



Viriditas:

The Greening Power of God

A Season of Creation at The Center

8:45 a.m. + September 20

The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ, the measure of the maturity of all things. Here we can add yet another argument for rejecting every tyrannical and irresponsible domination of human beings over other creatures. The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator.

Laudate Si, Pope Francis

Crossing the Threshold

Praising the Creator

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.*

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light.*

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For yourself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given,
agent of God's grand design:
peace on earth and joy in heaven.*

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

Contemplating a Poem

"World's End" by Malcolm Guite

*So we begin to contemplate the end,
With shadowed glimpses of apocalypse.
How can we even start to understand?
The heavens shaken, and the vast eclipse
Of everything that we have ever known,
Then, suddenly revealed, the power and glory
Once veiled in symbols of the lamb and throne,
The all-revealing climax of our story.*

*About that day, you tell us, no one knows,
But we must wake and watch for you, look up.
Yet hidden in this warning you disclose
A tender yearning, a deep stirring hope,
And bid us, in the visions that you bring,
To see the world's end as a sign of spring.*

Song of Response

"My Soul Proclaims the Goodness of God"

*My soul proclaims the Goodness of God,
My heart overflows with God's love for the world.
My life gives voice to the Vision of God,
That all things are reconciled.*

Contemplating Scripture

Romans 8:18–28

I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to the glory about to be unveiled in us.

For the eager expectation of the creation is awaiting the unveiling of the children of God. For the creation was subjected to futility – not willingly, but because of the One having subjected it – in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from the slavery of decay into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering birth pains together until now.

And not only creation, but also ourselves who have the firstfruit of the Spirit – we ourselves also are groaning within ourselves while eagerly awaiting adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in hope. But hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But since we hope for what we do not see, we are eagerly awaiting it with patient endurance.

Similarly, the Spirit also helps our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. And the One who searches hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in God. And we know that all things are working together in Goodness, for the ones loving God, the ones being called according to Divine purpose.

Meditation

Song of Becoming

*The Kingdom of God is within you.
The Spirit of Life is within you.
The Firstborn of God is within you,
Striving to emerge from your heart,
Emerging from the womb of your heart.*

"The Kingdom of God is Within You"

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. If it helps you to center, use a heart-focused breath prayer such as: "Spirit of Goodness (inhale), "Fullness of Christ" (exhale).

Holy Communion

*My soul proclaims the Goodness of God,
My heart overflows with God's love for the world.
My life gives voice to the Vision of God,
That all things are reconciled.*

"My Soul Proclaims the Goodness of God"

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

Everett Dagher – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

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

Today's Music

"For the Beauty of the Earth" – Folliot S. Pierpoint & Conrad Kocher,

"My Soul Proclaims the Goodness of God" – Peter Johns, *"The Kingdom of God is Within You"* – Michael Sciretti, Jr.

Holy Longings: Celebrating 25 Years of The Center

Today, 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.*



The Anchor House Hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays | 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.

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.



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.



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.

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