nicholas (d. December 6, 343 AD) points us to the Christ who gives all. Through guided reflections, Scripture, and contemplative practices, we will walk in the way of generosity, mercy, and wonder, allowing his life to awaken these same gifts within us. This retreat takes place on his "Feast Day," the day on which Christians around the world remember his life and death. There will be plenty of time for reading and reflection, prayerful walking of our backyard labyrinth, and space for prayerful art. Participants will receive a booklet with readings and prayers inspired by Nicholas, for use as lectio divina as well as reflective questions. **The cost of the retreat is \$35 and includes the price of lunch. We don't want anyone to miss out because of pricing. Contact Haley for information on scholarships at hbrown@chapelwood.org.***



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.



Save the Date

December 14 – Community Gathering in The Anchor House

December 21 – Winter Solstice & Service of the Longest Night

Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel (Note this is a change from past years)

January 9-10, 25th Anniversary Weekend with Jerry Webber

February 20-21 – Enneagram Workshop with Sandra Smith