



Viriditas: The Greening Power of God

Feast of Creation in Christ

8:45 a.m. + September 6

Divine Love speaks: "I am the supreme and fiery force, who sets all living sparks alight and breathes forth no mortal things, but judges them as they are. Flying around the circling circlet with my upper wings — with Wisdom — I have ordered all things rightly. But I am also the fiery life of the essence of divinity; I flame above the beauty of the fields, and I shine in the waters, and I burn in the sun, the moon, and the stars. With the airy wind I quicken all things with some invisible life that sustains them all. For the air lives in viridity and in the flowers, the waters flow as if alive, and the sun lives within its own light. Therefore I, the fiery force, lie hidden in these things, and they burn because of me, just as breath continually moves a human being and a flickering flame exists within the fire. All of these things live in their essences and were not found in death, because I am Life. I am also Rationality, possessing the wind of the resounding Word, through which every created thing was made; and in all these things I blow, so that none of them might be mortal in its nature, because I am Life. For I am Life, pure and whole, which was not hewn from stones, neither blossomed from branches ... but every living thing has taken root in me. For Reason is the root, and the resounding Word flourishes within it."

Hildegard of Bingen,
Book of Divine Works

Crossing the Threshold

Divine Love Before Time

"I Am Here"

*Before creation's dawn, there was darkness filled with Love.
Love that called forth all existence into Life.
Love that spoke unto the dark, till the darkness blazed with Light.
Love that filled all of creation with a Song.*

*I am here like a treasure hidden deep within this world,
Every river, every mountain points the way.
I am here in creation. In the darkness, in the light.
Come and find me, come and know me, come and love.*

Praying a Psalm (with sung response)

contemplative adaptation of Psalm 148, Nan Merrill

*Praise the Blessed One!
Give praise from the heavens, and from all ends of the earth!
Give praise, all you angels, angels of earth and of heaven!
Give praise, sun and moon!
Give praise, all you shining stars!
Give praise, all universes, the whole cosmos of Creation!*

***O viriditas, O viriditas,
Greening Power of God.***

*Praise the Blessed One!
For through Love all was created and firmly fixed forever and ever.
Yes, the pattern of creation was established.
Give praise to the Beloved, all the earth, all that swim in the deep,
and all the winged ones in the air!
Give praise, all mountains and hills, all trees and all minerals!
Give praise, all four-legged and all that creep on the ground!*

***O viriditas, O viriditas,
Greening Power of God.***

*Leaders of the nations and all peoples, young and old, give praise!
Unite together in all your diversity, that peace and harmony might flourish on earth!
For all are called to be friends, companions to the true Friend,
Giving their lives joyfully as co-creators and people of peace!
Praises be to the Blessed One,
the very Breath of our breath,
the very Heart of our heart.*

***O viriditas, O viriditas,
Greening Power of God.***

Contemplating Scripture

Acts 17:24-28

The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he gives to all life and breath and all things. He made from one blood all nations of people to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined the allotted seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling places, to seek the Divine One – and perhaps feel for Him and find Him, thought he is actually not far from each one of us. For, “In Him we live and move and have our being,” as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed His offspring.”

Song of Response

“When I Awake, I Am”

***When I awake
I am
still with You.***

***When I awake
I am still
with You.***

***In You I live.
In You I move.
In You I find my being.***

The Beginning of All Things

John 1:1-5

*In the beginning was the Logos,
and the Logos was with the God,
and the Logos was God.*

*This One was in the beginning with the God.
All things came into being through Him,
and without Him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in Him was Life,
and the Life was the Light of all people.*

Meditation

Affirming God's Closeness

"Heaven Touches Earth"

*Heaven touches earth, every single moment;
In the setting sun, the whispers on the wind.
The gentle fall of rain, the fragrance when it's over.
We will taste and we will see, and know that God is good.*

*May we sense your presence, O God.
May we sense your presence, O God.
Make our senses gateways to all that you are.
May we sense your presence, O 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: "You are the Firey Life (inhale), "greening, now, in me" (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

Anastasia Sciretti – Cellist

Today's Music

"I Am Here" – Peter Johns, **"O Viriditas"** – Hildegard of Bingen & Peter Johns,

"When I Awake, I Am" – Logan Jones **"Heaven Touches Earth"** – Peter Johns

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.



Laity UNLEASHED: Explore Your God-Given Gifts & How to Use Them

Six Sunday Evenings | October 18 - November 22 | 5:30-7:30 pm | \$80

Register & Complete the Birkman Assessment by September 23

God created all of us on purpose for a purpose. There are gifts, strengths, and things each of us are passionate about that all come from God. We often hear call stories from clergy on when they first heard God call them into ministry. What we don't hear as often are the call stories from the laity of the church. But the reality is, God calls each of us and it is our responsibility to discern and respond to that call. In this course led by Ginny Itz and Debbie Moffett, we will use the Birkman Method as a tool to discover more about ourselves, our strengths, our interests, how we see God in the world and where all of that might intersect with the needs of the world around us. Each week we will explore what it looks like to discern how God is calling each of us in this current season of life and develop a strategic plan for how we can take next steps.



Holy Longings: Celebrating 25 Years of The Center

Sunday, September 20 | 6:00 p.m. | The Chapel

Something in you is searching. You may not have words for it yet — only the feeling. A pull toward stillness in a world that never stops moving. A hunger for something real beneath the noise. A sense that there must be more to faith, to life, to yourself, than what you've known so far. Those aren't problems to fix. They are longings — and they are holy. This September, we invite you — whatever your background, wherever you are — to an evening of celebration. Holy Longings is a contemplative worship experience and concert featuring original songs from The Center, spoken word, and video testimonials from a community that has been shaped by this practice for a quarter century. We could try to describe what happens here. But the people who love it most will tell you the same thing: there are no words that quite explain it. Your longing already knows the way. Come and see. Reception to follow the service. R.S.V.P. your attendance using the QR code.



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.



Save the Dates

September 22 – Autumn Equinox on the Labyrinth

October 4 – Blessing of the Animals

October 24 – Recovering the Prayer of the Heart