



# **A Discerning Heart**

Songs from The Center



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6:00 p.m. + November 14, 2021

Jesus says,  
*Wisdom is justified by Her children...  
Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.  
I'll show you how to take a real rest.  
Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.  
Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.  
I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.  
Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.*  
Matthew 11:19b, 28-30

Welcome

Finding Home

*You lead me home, by paths unknown.  
You lead me home, by ways unfamiliar.  
Wherever I roam, still you are there.  
A compassionate friend when I choose to stray.  
Leading me home by another way.*

*"You Lead Me Home"*

Offering our Wanderings

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.*

*Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.*

*But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.*

*And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.*

**Thomas Merton**

*Therefore will I trust you always,  
Though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.*

*I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

Praying with Thomas Merton

*I desire to please you.  
I desire to go where you lead.  
I can't know for certain,  
But this is my desire.*

***"I Desire to Please You"***

Praying with St. Columba

*Alone with none but you, my God,  
I journey on my way.  
What need I fear when you are near,  
O Lord of night and day?  
More safe am I within your hand,  
Than if a host did round me stand.*

***"Alone With None But You, My God"***

The Voice of Wisdom

*Blessed is the one who finds Lady Wisdom  
and the one who gains Lady Insight.  
For Her trade-value is better than silver,  
and Her yield better than fine gold.  
She is more precious than jewels  
and nothing you desire compares to Her.  
Length of days is in Her right hand.  
In Her left hand are riches and honor.  
Her ways are beautiful ways,  
and all of Her paths are peace.  
She is a tree of life to those who embrace Her,  
and blessed will be all who hold firmly to Her.*

***from Proverbs 3:13-18 & 9:1-6***

*"Come in with me," she urges the simple.  
To those who lack good judgment, she says,  
"Come, eat my food,  
and drink the wine I have mixed.  
Leave your simple ways behind, and live;  
Walk in the way of Insight."*

Seeking Wisdom

***"A Discerning Heart"***

Resting in Love

*"I Am Loved"*

*I am not who I was,  
I am not who I will be.  
I am loved.  
I am not what I've done,  
I am not what I will do.  
I am loved.  
I am beautifully broken,  
Through my darkness shines Your light,  
I am loved.*

Praying with St. Ignatius

*"Suscipe (Receive)"*

*All I am, all I have.  
You've given all into my care:  
Every single thought, every choice I make,  
The freedoms I possess. Come fill them all with love.  
Please receive all I am.  
As I receive all that you are.  
I return to you, all that I hold dear,  
To use as you desire, for I believe in this:*

*Your grace, your love, is all that I need.  
Your love, your grace, is enough for me.*

Praying with St. Teresa

*"Let Nothing Disturb You"*

The Intimate Fire of God

*St. John of the Cross*

*Oh, Living Flame of Love,  
that tenderly wounds  
in the deepest center of my soul!  
Since you are no longer elusive,  
finish me now if you wish,  
and tear through the veil of this sweet encounter.*

*Oh, gentle burning!  
Oh, gifted wound!  
Oh, soft hand! Oh, delicate touch!  
That tastes of eternal life,  
and pays all debts!  
Killing, you have turned death into life.*

*Oh, lamps of fire  
in whose radiance  
the deep caverns of the senses  
- that were dark and blind -  
with strange beauties  
give warmth and light to their Beloved!*

*How gentle and loving  
You wake within my breast,  
where secretly only you dwell;  
with your tasty Breath,  
full of Good and Glory,  
how delicately you fill me with Love.*

Praying with St. John of the Cross

*“O Living Flame of Love”*

The Power of Resurrection

*St. Symeon the New Theologian*

*We awaken in Christ's body, as Christ awakens our bodies.  
There I look down and my poor hand is Christ.  
He enters my foot and is infinitely me.  
I move my hand and wonderfully my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him.  
I move my foot and at once He appears in a flash of lightning.*

*Do my words seem blasphemous to you? – Then open your heart to him.  
And let yourself receive the one Who is opening to you so deeply.  
For if we genuinely love Him, we wake up inside Christ's body  
where all our body all over, every most hidden part of it,  
is realized in joy as Him, and He makes us utterly real.*

*And everything that is hurt, everything that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,  
maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged is in Him transformed.  
And in Him, recognized as whole, as lovely, and radiant in His light.  
We awaken as the beloved in every last part of our body.*

Praying with St. Symeon the New Theologian

*“I Awaken in Christ”*

*I awaken in Christ,  
Awaken as Christ awakens within me.  
All of me becomes all of him,  
As Christ awakens so deep within.  
See my feet and my hands,  
Transfigured as Christ awakens my body.  
All my brokenness changed,  
My brokenness now is beauty: transformed in him.*

*I awake in Christ. I awake in Christ.*

Resting in Love

*"Love Like A Waterfall"*

*Love, like a waterfall,  
Falling on us.  
Flooding our hearts with grace and peace.  
Healing waters flow,  
Flowing on us.  
Flooding our hearts with love.*

*Every moment of every day God is loving us.  
Showers of mercy and waves of forgiveness are covering us.*

Seeing with Julian of Norwich

*Revelations of Divine Love, chapter 59 and 27*

*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 he." That is to say, "I am he, the power and goodness of fatherhood; I am he, the wisdom and the lovingness of motherhood; I am he, the light and the grace which is all blessed love; I am he, the Trinity; I am he, the Unity; I am he; the great supreme goodness of every kind of thing; I am he who makes you to love; I am he who makes you to long; I am he, the endless fulfilling of all true desires."*

*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). . . . I made mourning and sorrow about it without reason or discretion. 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 thing shall be well."*

Praying with St. Julian of Norwich

*All shall be well,  
And all shall be well.  
And all shall be well,  
All manner of things shall be well.*

Praying with St. Benedict

*"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.*

Receiving a Good Word



**A Discerning Heart**  
Songs from The Center

Music Composed by  
*Peter Johns and Traditional*

Song Lyrics by  
*Peter Johns*

Piano, Vocals, Hammer Dulcimer  
*Peter Johns*

Guitar  
*Erin Hopkins*

Quartet  
*Julie Hoeltzel, Rachel Lamphier, Cody Arthur, Austin Hoeltzel*

Violin  
*Zachary Montasser*

Cello  
*Anastasia Sciretti*

Percussion and Vocals  
*Michael Sciretti, Jr.*

Contemplative Singers  
*Walt Agnew, Margarita Arentsen-Landgren, Sara Beaves, Tyler Beck,  
Allison Carter, Bobby Carter, Bonnie Deaton, Sharon Fink, Jeff Harris,  
Ken Landgren, Joe Pascoe, Bruce Sealy, Sharon Sealy, Rita Stuckey*

## A Discerning Heart – Songs from the Center

*All the songs on the album except one were composed for congregational use in Contemplative Worship at The Center for Christian Spirituality in Houston, Texas. The Center has been shaped by contemplative teachings and practices that can be traced back to key saints within the Christian tradition. Nine of these saints inspired songs on this album. The other songs grew out of our discussions in preparation for weekly Contemplative Worship. The leadership and community at The Center have inspired, influenced, and embraced these songs as expressions of their spirituality. These songs have become part of our weekly rhythm of Contemplative Worship and centering in God, and we hope they help you deepern your awareness of The Divine Center.*

## Thank You

*This album would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of The Center for Christian Spirituality Community and Chapelwood United Methodist Church. Special thanks go to Michael Sciretti, Jr., Erin Hopkins, Jerry Webber, Wick Stuckey, Lori Anderson, and Rachel Sciretti.*



**THE CENTER**  
for Christian Spirituality

*For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit:*

**[www.thecenterfcs.org](http://www.thecenterfcs.org)**