



The CENTER
for Christian Spirituality

Viriditas: *The Greening Power of God*

A Season of Creation at The Center

8:45 a.m. + August 30

O most noble *viriditas*, with your roots in the sun,
You shine in radiant serenity of a sphere no earthly eminence can comprehend,
enfolded in the clasp of ministries divine!

Hildegard of Bingen, d. September 17, 1179

Benedictine abbess, visionary mystic, composer and Doctor of the Church

Viriditas was Hildegard's term for the greening power of God, sustaining life each moment, bringing newness to birth.
It is a marvelous image of the divine power continuously at work in the world, juicy and fecund.

Christine Valters Paintner

Crossing the Threshold

Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 92, Nan Merrill

*It is good to give thanks to You, O Beloved,
to sing praises to your Holy Name,
To affirm your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness through the night,
accompanied by the music of the spheres, the melody of the universe!
For You, Heart of my heart, gladden my soul,
as I proclaim with joy the harmony and beauty of creation.*

Surrounded by Beauty

"With Beauty I Walk"

*With beauty behind me I walk,
With beauty before me I walk.
Today as I travel, I journey in goodness.
Seeking out beauty I walk.
With beauty below me I walk.
With beauty above me I walk.
Today as I wander the way of contentment,
With clam assurance I walk,
That all may be beauty I walk.*

Sitting with a Psalm

Contemplative Adaptation of Psalm 92, Nan Merrill

*How wondrous is your Divine Plan, O Beloved,
Your design, brought forth by Love!
The ignorant cannot perceive,
those who still sleep cannot understand:*

*Though darkness covers much of the land
and violence seems to flourish,
Love gives birth to dazzling Light,
and, like a laser, it shines through to all that is hidden.
Yet, lo, all those who separate themselves from Love,
will be undone by fear.*

*You delight in my spirit and elevate my soul;
You bathe me in the oil of kindness.
My eyes behold the radiance of creation's glory,
my ears echo with Love's refrain.
Those who live with integrity are like a garden in full bloom,
whose blossoms beautify the earth.
They are planted in the dwelling place of Love,
their produce nourishes all those who pass by.
All through their lives they reap bountiful harvests,
overflowing as a cornucopia of the finest of fruits,
Magnifying the Blessed Gardener,
living as sons and daughters of the Most High.*

Returning to the Source

"Grounded in You"

*Every mountain points the way to you.
Every clump of earth,
Recalls how we were made.
Every rock sings out,
Songs of faithfulness,
And reminds us all that is true:
We are grounded in you.*

Emerging from Home

Genesis 1 and 2 selected verses

Day 1: When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness

Day 4: God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth."

Day 2: And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky.

Day 5: And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

Day 3: And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.

Day 6: And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.... And the LORD God formed the Human (Adam) of the dust of the ground (adamah) and breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life. And the Human became a living soul.

Reconnecting to Source

"Creation Song"

Set free the Life within.

Trusting my senses as gateways to You.

One with creation and fully alive,

Set free the Life within.

Meditation

Chant with Sung Response

"O Viriditas"

O viriditas,

O viriditas,

Greening power of God.

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: "The ground that holds me (inhale), "is the ground I am" (exhale).

Holy Communion

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

Today's Music

"With Beauty I Walk" – Peter Johns, *"Grounded in You"* – Peter Johns,
"Creation Song" – Peter Johns, *"O Viriditas"* – Hildegard of Bingen & Peter Johns

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.

Where Sound Meets Silence: A Weekly Gathering for Sacred Listening

Thursday September 3 | 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.



Creative Space

Saturday, September 5 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Creative Space is a nurturing, encouraging gathering of people who come together to create art and spend time in personal reflection. You will get an opportunity to explore spirituality through creative expression, as well as to be creative in a setting that is intentionally designed to enhance the spiritual. Materials are provided and everyone is welcome. No reservation is required.

September Guided Silent Retreat: The Little Way with Thérèse of Lisieux

Saturday, September 12 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | \$35

This guided silent retreat led by Rachel Sciretti, invites participants into the tender and revolutionary spirituality of Thérèse of Lisieux, the young Carmelite mystic who discovered that holiness is not earned through great deeds but received like a child lifted into the arms of Love. Through extended silence, gentle guidance, and contemplative prayer, participants are invited into Thérèse's Little Way—a path marked by simplicity, trust, and the radical confidence that God meets us in our smallness rather than our strength. Rather than striving or self-improving, this retreat offers space to let go, to receive, and to discover the hidden fruitfulness that blooms when we stop climbing and allow ourselves to be carried. The cost of the retreat is \$35 and includes the price of lunch. We don't want anyone to miss out because of pricing. Contact Haley for information on scholarships at hbrown@chapelwood.org.



Creation Care at The Center

Hildegard of Bingen called it viriditas — the greening power she believed moved through every living thing as proof that God was still, actively, at work in creation. Much of what we carry as disconnection — from ourselves, from each other — may be, underneath, a forgetting of the ground we're made from and the life still moving through it. This Fall, we're spending five Sundays learning to see that truth again: moving through Scripture's ancient meditations on garden and wilderness, rupture and covenant, as part of the wider Christian world's Season of Creation. September 6 carries special weight — churches everywhere will mark, for the first time, a newly established Feast of Creation in Christ, and we'll celebrate it together. Consider this an invitation to slow down, look again, and let a season of seeing prepare us for a season of tending — with real groundbreaking at The Anchor House this November. As we walk through this series we invite you to visit this page on our website full of information and resources we've collected for you to help make caring for creation apart of your daily life.



Holding One Another in the Light

As our commitment to one another deepens, we want to be able to pray for one another — bearing burdens and joining in celebrations. Here is how to participate:

1. Make a request for prayer or thanksgiving using the QR link or go to thecenterfcs.org
2. Opt in to receive the weekly prayer list by emailing Rachel at rscoretti@chapelwood.org.



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