



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Freely Receive, Freely Give

8:45 a.m. + September 3, 2023

Lord God, who called Aidan to burn like a flame in the Dark Ages,
set our hearts on fire with your love, open our eyes to your glory, open our lives to your brightness,
and help us to show forth your light today; through Christ our Lord, who is the Light of the world,
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for evermore.

~ A Collect of St. Aidan from David Adam



Meeting Aidan of Lindisfarne

Praying with Aidan

*Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,
make me an island, set apart,
alone with You, God, holy to You.*

*Then with the turning of the tide,
prepare me to carry Your presence to the busy world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me,
till the waters come again and fold me back to You.*

Journeying with Aidan (Columba's Prayer)

*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"

Scripture

Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*

Held Secure

"Circle Me, Only Be Still"

*Circle me O God.
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.
Circle me, O God.
Keep calm within, keep turmoil out.
Keep life within, keep death without.
O circle me, O circle me.*

*The Lord abides with you.
Only be still, only be still.
Believe and you will see.
Only be still, only be still.
Though fears and doubts surround,
Just wait on holy ground.
For God is all around,
Only be still, only be still.*

Meditation

Praying with Aidan

*Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,
make me an island, set apart, alone with You, God, holy to You.*

Resting 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 relax. Sense your body. Breathe more deeply than usual. It can help to focus on the region of the heart. You might use a breath prayer to help you descend into this silence at the level of the heart, such as "Alone" (inhale), "with You" (exhale), or "Be" (inhale), "still" (exhale), or use a sacred word (such as Love, Peace, Beloved, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit).

Carrying God's Presence to the Busy World

"Only Be Still"

*The Lord will fight for you.
Only be still, only be still.
Stand firm and you will see.
Only be still, only be still.
Though enemies surround,
Just wait on holy ground.
For God is all around,
Only be still, only be still.*

Praying with Aidan

*Then with the turning of the tide,
prepare me to carry Your presence to the busy world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me,
till the waters come again and fold me back to You.*

Carrying God's Presence

Song of Response

"Circle Me"

*Circle them O God.
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.
Circle them, O God.
Keep calm within, keep turmoil out.
Keep life within, keep death without.
O circle them, O circle them.*

Communion

*Lord,
You give me life
You give me love
You give me joy
You give me peace
You give me yourself.
In you I am enriched.
Help me to share,
To give of what I receive.
Help me to give my life
To give my love
To give myself
In the service of others
And to you, Giver of all.*

Receiving a Good Word



Centering Prayer

Today | The Chapel | after Contemplative Worship

If you would like to linger in silence as centering prayer for a bit longer after Contemplative Worship, join the group that gathers near the organ to be led in an additional 10 minutes of silence.

Worship Response

Today | The Anchor House | after Contemplative Worship

Pilgrim Tales

Wednesday, September 6 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m.

Come learn about the spiritual journeys of individuals who are part of our contemplative community. You'll learn about how they started their contemplative journey; what life events and moments shaped them; the wisdom they carry; and the teachers, books, and practices that have been formative for them. This series will take place on Wednesdays, from August 16 - September 20. day |

Gastrochurch: becoming an ally – a conversation about restoration

Friday, September 15 | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Westminster United Methodist Church | \$40

Join us for our next gastrochurch experience focused on social issues of vulnerability, in partnership with The Restoration Team. We will gather to share a three-course meal and discuss what restoration looks like in our homes, in our lives and in our communities.

Enneagram for Beginners Workshop

Friday, September 22 | 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | The Anchor House | \$75

Through sharing exercises, self-reflection, and teaching, participants will learn more about the inner dynamics of each enneagram type and how these dynamics shape and influence behaviors. This workshop is an introduction to this system; therefore, participants do not need to know their Enneagram type. Register at <https://thecenterfcs.org/enneagram/>

Enhancing Balance Enneagram Workshop

Saturday, September 23 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | The Anchor House | \$100

Explore how understanding different Enneagram Triads can bring more inner and outer harmony to your life. Participants should have a basic working knowledge of the Enneagram. Register at <https://thecenterfcs.org/enneagram/>

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.