



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Embody Grace

8:45 a.m. + February 4, 2024

It's a bit embarrassing to have been concerned with the human problem all one's life
and find out at the end that one has no more to offer [by way of advice] than this:

Try to be a little kinder.

Aldous Huxley

Remembering Our Purpose

"The Heart of God"

*Faith that moves mountains,
Grace that forgives.
Peace that calms stormy seas.
Love that brings healing.
Trust that endures.
Truth that can set us free.
Help us embody all that you are,
And live lives that reflect your grace.
To walk with the stranger until we are friends,
And we all find our place – at home in the heart of God.*

*Make us faithful to forgive,
When we're wounded by the world.
Peaceful bearers of your grace,
Help us love as you love.*

With faith that moves mountains...

Listening to Wisdom

"My Grace Filled Heart"

*My grace filled heart,
Releases kindness through me.*

*Do not let kindness and truth leave you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)*

*Kind people do themselves a favor,
but cruel people bring trouble on themselves. (Proverbs 11:17)*

*Kindness and faithfulness protect the king;
he supports his throne by kindness. (Proverbs 20:28)*

Whoever pursues justice and kindness will find life and honor. (Proverbs 21:21)

*When she speaks, her words are wise,
and kindness is the rule for everything she says. (Proverbs 31:26)*

Contemplating Scripture

Luke 10:25-37

Then an expert in Moses' Teachings stood up to test Yeshua. He asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Yeshua answered him, "What is written in Moses' Teachings? What do you read there?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

Yeshua told him, "You're right! Do this, and life will be yours."

But the man wanted to justify his question. So he asked Yeshua, "Who is my neighbor?"

Yeshua replied, "A man went from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way robbers stripped him, beat him, and left him for dead.

By chance, a priest was traveling along that road. When he saw the man, he went around him and continued on his way. Then a Levite came to that place. When he saw the man, he, too, went around him and continued on his way.

But a Samaritan, as he was traveling along, came across the man. When the Samaritan saw him, he felt sorry for the man, went to him, and cleaned and bandaged his wounds. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. He told the innkeeper, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than that, I'll pay you on my return trip.'

Of these three men, who do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?"

The expert said, "The one who showed kindness to him."

Yeshua told him, "Go and imitate his example!"

Meditation

Song of Response

"The Summons"

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

The Prayer of the Heart

Releasing Kindness

*My grace filled heart,
Releases kindness through me.*

"My Grace Filled Heart"

Silence

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 your heart and imagine your breath flowing in and out from your heart area. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Christ, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

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"The Heart of God"

Communion

"If Ye Love Me"

Receiving a Good Word



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

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.

Centering Prayer

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

Worship Response

Today | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

Rafa - An Evening of Contemplative Prayer, Lament, and Healing

Tonight | The Chapel | 6:00 p.m. | <https://thecenterfcs.org/rafa>

Centered: Lessons on Receiving and Embodying Grace

Friday, Feb. 23 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) & Saturday, Feb. 24 (9a.m. – 4p.m.) | The Anchor House | \$75

This is an introduction to Contemplative Christianity and Prayer. To register, scan the QR code to the right. In our Weekend Workshop and Retreat, you will receive: A simple and comprehensive way of understanding “contemplative Christianity” and “contemplative prayer,” techniques to use your body as a tool for transformation, practices to help you destress and navigate stress with flow and ease, several ways to pray that use your body, contemplative songs to help you remember sacred wisdom and to center you, a template for walking a path of transformation – body, soul and spirit, an overview of the entire contemplative journey and how it is integrally related to service and ministry, handouts to help you remember the key teachings and practices, and renewal from gifting yourself with the experience of a retreat.



Becoming a Member through the Center

Sunday, March 3rd | The Chapel | During Worship

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 March 3rd. Schedule a time to talk with Michael if you are interested and would like more information.

Ash Wednesday Noon Service

Wednesday, February 14 | The Chapel | 12:00 p.m.

Join The Center for Christian Spirituality in the Chapel for a time of quiet reflection, prayer, the meditative reading of Scripture, communion, and the imposition of ashes.

Rooted in Love, Noon Lenten Study

Wednesdays, starting February 21 | The Anchor House | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join Rachel Sciretti, Michael Sciretti, Andrew Wolfe and Teresa Rossy for weekly lunches during Lent. We will explore together what it means to be Rooted in Love. How might it be possible for us to uncover the hidden depths of God’s love that dwells in us through Christ? We will read together Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians and try a new spiritual practice each week, so that as Easter nears, the love of Christ will permeate every aspect of our existence. Registration includes a light lunch each week.



Our Annual Aim & Pledge: Embody Grace

“Embody Grace” is our aim and intention this year as a contemplative community. We invite you to help us be stewards of the grace of God at work in and through The Center for Christian Spirituality. To make your estimate of giving for 2024, scan the QR code to the right.

