



Palm Sunday

8:45 a.m. + March 29th

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God has faithfully taught us here, what we must do that our hearts may be clean and pure houses of prayer; for the human is really and truly a Holy Temple of God. But all traders must first be driven out of this Temple of God; that is all the fancies and imaginations which are not really of God; and also all delight in the creature and in our own will; therefore this temple must first be cleansed with tears of repentance and the Love of God, that it may be made clean and pure.... Therefore, this Temple of God is a pure clean heart; and it is truly a Temple of God, where the Eternal God ever dwelleth in truth, when all that is unlike Him has been driven out and cast forth.

John Tauler (d. 1361)

Crossing the Threshold

Awakening to God Within

"Quiet My Heart"

*Hear in the silence the whispers of memory,
Be still and listen, be still and wait.
Wait for the Voice that once echoed through Eden,
That speaks affirmation, that longs to create.
The Voice in the garden, the Voice in the cloud,
The Voice in the temple, still speaks aloud.*

*Quiet my heart, till I can hear, there are distractions ever near.
Quiet my heart, help me discern what are the lessons I must learn.
Quiet my heart.*

*Help me awaken and rise up from slumber,
Shake off the darkness, shine with Your light.
Willing to listen, to learn and to follow,
To love with Your passion, to see with Your sight.
Help me be watchful for where I'm asleep,
Attentive and mindful, God come and speak!*

Contemplating the Story

Matthew 21:8-11

A very great crowd spread their garments in the way. Others cut down branches from the trees and spread them in the way. And the crowds that went before and those who followed, cried out, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he came into Jerusalem, all the city was shaken, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowd said, "This is Yeshua the Prophet, the one from Nazareth of Galilee."

Silence for Reflection

- What in me greets Christ with "Hosanna!" and what in me resists his presence?

Crying Out

'Erev Shel Shoshanim'

*Hosanna, Hosanna.
Hosanna, Hosanna.*

The Story Continues

Matthew 21:12-13

Then Yeshua came into the Temple of God and cast out all the ones that sold and bought in the Temple, and he over-turned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of the ones selling the doves. Then he said to them, "It is written, 'My House shall be called a House of Prayer.' But you have made It a den of thieves!"

Silence for Reflection

- What "money changers" occupy the inner temple of my life? In what ways have I made my spiritual life transactional? What could it mean for my inner life to be a "house of prayer"?

Offering Ourselves

"Transform Me"

*Help me to see you in what I despise,
Speak through my fears and transform me.
Though I am fearful of what I may learn,
Speak through my fears and transform me.*

*I know I love imperfectly,
Help me love more, help me love more.
I know I judge so frequently,
Help me love more, help me love more.*

*Help me surrender the judgments within,
Speak through my fears and transform me.
Show me my prejudice till I am free,
Speak through my fears and transform me.*

The Story Continues

Matthew 21:14

Then the blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them.

Silence for Reflection

- The temple, the very place that needed cleansing, has now become a place of healing. In your life, what once broken places now transformed by God, have become places of healing?

Experiencing Restoration

"Be at Peace"

*Be at peace my child, I am closer than you know.
Be at peace my child, I am here.
Be at peace my child, for I never will forsake you.
Let fears and longings cease,
Be at peace.*

The Story Continues

Matthew 21:15-17

The chief priests and the scribes were furious – seeing the wonderful things that he did as well as the children crying in the Temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" So, they said to him, "Do you hear what they are saying?!" And Yeshua said to them, "Yes. Have you never understood, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have restored praise?" Then he left them and went out of the city into Bethany and lodged there.

Silence for Reflection

- What religious-sounding voices within me seek to silence the small, tender, trusting voice in my soul? Do I become "furious" when grace moves outside my expectations or control? What "wonderful things" of God am I able to welcome, and which do I secretly resist?

The Temple Within

"Within"

*Within. Within. Within my soul a treasure lies,
The God of heaven and earth resides within. Within.
This temple built of flesh and bone, contains inside God's holy throne!
Within. Within. Within.*

*In faith. In fear. No matter what may come along,
Within my heart you sing a song of hope, of love.
A reassuring melody, that stirs from deep inside of me.
Within. Within. Within.*

Offering a Prayer of Transformation

*O Beloved,
Welcome to the city of my soul.
You come humbly, yet truly, as sovereign.
Make your home in the temple of my heart.
Overturn what is false, anxious, bargaining, and divided.
Drive out all that turns love into transaction.
Make of me again a house of prayer.
Let the blind places in me come to your light.
Let the lame places in me come to your healing.
Let the child-heart in me cry out in praise.
And let all that resists you bow before your peace.
Hosanna. Blessed are you who come in the Name of the Lord.*

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 the area of your heart and imagine your breath flowing in and out from your heart area. Christ is within you. If it helps you to center, use the heart-focused breath prayer "Make your home" (inhale) "in the temple of my heart" (exhale) or "Overturn in me" (inhale) "all that is false" (exhale).

Affirming our Hosannas

*Hosanna, Hosanna.
Hosanna, Hosanna.*

'Erev Shel Shoshanim'

Holy Communion

Communion Song

'There is a Green Hill'

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

Ruby Alberto – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Today's Music

"Quiet My Heart" – Peter Johns, *"Erev Shel Shoshanim"* – Yosaf Hadar, *"Transform Me"* – Peter Johns,
"Be At Peace" – Peter Johns, *"Within"* – Peter Johns, *"There is a Green Hill"* – Cecil Frances Alexander & Peter Johns

gastrochurch at Craft Pita

Sunday, March 29 | Craft Pita Briargrove Location | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | \$45

Join us at Craft Pita in the heart of Briargrove/Tanglewood area for a chance to meet neighbors, enjoy some meaningful conversation about things that matter and raise money for a good cause at the same time. Price includes 3 courses and non-alcoholic drink, as well as \$5 donation to the Lebanese Red Cross. Register using the QR Code.



Holy Wednesday

Wednesday, April 1 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m.

Enter into the Holy Wednesday narrative of Mary Magdalene anointing Jesus. After a brief time of welcome, we will enter into a Contemplative Remembrance of this act that Jesus said, “truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.” (Mark 14:9) There will be chant, readings, silence, and a time for anointing.

Maundy Thursday Sacred Supper

Thursday, April 2 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a special Sacred Supper in The Anchor House. This will be a different kind of potluck dinner where we remember the Last Supper where Jesus broke bread and gave thanks with his beloved ones. After supper we will have a brief liturgy and celebrate communion. Please R.S.V.P. to Haley by email to let us know you’re coming and what you plan to bring.

Good Friday

Friday, April 3 | The Chapel | Noon

Luke 23:44 tells us that when Jesus was crucified, darkness fell across the land. Join us in The Chapel at Noon on Good Friday for a simple service of readings and instrumental violin and piano music, for an opportunity to sit in darkness and stillness and encounter God there.

Creative Space

Saturday, April 4 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Creative Space is a nurturing, encouraging gathering of people who come together to create art and spend time in personal reflection. You will get an opportunity to explore spirituality through creative expression. Materials are provided and everyone is welcome. No reservation is required.

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.



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.*



Spiritual Direction

Most of us at some point in life know we want a deeper relationship with God, and direction for our life, but just have no idea where to start. It leaves us feeling isolated and alone. At The Center for Christian Spirituality, we believe spirituality is meant to be lived in community, and everyone deserves a Soul Friend! Our trained and certified Spiritual Directors help you be watchful and attentive to God in your life and guide you through the ups and downs of life and faith. Visit our website for more information.

