



Four Gospels – One Mission: Matthew

8:45 a.m. + June 7

*“Jesus came first and foremost as a teacher of the path of inner transformation.
That doesn’t take away the Jesus you may be more familiar with—
the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity—
but it does add a renewed emphasis on paying attention to what he actually taught
and seeing how we can begin to walk it authentically from the inside.”
~ Cynthia Bourgeault, *The Wisdom Jesus**

Crossing the Threshold

Setting our Intention

“Always We Begin Again”

*Always we begin again, every moment new,
Giving back the good we have received from you.
Waking up with grateful hearts, as we greet the day,
All creation sings with us a song of praise.*

*We will arise and seek the common good and welcome all in love.
Offering grace to all humanity as reflections of above.
Living with sacrifice, simplicity, and wisdom till the end.
Because always we begin again.*

Sitting with a Psalm Prayer

Inspired by *Psalm 112*, Malcolm Guite

*With awe I trace His Word in everything
And ask his blessing on me. I delight
To know his wisdom and his mercy, sing*

*Aloud of all his judgments. There’s a light
That shines in darkness, and the brooding dark
Will never put it out or comprehend it.*

*And now I pray that Christ himself will work
In me, that through my words and deeds he’ll bless
The world he loves, that I will never shirk*

*The call to lend a little of his grace
To all who need it, that I will not shrink
From sharing all I have, that I’ll redress*

*As best I can the world’s injustice, drink
So deeply from the well of life that I
May bring all those who thirst back to its brink.*

Responding from the Heart

"The Heart You Require"

*A heart of devotion that loves who you are,
Contented to rest in your Presence.
A heart of reflection in love with your Word,
That's seeking your Wisdom and guidance.
A heart full of action that loves as you love,
That selflessly lives out your calling.
Devotion, reflection, and action combined,
This is the heart you require.*

*To act justly, and love mercy,
And walk humbly with you, God.
To act justly, and love mercy,
And walk humbly with you, God.*

Sitting with Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Meditation

Marks of the Kingdom

"The Kingdom of God"

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your Kingdom.*

*"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you,
for this is the Law and the Prophets."*

Matthew 7:12

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your Kingdom.*

*'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
This is the greatest and first commandment.
And a second is like it:
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

Matthew 22:37-39

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your Kingdom.*

*I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.'*

Matthew 25: 35-40

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

***The Kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your Kingdom***

Welcoming God-in-Us

Contemplative Prayer is a way to welcome the Divine Presence within you in an intentional way. During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's indwelling and loving presence here with you now. Just be and relax. To get you there, 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 the heart-focused breath prayer (*inhale*) "Live in me, O Christ"; (*exhale*) "Live through me, O Christ."

Holy Communion

Receiving a Good Word

Adapted from *Psalms 112*, Malcolm Guite

*With awe I trace His Word in everything
And ask his blessing on me.
I delight to know his wisdom and his mercy,
Sing aloud of all his judgments.*

*There's a light that shines in darkness,
and the brooding dark will never put it out or comprehend it.*

*And now I pray that Christ himself will work in me,
that through my words and deeds he'll bless the world he loves.*

*That I will never shirk the call to lend a little of his grace to all who need it,
that I will not shrink from sharing all I have.
That I'll redress as best I can the world's injustice,
and drink so deeply from the well of life
that I may bring all those who thirst back to its brink.*



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

"Always We Begin Again" – Peter Johns, *"The Heart You Require"* – Peter Johns
"The Kingdom of God" – Jacques Berthier

June Guided Silent Retreat: The Mirror of Simple Souls with Marguerite Porete

Saturday, June 13 | The Anchor House | 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

This guided silent retreat invites participants into the luminous and daring spirituality of the French mystic Marguerite Porete, author of The Mirror of Simple Souls, who was condemned and burned at the stake in Paris on June 1, 1310 for her uncompromising witness to Divine Love. Through extended silence, gentle guidance, and contemplative prayer, participants are invited into the way of divine love—a way marked by surrender, consent, and deep interior freedom. Rather than striving or analysis, this retreat offers space to rest in God, allowing love itself to pray within us, and to discover the quiet freedom that emerges when the soul yields itself wholly to divine love. 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.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, June 16 | 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

The Anchor House Summer Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays | 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.



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! That is why we have launched our Spiritual Direction ministry here at The Center. 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. If you are looking for a little one-on-one guidance in your relationship with God and God's direction for your life, one of our Spiritual Directors might just be a great fit for you.



Upcoming Experiences

Summer Solstice – June 21

Serving Community Lunch at Fair Haven – June 24

Becoming a Member Sunday & Community Gathering Potluck – June 28

Summer Book Discussion: Theo of Golden – August 5