



Called to Freedom – A Service of Song and Prayer In the Manner of Taizé

Taizé, a small village in France, is home to the Church of the Reconciliation. This ecumenical community was founded by Brother Roger during World War II as a sign of the presence of Christ in the midst of war. Brother Roger assisted the poor in France, as well as those who sought refuge from the Nazis. Brother Roger was forced to flee Taizé, but returned after the war with other devoted followers of Christ. These men pledged their brotherhood to one another in the pursuit of Christ-likeness. During the 1960's young adults from around the world began to show up and assist in their work. Today, thousands of young adults journey to Taizé weekly to join the brothers in work, worship, and prayer. Every day the community is called to corporate prayer three times, each comprised of simple meditative songs, the reading of scripture, prayer, and an extended period of silence. The meditative, chant-like singing of simple texts grew to be a staple of the community. It is a way in which thousands of worshippers from various cultures and traditions offer common prayer. The songs themselves become prayer, as their meaningful texts and beautiful harmonies work their ways into the souls of those praying.

The music we sing today is from the Taizé community. Each song will be repeated numerous times. In the style of Taizé worship, we will share a period of extended silence. Be still and attentive to how the Spirit of God may lead you. As you sing allow the words to penetrate your mind, heart, and soul. The repeated singing of the simple meditative songs allows us to move beyond our rational, controlling minds into the deeper parts of our being which are hungry for communion with God. As we begin worship, open yourself to the movement of God's Spirit.

ENTER IN SILENCE AND MEDITATION
BE RECONCILED ALL YOU WHO ENTER HERE ~

Parents and children; husbands and wives;
Believers and those who cannot believe;
Christians and their fellow Christians.

(Taken from the entrance to the Church of the Reconciliation in Taizé, France)

Our Staff

Haley Brown – Associate Director of The Anchor House

Courtney Garrison – Ministry Assistant

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

Peter Johns – Associate Director of Contemplative Worship

Zachary Montasser – Violinist

Christian Ibanez – AV Production

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

Musicians

The Contemplative Choir, Diana Montgomery – Flutist, **Anastasia Sciretti** – Cellist.

Please register your presence in the notebooks in the foyer.

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

Community Gathering

Today, March 8 | Dish Society (Memorial Location) | 10:30 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. Please let a staff member know if you plan to join us so we can save you a seat!

March Guided Silent Retreat - "Think About These Things: The Spiritual Discipline of Study"

Saturday, March 14 | The Anchor House | 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

St. Benedict urged his brother monks to devote time each day to the study of Scripture. John Wesley declared "It cannot be that people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading." Study, as defined by Richards Foster in his Celebration of Discipline, is a specific kind of experience in which, through careful attention to reality, the mind is enabled to move towards wholeness. This form of study is more than just mere learning, it is a discipline that can be used to draw us closer to the Divine Source of all Knowledge. In this Guided Silent Retreat led by Dylan Cumberland, we will apply ourselves to learning what constitutes the Spiritual Discipline of study and how to practice it with joy. Handouts will be provided and participants will be invited to find God in the places where we place our attention and focus when studying both books and "nonverbal books". 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.



Yoga at The Center: A Posture of Prayer

Monday, March 16th | 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.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, March 17 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

For poetry lovers and writers, for the curious and experienced, join Mark Jodon as he leads this time of sharing, of offering feedback, of exploring poetic forms and devices, and trying our hands at writing prompts, all while growing in fellowship and community. For more information, contact Mark at Mjodon@littler.com

Spring Equinox Experience

Thursday, March 20 | The Labyrinth | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to welcoming you and anyone you might want to bring with you for this event to celebrate the spring equinox. You have a lot of options for this experience. Participants are free to drop-in, come and go, spend the evening in prayer, in creativity or both. There will be time for walking the labyrinth as well as an opportunity for SoulCollage®. Come take a "pause" in your journey with us. There is no fee associated with this event, but registration is preferred so we can have enough supplies prepared



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.

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.

