



The Center
for Christian Spirituality

Viriditas: *The Greening Power of God*

A Season of Creation at The Center

8:45 a.m. + September 13

*The Earth is at the same time mother,
She is the mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human
She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all.
The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power.
Hildegard of Bingen, Know the Ways*

Call to Praise

"All Creatures of Our God and King" (St. Francis of Assisi)

*All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!*

*O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain,
by which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!*

*Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O brother fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight,
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Crossing the Threshold

Opening to God's Living Presence

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

"O Viriditas"

*O Fire of the Spirit. Life of the life of all creation.
From You clouds overflow, winds take wing.
Waters well forth in streams, earth swells with living green.
Most noble greenness, rooted in the sun.
You shine in the clear sky.
"I am the Fiery Life of Divine Substance."*

Listening to the Prophet

Hosea 4:1-3

*Listen to the Word of the Living Presence,
O children of Israel!
For the Living One has a controversy with you,
the inhabitants of the earth.
Because there is no faithfulness or kindness
or knowledge of the Divine in the earth.
Instead, there is swearing, deception,
murder, stealing, and adultery.
They break all bounds,
so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.
Therefore, the earth mourns,
and all who live in her languish,
along with the beasts of the field
and the birds of the heavens,
and also the fish of the sea disappear.*

Meditation

Song of Response

"Hear the Song of Our Lament"

***Hear the song of our lament,
we grieve a dry and broken land;
hearts have turned from your intent
and earth is ravaged by our hand.

Oceans weep for beauty lost,
and forests plead for your return,
fields are drenched in tears and blood;
all nature groans beneath sin's curse.

Have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy on us, Lord.
Renew us, restore us,
have mercy on us, Lord.

Peoples rage and nations rise
to war and waste for senseless gain,
turning from creation's cries
and trading glory in for shame.

Have mercy...***

Psalm of Lament and Confession

*contemplative adaptation of **Psalm 79** (Nan Merrill)*

*How long, O Indwelling Presence?
Will your patience last forever?
When will you awaken our long dormant spirits?
Pour out your Love on every nation,
open the hearts of all people;
We await a new birth of consciousness,
we call upon your Name!
For the ignorant and unloving are laying waste to the planet.*

*Forgive us for the misuse and abuse of your Creation;
humble us with your steadfast Love,
before the world becomes a barren waste.
Help us, O Compassionate One, to renew the face of the earth;
deliver us, and forgive our sins, that we might know the joy of Co-creation!*

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Response

"Erev Shel Shoshanim"

***Shalom. Shalom.
Shalom. Shalom.***

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: "Held in the earth (inhale), "held in Your heart" (exhale).

Holy Communion

***Have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy on us, Lord.
Renew us, restore us,
have mercy on us, Lord.***

***Lead us in your Eden call
to live as those who bear your name;
show us how to love your world
until the day you come again.***

Have mercy...

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

"All Creatures of our God and King" – Francis of Assisi & Ralph Vaughan Williams,
"O Viriditas" – Hildegard of Bingen & Peter Johns, ***"Hear the Song of Our Lament"*** – Keiko Ying,
"Erev Shel Shoshanim" – Traditional

Celebrating Ruby Alberto's Baby!

September 27, Foyer following the Service

We are so excited to celebrate a new life coming into the world! Ruby Alberto, one of our Sunday morning audio/visual technicians, and her husband Luis are expecting their third child, a girl, in October. Following the service on Sept. 27, we will have a reception in the chapel foyer. Monetary gifts or gift cards are most helpful along with your words of blessing.

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.



Honoring the Autumn Equinox

Tuesday, September 22 | 6:00-7:30 pm | The Anchor House

We are looking forward to welcoming you and anyone you might want to bring with you for this event to honor and celebrate the Autumn Equinox. This year we will be gathering on the hour (6 pm) to open the labyrinth with some readings to center ourselves. This is a come-and-go event. The gathering time is optional. You are welcome to come and go during this time for sharing food and fellowship, walking the labyrinth and/or creating with SoulCollage® and types of creative materials. Cindy Serio and Ginny Itz will be on hand to guide you! There is no fee associated with this event, but registration is recommended.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, September 29 | 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

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

October 4 – Blessing of the Animals

October 24 – Recovering the Prayer of the Heart