



Rooted in Love: Rooted in Power

8:45 a.m. + March 3, 2024 + Third Sunday in Lent

In silence and solitude you will come to meet the Beloved of your heart.
For Silence is power, the power of the Divine Lover blessing and transforming you.
Seek always the Eternal Flame ever shining in your heart,
and let yourself be nourished and refreshed in the Silence.
Nan Merrill

Our Invitation

inspired by Psalm 132, Nan Merrill

*Enter into the Silence,
into the Heart of Truth;
For herein lies the Great Mystery
where life is ever unfolding;
Herein the Divine Plan is made known,
the Plan all are invited to serve.
Listen for the Music of the Spheres
in the resounding Silence of the universe.
May balance and harmony be your aim
as you are drawn into the Heart of Love.*

Seeking God's Presence

"The Power of Your Love"

*Lord, I come to You,
Let my heart be changed, renewed.
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You.
And Lord, I've come to know,
The weaknesses I see in me,
Will be stripped away,
By the power of Your love.*

*Hold me close,
Let Your love surround me.
Bring me near,
Draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle.
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on,
In the power of Your love.*

*Lord, unveil my eyes,
Let me see You, face to face,
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
And Lord, renew my mind,
As Your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day,
By the power of Your love.*

*Hold me close,
Let Your love surround me.
Bring me near,
Draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle.
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on,
In the power of Your love.*

The Healing Power of Love

inspired by Psalm 132, Nan Merrill

*Those who follow the way of Love
with calm and faith-filled intent,
Know that all is working
toward healing and wholeness.
And may the healing power of Love
lift you from the limitations
of fear and ignorance
into the arms of freedom.*

Clothing Ourselves in Power

"Awake, Awake, Put on Your Strength"

*Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.
Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.*

God's Power Within Us

Ephesians 3:7,16,20

"Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power...."

*Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.
Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.*

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God....

*Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.
Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.*

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

***Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.
Awake, awake,
Put on your strength.***

Meditation

Song of Response

"Creation Song"

***Set free the light within.
Cast off the covers that keep it concealed.
Father of Light let me shine like the sun.
Set free the light within.***

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.

Seeking Your Presence

"The Power of Your Love"

***Hold me close,
Let Your love surround me.
Bring me near,
Draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle.
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on,
In the power of Your love.***

Communion

"Sicut Cervus" Palestrina

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

*As the deer pants for water,
So my soul longs for you, O God.*

Welcoming New Members

Following his resurrection and ascension, the Spirit of the Living Christ sent his students out into the world with his blessing and gifts, seeking to build the Spiritual Body of True Humanity through devotion to a path of contemplative seeing, wisdom, and practice until all creation is brought to full transformation of being and consciousness. This is our work and our task together now in this world.

Are you on a contemplative journey:

- *awakening to the Light of God within and around you?* I am.
- *aligning your heart with the Life-giving Wisdom of Christ?* I am.
- *allowing the Love of God's Spirit to manifest through you?* I am.

Affirming Our Trust

We entrust ourselves to God, the Holy, Loving Mystery:

***Beyond all names and rational conception,
the Source and End of all things,
The true Lover of our souls,
the deepest Desire of our hearts.***

We entrust ourselves to Jesus, Holy Epiphany of God's Love:

***Incarnation of God's Word, Teacher of God's Wisdom,
Prophet of God's passion, Channel of God's healing,
Guide to the heart of God,
Who by his baptism reveals we are Beloved,
By his life reveals the Way to God,
By his death reveals the Love of God,
By his resurrection reveals the Power of God.***

We entrust ourselves to the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God filling our being:

***The Fire of God purifying our passions,
the Wisdom of God dispelling our illusions,
the Light of God revealing our true self.***

We entrust ourselves to the process of growing into the fullness of Christ:

***An epiphany of God's care and concern,
a bridge between heaven and earth,
a conduit of God's truth and wisdom,
manifesting God's mercy and peace.***

We entrust ourselves to the Body of Christ:

***The seekers of God who follow the Way of Jesus,
Worshipping God together in spirit and truth,
Serving others together in humility and love,
Becoming the eyes, mouth, hands, and feet of Christ in this world.***

We entrust ourselves to God's Reign, the Eternal Now:

***Within us and all around us, where heaven and earth become one,
a state where we taste and see God's goodness,
accessible to all who are attentive to their heart and practice resurrection.***

We entrust ourselves to the reality of our mortality:

***Trusting that in death, life is transformed, not snatched away,
and that we will return to the Holy, Loving Mystery,
the Source and End of all things,
Who receives us into the light, life, and love of God for all eternity. Amen.***

Journeying Together

As a member of the universal Body of the Anointed One, will you be faithful to God through The Center for Christian Spirituality at Chapelwood United Methodist Church, and faithfully participate in our ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

Celebrating our New Members

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the Body of Christ, and in this congregation, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God, our Loving Source and Origin, may be glorified through the Light of Christ, shining through us.

Closing Blessing

*As you follow the light,
May you become gentle and kind.
May you come to live in the light,
And see through love's eyes.
May you walk through the world, radiating the Spirit.*

Inspired by Psalm 132, Nan Merrill

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.

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

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, March 31 | The Chapel | 6:00 p.m. | <https://thecenterfcs.org/rafa>

Rooted in Love, Noon Lenten Study

Wednesday | 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.



SoulCollage

Saturday, March 9 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SoulCollage is a spiritual practice that helps us know ourselves and grow closer to the person God has created us to be. In this workshop, we explore the body's second energy center, which is the center of our creativity. Creativity is full of emotions, and as we create, we find that there is "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance..."

\$50 experienced SoulCollagers, \$60 new SoulCollagers. Bring your own lunch for the whole day. Check out the Registration Page for more options.



Gastrochurch: Luck of the Irish: a conversation about saints, snakes, and shamrocks

March 17 | Westminster United Methodist Church | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

At gastrochurch we do intentional conversations about spiritual things over really good food. We set a table and invite people from any background, culture, worldview, and identity. It's kind of a mashup between a dinner party and a small group, only with people you might otherwise never meet. At this gathering on March 17, we will explore what St. Patrick's Day is really all about. St. Patrick's Day is now considered a day to wear green and get really drunk. But did you know St. Patrick was a real guy? What's more, he had a really interesting story. He was kidnapped, sold into slavery, escaped, and later came back to minister to the people who enslaved him. What does the story of this saint have to do with us? We're going to have some good conversation over some great Irish food. (And maybe even some green beer.) Wear green, bring a friend, and join us for dinner! P SA: We never want the cost of tickets to be a barrier to someone. Please reach out to Haley if you need assistance with a ticket. We have folks often buy extra tickets for us to giveaway! Talk to Haley or email her at hbrown@chapelwood.org. Get tickets at: <https://www.gastrochurch.org/>