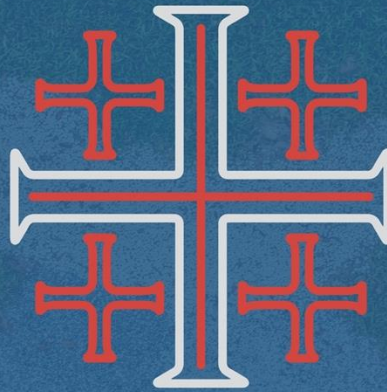




The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality



Freely Receive, Freely Give

Walking the Fourfold Way of Christ

8:45 a.m. + January 15, 2023

I have a dream
that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low,
the rough places will be made straight
and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Opening to God's Presence

*God in my words,
God in my hands.
God in my mind and in my heart.*

"God in My Words"

Opening Our Hearts (with Sung Response)

*I will sing of your steadfast Love forever, my Beloved;
with forthright voice I will proclaim your goodness to all generations.
For your abiding Love rules the universe,
your faithfulness extends throughout the firmament.
Your Covenant from the beginning of time
encompasses all who choose to walk the Way of Love;*

Based on Psalm 89
From *Psalms for Praying*, Nan Merrill

*And to all generations that honor your Way and your Truth,
will Love make Itself known.*

***My soul proclaims the goodness of God
My heart overflows with God's love for the world
My life gives voice to the vision of God
That all things are reconciled.***

*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of the Cosmos;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
Blessed are those who call upon your Name and extol truth and justice!
For you are the glory of their strength; You give wise counsel.
Our very lives belong to You, O Loving Presence!
You have made yourself known to the faith-filled;
You set them on the path of peace.
The Gift You sent to bring redemption invites us to eternal life!
Through the Heart of all hearts, You opened the way to Life.*

My soul proclaims the goodness of God...

*Yes, your faithfulness and your abiding love are with us,
And in your Name we can do all good things.
Through You is our consciousness lifted up,
That we might know your Will and live it.
In our gratitude we cry out, "Your are the Beloved, the Most High, our very Breath."
Through You we are born anew, the Spirit of Truth comes to us.*

My soul proclaims the goodness of God...

Sitting with Scripture

Luke 4:14-19, Matthew 10: 7-8

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor."*

*"As you go, proclaim:
'The realm of the heavens has come near.'
Heal the sick, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.
Freely you received, freely give."*

Meditation

Making Isaiah's Words Ours

*The Spirit of God is upon me.
The Spirit of God has anointed me.
The Spirit of God now doth send me -
To the poor to heal the brokenhearted.*

"The Spirit of the Lord"

Meditation

Sung Response

*My soul proclaims the goodness of God
My heart overflows with God's love for the world
My life gives voice to the vision of God
That all things are reconciled.*

"My Soul Proclaims the Goodness of God"

Centering 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 let go. Let be. Relax. Breathe deeply. Sense your body. If it helps, use a breath prayer to help you descend into this silence, such as "Lord" (inhale), "Jesus" (exhale) or a name for the Divine, or simply the word "Receive."

Open to Being Filled

*Holy Spirit, come,
Holy Spirit, dwell;
Fill your church with joy overflowing,
And peace overflowing;
And love overflowing,
In all of your glory, come.*

"Holy Spirit, Come"

Holy Communion

Receiving a Good Word



Freely Receive, Freely Give

Annual Aim & Stewardship of Gifts 2023 + Worship Response Series

This week we launch our annual aim for 2023 and begin our invitation to pledge our intention to commit to the contemplative dimension of the Gospel through the ministry of The Center. Each Sunday we will reflect on the specific ways Christ comes to us as Prophet, King, Healer-Priest, and Teacher, as well as the ways he invites us to continue these ministries in our service to humanity today. We will offer a Worship Response time in The Anchor House at 10:00 as well.

Freely Receive, Freely Give: Walking the Fourfold Way of Christ

A 6-week Class on Living the Inward-Outward Journey through the Gospel Archetypes

January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15 | The Anchor House

In his ministry Jesus the Christ came as Prophet/Visionary, Healer, Lord, and Teacher. Today we continue to encounter him through these ways. Traditionally and across many cultures, these are the archetypes of the Seer-Prophet, Healer-Priest, Warrior-King, and Teacher-Sage. We are also invited to embody Christ today in our world through these roles as visionaries, healers, sovereigns, and sages. Join Michael as he takes us on a deep-dive into the background of each path. We will also be given practical ways to open ourselves to Christ in these ways to “freely receive,” as well as how to allow Christ to “freely give” of himself through us in each of these ways. This is a great opportunity to consider practical ways for living the inward-outward contemplative journey. Cost for the 6-week class is \$40. It will be livestreamed, recorded, and uploaded to our online platform Epiphany Today. The class will include handouts as well as a weekly email. Register at: <https://thecenterfcs.org/freely-receive-freely-give/>

Spiritual Dimensions of the Enneagram (with Sandra Smith)

Move Beyond Your Type and Embrace the Abundance and Loving Nature of Reality

January 20 & 21 | The Upper Room

Discussions, experiential exercises, inquiry, and teachings related to the Holy Ideas (our enlightened spiritual perspectives) and to each type’s virtue will support our understanding of our lives as sacred. Cost for this workshop will be \$125 per person and includes lunch on Saturday. Scholarships are available upon request. <https://thecenterfcs.org/spiritual-dimensions/>

Community Gathering: Stewardship of Gifts & Annual Aim

January 22 | The Chapel

Join us after Contemplative Worship to hear more about our annual aim this year and upcoming offerings. Michael will talk more about our annual stewardship of gifts, how we ended 2022, and our plans for 2023.

Becoming a Member through The Center: January 29

Have you been worshipping with us for some time but are not a member of Chapelwood? Are you interested in becoming a member of The Center, which is a ministry of Chapelwood? Are you curious about how to officially “join”? Our next opportunity to officially join is January 29. Schedule a time to talk with Michael if you are interested and would like more information.

Our Staff

Haley Brown – Ministry Assistant & Director of gastrochurch

Peter Johns – Associate Director

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.

If you are worshipping online, please text the word center to (844) 474-0707

If you are worshipping in person, please text the word chapel to (844) 474-0707

For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit: www.TheCenterFCS.org.