



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Emptying Fullness: The Beatitudes as Facets of the Divine

8:45 a.m. + August 16

Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all the time. There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed.

Thomas Merton, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.

Thomas Merton, *The Nonviolent Alternative*

Crossing the Threshold

Singing our Desire

"A Discerning Heart"

*I do not ask for wealth or fame,
Endless riches, great acclaim,
I ask for one thing in your Name:
Grant me a discerning heart.*

*Beyond the knowledge I have learned,
All experiences earned,
See Wisdom waits to be affirmed,
Held in a discerning heart.*

*Wisdom calls, Wisdom leads.
Her ways are pleasant, Her paths are peace.
She is the fruit of the tree of life,
Grown in a discerning heart.*

*So let my life be fertile soil,
Spirit plant and I will toil,
To tend a crop that will not spoil,
Stored in a discerning heart.*

Wisdom calls, Wisdom leads...

The Call of Wisdom

Proverbs 3:17-18; 10:8-10; 8:1-4

*Wisdom's ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace - shalom.
She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.*

*The wise of heart will receive commandments....
The one who walks simply, walks confidently...
The one who winks with their eyes deceitfully causes trouble;
but the one who corrects with boldness is a peacemaker.*

*Does not Wisdom call and understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
"To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all who live...."*

Becoming Peace Bearers

Shalom, shalom.

Shalom, shalom.

***We will bring forth peace,
We will bring forth peace.
We will bring forth peace,
We will bring forth peace.***

To the tune of "Erev Shel Shoshanim"

Contemplating the Way of Blessedness

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 5:3-10 (NRSV)

Singing our Blessedness

***Yeshua, O Blessed One, may your peace take root in me.
Yeshua, O Blessed One, may your peace arise in me.***

"Yeshua, O Blessed One"

Facets of the Beatitude

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who birth shalom –
they will be called 'Sons of God.'
Blessed are the ones who bring forth peace through their clear truth-telling –
they will be recognized as divine mediators and offspring of God.*

contemplative translations of Matthew 5:9, Sciretti

*Blessed are the peace-bearers –
 those who have become thresholds between the divine shalom and the broken world:
 they will be called what they are – messengers of God.*

*Blessed are those through whom wholeness enters the world –
 who carry in their bodies the shalom they did not manufacture:
 they will be called sons and daughters of God.*

*Blessed are those who carry Sophia's shalom into the places Her paths have not yet reached,
 who speak with Her own voice – boldly, freely, openly,
 from the high places and the crossroads:
 whose truth-telling creates the conditions for the divine shalom:
 they will be named Her holy children.*

Meditation

Song of Response

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

*I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river,
 I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.
 I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river,
 I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.*

I’ve got wisdom...

I’ve got courage...

Welcoming God-in-Us

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God’s indwelling and loving presence here with you now. Just be and receive. There is nothing you need to “do” but relax and go receptive, to be open to God’s Presence already with and within you. To help you, center your attention in your heart and imagine your breath flowing in and out from your heart area, breathing a little slower and deeper than usual. Paying attention to your breath is a way to pray this beatitude. If it helps you to center, use a heart-focused breath prayer such as: “Filling with peace (inhale), “Flowing with peace” (exhale), or “Your peace in me” (inhale), “Your peace through me” (exhale).

Singing our Blessedness

“Yeshua, O Blessed One”

*Yeshua, O Blessed One, may your peace take root in me.
 Yeshua, O Blessed One, may your peace arise in me.*

Holy Communion

Singing our Blessedness

“Always, All Ways”

*Always, all ways. Always, all ways.
 You declare that I am blessed, always.*

Welcoming New Members

Receiving a Good Word



Our Staff

Haley Brown – Associate Director of The Anchor House

Courtney Garrison – Ministry Assistant

Christian Ibanez – AV Production

Peter Johns – Associate Director of Contemplative Worship

Zachary Montasser – Violinist

Ruby Alberto – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. – Pastor of The Center

Quartet

Allie Waguespack – Soprano, Molly Burke – Alto, Kevin Punnackal – Tenor, Nathan Holmes- Bass

Today's Music

"A Discerning Heart" – Peter Johns, "Erev Shel Shoshanim" – Traditional, "Yeshua, O Blessed One" – Michael Sciretti, Jr.,
"I've Got Peace Like a River" – Traditional, "Always, All Ways" – Peter Johns.

Community Gathering and Potluck

Sunday, August 16 | After Worship | The Anchor House

Join us for a community gathering and potluck in The Anchor House for a time of fellowship, as we celebrate our fall kick off. Bring your favorite summer sweet or savory dish to share.

SoulCollage: Exploring the In-Between

Sunday, August 16 | 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. | The Anchor House | Suggested Donation of \$15

Join us for a gentle SoulCollage® gathering as we explore the space in between the summer and fall seasons—those moments of transition, change, and possibility. Through images, intuition, and reflection, we'll create cards that honor where we've been, who we are, and what might emerge.



The Anchor House Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays | Noon - 4pm

The Anchor House is open in the afternoons for you to come and pray, meditate, walk the Labyrinth or just be still. If you would like to request a specific room for spiritual direction, counseling or for your own time of retreat outside of these hours, please let Haley know and we will make sure a room is available for you.

Poetry Circle

Tuesday, August 18 | The Anchor House | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

For poetry lovers and writers, for the curious and experienced, join Mark Jodon as he leads this time of sharing, of offering feedback, of exploring poetic forms and devices, and trying our hands at writing prompts, all while growing in fellowship and community. For more information, contact Mark at MJodon@littler.com

The Wisdom of Wine Class

Beginning, August 19 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Westminster United Methodist Church | \$300

You're invited to a six-week exploration on the spiritual and emotional invitations wine makes to us with each sip, in every season. Each class will include wine tastings and formal instructions on "how to taste wine" in a way which engages your senses from a contemplative framework. Price includes all materials, wine and lite bites. Only 4 spaces remain.



Where Sound Meets Silence: A Weekly Gathering for Sacred Listening

Thursdays Beginning August 20 | 10:30 a.m. | The Anchor House

Each week, Peter and Zach guide a gentle rhythm of silence, Scripture, and improvised music for violin and piano. Within this quiet, gentle space, we reflect on the passage appointed for Sunday's worship, trusting the Spirit to speak anew through word and sound alike.



Prophets and Peacemakers: Making Peace in an Age of Rage

Select Saturdays Beginning August 22 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | The Anchor House | \$40

*In this class led by Dylan Cumberland we will use Richard Rohr's book *The Tears of Things* as our guide, along with insights from Henri Nouwen's *Peacemaking*. This class will tap into the wisdom of prophets to explore what it means to live faithfully and joyfully in a world full of death and destruction and how to be a peacemaker amidst it all. This class is for those who have felt hopeless from the weight of the world or those who are weary from the constant outrage. Each class will have teachings from Henri Nouwen and a discussion on specific chapters from *The Tears of Things*. Participants need to register and then obtain their own copies of the books.*



Save the Dates

September 20 – Holy Longings

September 22 – Autumn Equinox on the Labyrinth

October 4 – Blessing of the Animals

October 24 – Recovering the Prayer of the Heart