



The Center  
for Christian Spirituality



## *Revelations of Divine Love*

8:45 a.m. + May 14, 2023

Our Savior is our true Mother in whom we are endlessly born and out of whom we shall never come.  
(Julian of Norwich, 14<sup>th</sup> century)

### Offering the Morning Psalm in Silence

*O LORD, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.  
But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.  
O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.*

*Psalm 131*

### Settling in God's Presence

*Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm.  
Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.  
Let all tumult within me cease,  
Enfold me, Lord, in your peace.*

*"Calm Me, O Lord"*

## Seeing with Julian

## Revelations of Divine Love, chapter 5

*Our Lord showed me a spiritual sight of his familiar love. I saw that our Lord is to us everything which is good and comforting for our help. He is our clothing, who wraps and enfolds us for love, embraces us and shelters us, surrounds us for his love, which is so tender that he may never desert us. And so in this sight I saw that he is everything which is good, as I understand.*

*And in this he showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, and I perceived that it was as round as any ball. I looked at it and thought: What can this be? And I was given this general answer: It is everything which is made. I was amazed that it could last, for I thought that it was so little that it could suddenly fall into nothing. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and always will, because God loves it, and thus everything has being through the love of God.*

*In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it. But what did I see in it? It is that God is the Maker and the Keeper and the Lover. For until I am substantially united to him, I can never have full rest or true bliss, until, that is, I am so attached to him that there can be no created thing between my God and me.*

## Silence for Reflection

### Finding Our Rest in God

### *“Everything Belongs”*

*Everything belongs.  
All the broken pieces,  
The hurts that will not heal,  
The scars that will not fade.  
God will hold them all.  
Cherish them and love them.  
Nurture and restore them,  
Until we are complete.*

*Everything belongs, for God is in all things.  
We abide in him and he in us.  
Goodness, wisdom, love, enfolding all we are.  
Every hurt is held by him for everything belongs.*

## Carried by God's Unfailing Love

- *Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. (Isaiah 49:15)*
- *Listen to Me, O House of Jacob, and all the remnant of Israel, You who have been borne by Me from birth, who have been carried by Me from the womb. Even to old age, I am the One. Even to grey hairs, I carry. I made and I bear. I carry and I deliver. (Isaiah 46:3-4)*
- *As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 66:13)*

## Reflecting in Gratitude

### Seeing with Julian

### Revelations of Divine Love, chapter 59

*As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother, and he revealed that in everything, and especially in these sweet words where he says: “I am the One.” That is to say, “I am the One, the power and goodness of fatherhood; I am the One, the wisdom and the lovingness of motherhood; I am the One, the light and the grace which is all blessed love; I am the One, the Trinity; I am the One, the Unity; I am the One, the sovereign goodness of all manner of things; I am the One who makes you to love; I am the One who makes you to long; I am the One, the endless fulfilling of all true desires.”*

## Centering in God

### *“Everything Belongs”*

Seeing with Julian

*Revelations of Divine Love, chapter 27*

*After that the Lord brought to my mind the yearning that I had for Him in the past, and I saw that nothing stood in my way except sin (and thus I observed universally in us all). . . . Before this time I often wondered why, by the great foreseeing wisdom of God, the beginning of sin was not prevented, for then, it seemed to me, all would have been well. . . . But Jesus (who in this vision informed me of all that I needed) answered by this word and said: "Sin is inevitable, but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."*

Silence for Reflection

Confessing with Julian

*"All Shall be Well" (Julian's Song)*

*Just as God is our Father, God is our Mother and She rejoices in us.  
With His power and goodness. Her wisdom and kindness, with light, and grace and love.  
Light for our darkness. Grace filled forgiveness, and love as a balm for the soul.  
When doubts gather round us, troubles surround us.  
There is a calm that we know.  
That all shall be well, and all shall be well,  
and all shall be well, all manner of things shall be well.*

Enfolding Prayer with Sung Response

Holy Communion Liturgy

*from the Writings of Julian of Norwich*

*God chose to be our Mother in all things and so made the foundation of his work,  
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.  
God, the perfect Wisdom of all, arrayed himself in this humble place.  
Christ came in our poor flesh to share a mother's care.  
Christ carried us within him in love and travail, until the full time of his passion.  
And when all was completed, he had carried us so for joy.  
Still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.  
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God,  
for the love of Christ works in us; Christ is the One whom we love.  
Christ revealed our frailty and our falling, our trespasses and our humiliations.  
Christ also revealed his blessed power, his blessed wisdom and love.  
He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need;  
he raises us in spirit and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.  
God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature;  
God is the true Father and Mother of natures.  
We are all bound to God by nature, and we are all bound to God by grace.  
And this grace is for all the world, because it is our precious Mother, Christ.  
Our true Mother Jesus, he alone bears us for joy and for endless life. Blessed may he be!  
The mother can give her child to suck of her milk,  
but our precious Mother Jesus can feed us with himself,  
and does so, most courteously and most tenderly  
with this blessed sacrament, which is the precious food of true life.  
Our tender Mother Jesus can lead us easily into his blessed breast,  
and show us there a part of the Godhead and of the joys of heaven.  
And he does so with these words: "See how I love you. I protect you very safely."  
So He wants us to act as a meek child, saying thus:  
"My kind Mother, my gracious Mother, my beloved Mother, have mercy on me."*



## Worship Response

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

Join us in The Anchor House as we reflect on the themes of today's service, what arose for us, and what questions we have.

## A Musical Vacation

Wednesday, May 17 @ 6:00 p.m. | Chapel

Presented by the Chapelwood Chancel Bells and the Contemplative Service Choral Ensemble, this free, fun, relaxing, 45 minute concert features different styles of music to make you smile and is suitable for all ages.

## Pentecost Brunch Community Gathering

Sunday, May 28 @ 10:00 p.m. | The Anchor House

Join us for a special community gathering after worship to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. We invite you to bring your favorite red, orange, or yellow dish to share with the community in honor of Pentecost. The Anchor House will be open before worship for folks to come place their dishes. You will also hear more about our summer offerings.

## "Saints & Pilgrims: A Pilgrimage along the Coast of East England"

October 16-27, 2023

Journey in the footsteps of medieval British saints and pilgrims along the eastern coast of England. There are three primary anchor pilgrimage sites and saints: Julian of Norwich, Hilda of Whitby, and Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Along the way we will also visit the Shrine of Our Lady in the town of Walsingham (which was a major pilgrimage site in the medieval period); Rievaulx Abbey, home of St. Aelred; and Durham Cathedral. We conclude our pilgrimage in Edinburgh. This contemplative pilgrimage will be an opportunity to deepen your spirituality through exploring the literary texts as well as the historical contexts of these great British saints of medieval Christianity. To reserve a spot please see Michael or Peter for a Registration Form, the deposit is \$300. For more information go to [www.thecenterfcs.org/pilgrimage](http://www.thecenterfcs.org/pilgrimage).

### 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](http://www.TheCenterFCS.org).