



Fruit of a Living Faith

8:45 a.m. + January 4th + The Second Sunday of Christmas

*A Methodist is one, who has "the Love of GOD shed abroad in his Heart, by the Holy Ghost given unto him:
One who loves the Lord his GOD with all his Heart, and with all his Soul, and with all his Mind, and with all his Strength.
GOD is the Joy of his Heart, and the Desire of his Soul; which is constantly crying out,
"Whom have I in Heaven but Thee, and there is none upon Earth that I desire beside Thee!
My GOD and my All! Thou art the Strength of my Heart, and my Portion for ever!"
John Wesley (18th century)*

Crossing the Threshold

Love Beyond Reason

"Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" (Charles Wesley)

*Love divine, all love's excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.*

Contemplating Scripture

Romans 5:5, Mark 12:30, 1 John 4:19

*Hope does not disappoint us, for the Love of God has been shed abroad – poured out – in our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.*

We love because God first loved us.

Song of Response

"Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" (Charles Wesley)

*Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.*

Meditation

Opening to God's Love with a Breath Prayer

Inhale: *My God* Exhale: *and my All.*

Seeking Loving Transformation

"Most High and Glorious God"

*Most high and glorious God,
Lighten the darkness of heart and mind.
Let Wisdom lead me to you,
That I may live for love of your love.
Most high and glorious God,
Grant me true faith, certain hope, and pure love.
That I may follow you,
And carry out your holy command.
My God and my All.
My God and my All.
My God and my All.*

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 the heart-focused breath prayer "My God" (inhale) "and my All" (exhale).

Song of Response

"Most High and Glorious God"

*My God and my All.
My God and my All.
My God and my All.*

Receiving Holy Communion

Resting in Love

"The Power of Your Love"

*Lord, I come to You,
Let my heart be changed, renewed.
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You.
And Lord, I've come to know,
The weaknesses I see in me,
Will be stripped away,
By the power of Your love.*

*Hold me close,
Let Your love surround me.
Bring me near,
Draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle.
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on,
In the power of Your love.*

*Lord, unveil my eyes,
Let me see You, face to face,
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
And Lord, renew my mind,
As Your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day,
By the power of Your love.*

*This is the method by which I arrived at the habitual sense of God's Presence –
I sought after nothing else than how to become wholly God's.
This made me resolve to give the all for the All....*

*The most excellent method I have found of going to God
was that of doing our common business without any view of pleasing others,
and (as far as we are capable) purely for the love of God....*

*Do not be weary of doing little things for the love of God,
who regards not the greatness of the work,
but the love with which it is performed....*

*We can do little things for God. I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of Him,
and that done, if there is nothing else to call me,
I prostrate myself in worship before Him, who has given me grace to work;
afterwards I rise happier than a king.*

It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God....

*The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer,
and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen,
while several persons are at the same time calling for different things,
I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament.*

Praying with St. Ignatius of Loyola

"Suscipe" (Receive)

*Suscipe, suscipe. Suscipe, suscipe.
All I am, all I have. You've given all into my care:
Every single thought, every choice I make,
The freedoms I possess, come fill them all with love.
Please receive all I am, as I receive all that You are.
I return to You all that I hold dear,
To use as You desire, for I believe in this:

Your grace, Your love, is all that I need.
Your love, Your grace, is enough for me.*

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

"Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" – Charles Wesley, **"Most High and Glorious God"** – Peter Johns,
"The Power of Your Love" – Geoff Bullock, **"Suscipe"** – 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.

If you have a prayer request or seeking support, please contact Rachel Sciretti, rscoretti@chapelwood.org.

Where Sound Meets Silence

Thursday, January 8 | The Anchor House | 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. | No Cost

Join Peter and Zach guide a gentle rhythm of silence, Scripture, and improvised music for violin and piano. Within this quiet, gentle space, we reflect on the passage appointed for Sunday's worship, trusting the Spirit to speak anew through word and sound alike. We gather for about thirty minutes of prayer, stillness, and reflection. Those unable to attend in person are warmly invited to join online as the reflection is streamed live. There is no cost to attend but registration is recommended.



January 9-11, "Anchored in The Center" 25th Anniversary Weekend

- Friday, Jan 9th 6:30 – 8:00pm
Conversation and Q&A with Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. & Jerry Webber (via zoom)
- Saturday, Jan 10th 9:00am – 2:00pm
Guided Silent Retreat with Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. \$35
- Sunday, Jan 11th 8:45 am Worship and 10:00am Worship Response
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Contemplative Worship Service



Yoga at The Center: A Posture of Prayer

Monday, January 12 | 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.



Living Epiphany: Aligning Our Lives with Christ

Wednesday, January 14 | The Anchor House | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | No Cost

In this course offered by, we will reflect on what the Gospels say Jesus understood to be why he came into the world, how he lived his life in consonance with that vision, and what were the tangible ways he sought to embody his mission in the world. Each class session includes a time of centering, lecture, discussion, and breakout small groups to help you engage with the material with fellow "pilgrims on the Way." Participants will also receive a daily devotional book written by Michael. This class is appropriate for anyone on the spiritual journey – if you are brand new or been on the path for a while – and serves as a good introduction to the spirituality of Jesus and how to integrate it into your life. There is no cost associated with this course, but registration is required.



February 20-21 – Enneagram Workshops with Sandra Smith

- Friday, February 20 | The Anchor House | 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. | \$25
Attending to Our Inner Lives through Questions that Grow Us and Questions that Challenge Us: Working with the Layers of the Enneagram - An Advanced Workshop with Sandra Smith. Join us as we continue to celebrate the 25th Anniversary by exploring 25 questions that will be offered to participants to work with during the workshop and beyond to deepen their self-understanding.
- Saturday, February 21 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | \$25
Discovering the Inside Story of Us: The Enneagram Map as Guide - An Introductory Workshop with Sandra Smith. Join us for in this workshop where we will offer presentations, dyad exercises, self-reflection, group discussions and panel interviews to facilitate our learning process. You need not know your type to participate. This will be a fun and fascinating time of exploration! While this workshop is an introduction to the Enneagram, it has much to offer to both beginning and knowledgeable participants.



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.

