

TAIZÉ PRAYER



Catherine of Sienna



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 • 7:00 pm

116 South Highland Avenue ♦ Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.441.3800 ♦ www.ELPC.church

Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

Welcome and Opening Centering/Candle Lighting by Rev. BJ Woodworth

At any time during Taizé you are welcome to move, pray in your body, come forward, light a candle or simply sit before an icon at the steps.

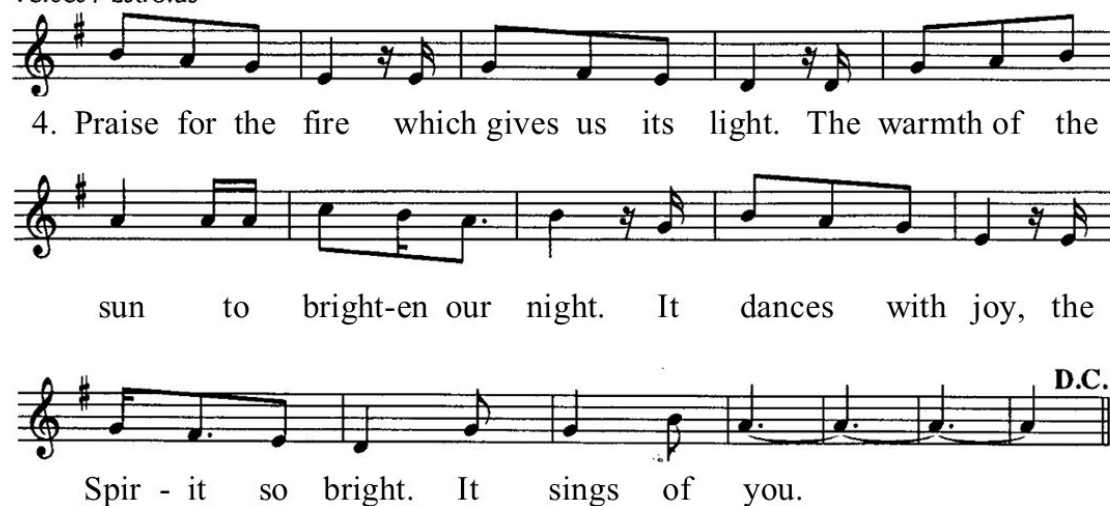
* Cantic of the Sun (verse 4 only)

Refrain / Estribillo



The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,
Los cie - los pro - cla - man la glo - ria de Dios,
and all cre - a - tion is shout-ing for joy. Come,
y sus cria - tu - ras le rin - den ho - nor. Ven
dance in the for - est, come, play in the field, and
bai - la en el bos - que, ven al - za tu voz; y
sing, sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.
can - ta, can - ta a la glo - ria del Se - ñor.

Verses / Estrofas



4. Praise for the fire which gives us its light. The warmth of the
sun to bright-en our night. It dances with joy, the
Spir - it so bright. It sings of you. D.C.

Text: Altissimu, onnipotente bon Signore; St. Francis of Assisi, 1181–1226; adapt. by Marty Haugen, b.1950; tr. by Georgina Pando-Connolly, b.1946
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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NB15 Lord, Jesus Christ

Je — sus your light is shi — ning with - in us. Let not my
Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, ne lais - se

doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me. Je — sus your light is
pas mes té - nè - bres me par - ler. Jé - sus le Christ, lu -

shi — ning with - in us. Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.
mière in - té - rieu - re, don - ne moi d'ac - cueil - lir ton a - mour.

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Psalm 18 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 17



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O Compassionate One,
You reached from on high,
You took me,
You drew me out of many waters.
You delivered me from fears that bound me,
And from ignorance that blinded me;
For they threatened to overcome me,
To separate me from you.

ALLELUIA

They came up on me
When I looked not to you;
Yet you, O merciful one, were ever present.
You brought me forth into Light;
You released my fears,
You delighted in me.

ALLELUIA

O Holy One,
You see the intentions of my heart;
As I surrender to your love,
I grow in peace and gratitude.
For to lose my life is to find Life;
O keep me steadfast in my love for you,
Life of my life!

ALLELUIA

The spirit of the Word is ever before me,
The Counselor ever-present to guide me.
I pray for a clean heart, O Beloved,
To free from my guilt.
May I walk with you justly,
With mercy, and in peace,
A mirror of your Love in the world.
Those who love truth will see your Light
Those who walk in justice will see your mercy;

ALLELUIA

Those who live with integrity
Will see you in all they meet;
But those whose path is crooked,
Who walk on the low road,
Will live in the shadow of fear.
The humble are always close to you,
The haughty, too distracted to see,
Will one day fall.

ALLELUIA

Yes, you are the Light of my life:
You shine through my darkness.
Yes, with you I can do all things;
And my spirit soars like an eagle.
Your ways lead to wholeness,
O loving presence; your word in me is life;
How tenderly you live in my heart!

ALLELUIA

The Word/Meditation: Isaiah 48:10; Proverbs 17:3

See, I have refined you, but not like silver; I have tested you in the furnace of adversity.
The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

Prayer from Catherine of Sienna (*March 25, 1347 – April 29, 1380*)

You, God, are a fire that always burns without consuming. You are fire consuming and in its heat every compartment of the souls self-absorbed love. You are a fire lifting all chill and giving all light. In your light you show me your truth. You're the light that outshines every light. You, God, give the mind's eye your divine light so completely and excellently, you bring lucidity even to the light of faith. In that faith, I see my soul has life, and in that light, I receive you who are light itself.

NB31 With You, O Lord

With you, O Lord, is life in all its full - ness, and

in your light we shall see true light. With you, O Lord, is

life in all its full-ness, and in your light we shall see true light.

Prayers of Intercession: Lighting of Candles

As you feel led to pray this evening,
you are invited to come and light a candle as your prayer of intercession.

Sung Response: * I Lift My Hands (Psalm 141)

I lift my hands, I lift my hands like an eve-ning of - fer-ing;
as day - light fades, I give my - self to you.

Steven C. Warner
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NB18 Our Darkness

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la
deep - est night is clear as the day light. Our
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè re. La té -

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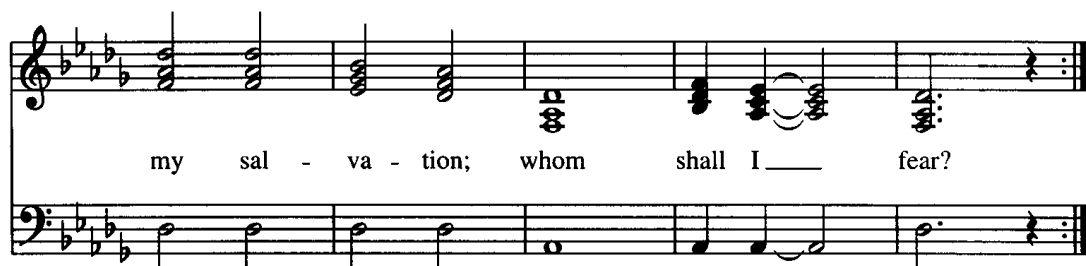
* The Lord Is My Light (by Bouknight)



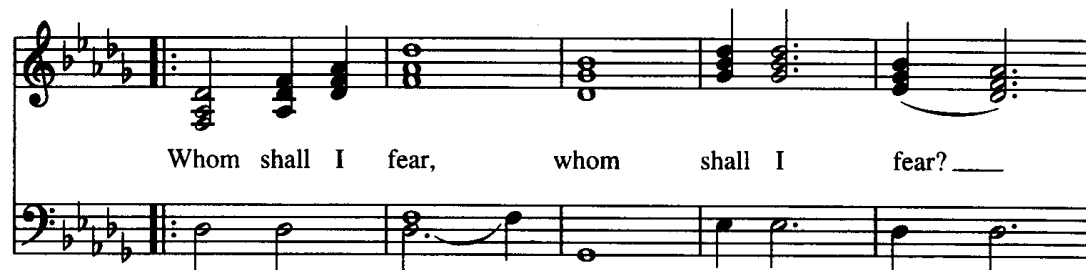
The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my



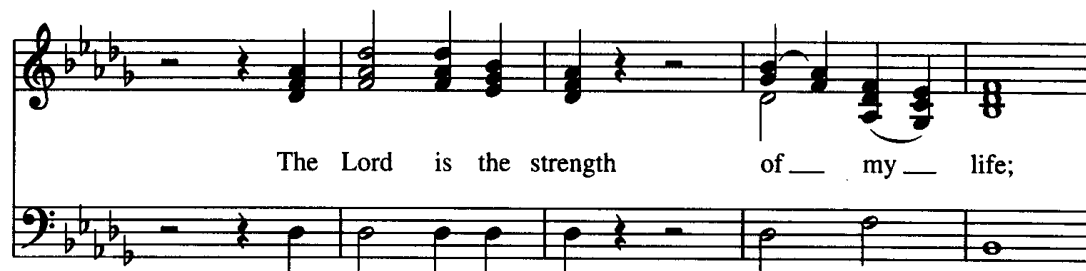
light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my light and



my sal - va - tion; whom shall I — fear?



Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear? —



The Lord is the strength of — my — life;

Words: Lillian Bouknight

Music: Lillian Bouknight; arr. Paul Gainer

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Hymn continues on the next page.



whom shall I fear? In the time of trou - ble,

He shall hide me, O in the time of trou - ble,

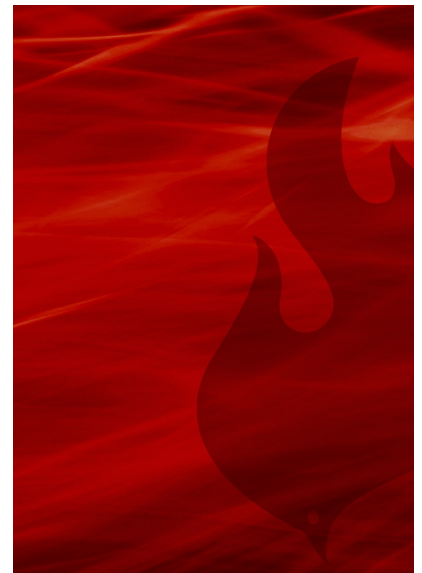
He shall hide me, in the time of trou - ble,

He shall hide me; whom shall I fear?

Blessing of Fire by Rev. BJ Woodworth

Blessing of fire be up on you.
 May the light of God Luminare you.
 And may the flame of love burn brightly in you.
 May you discover each day anew;
 Your own hidden fire and enter it fully.
AMEN!

— Christine Valters Painter, *Water, Wind, Earth and Fire*, pg. 73-74



✧ SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS ✧

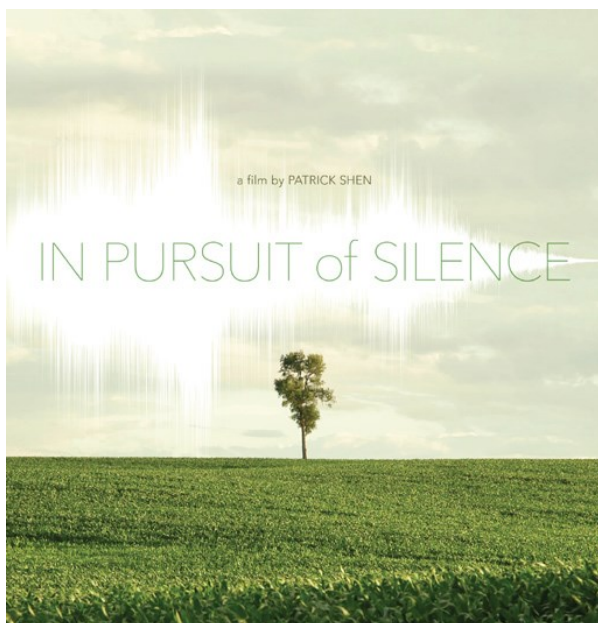
In Pursuit of Silence | Film Viewing and Conversation

Saturday, Aug 14 from 7–9 pm

In Pursuit of Silence is a documentary that meditatively explores our relationship with silence, sound, and the impact of noise on our lives. Beginning with an ode to John Cage's groundbreaking composition, 4'33", the film takes us on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe—from a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto, to the streets of Mumbai during the wild festival season—and inspires us to experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world.

This event will be held in-person at ELPC in the McKelvy Room.

Please RSVP to Norma by Aug 13 (412.441.3800 x111).



Center for Action and Contemplations CONSPIRE Conference

Friday, Sept 24 from 10 am–6 pm

Saturday, Sept 25 from 10 am–6 pm

Sunday, Sept 26 from 12:30 pm–6 pm

A VIRTUAL SIMULCAST EVENT AT ELPC

Me / Us / the World

Living Inside God's Great Story

Over the weekend of September 24–26, the Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join us in person at ELPC, for a virtual simulcast of the Center for Action and Contemplation's CONSPIRE Conference, *Me/Us/the World: Living Inside God's Great Story*.

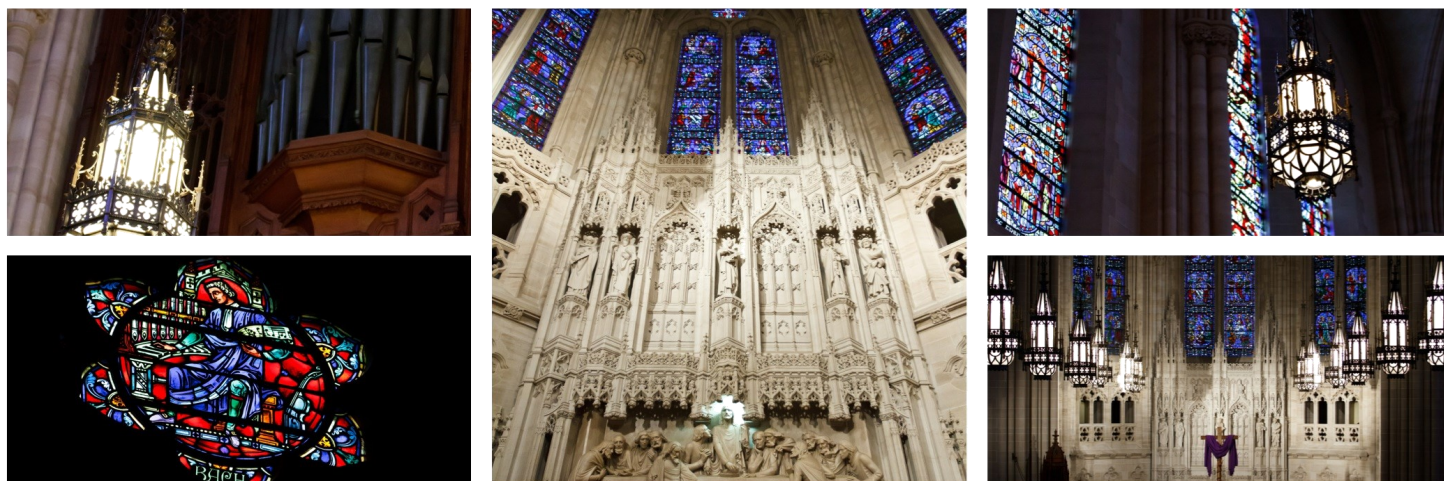
In this time of great unknowing, how do we expand our sense of self to include love, healing, and forgiveness—not just for ourselves and those like us, but for the entire world? Join spiritual seekers across the world for an interactive, global gathering to experience God's love, grace, and compassion. Presenters include James Finley, Barbara Holmes, Jacqui Lewis, Brian McLaren, Richard Rohr, and Mirabai Starr.

- Participate in contemplative sits led by Fr. Richard Rohr each morning.
- Connect with other participants around the globe and at ELPC.
- Deepen your experience with presentations, workshops, and book talks.

Learn about opportunities to nourish your path of transformation and live into new ways of thinking and being.

Please join us in-person for free at ELPC! Pastor BJ will stream the conference in the McKelvy Room. You are welcome to join us for any or all of the conference. Please indicate the day(s) you will attend. Lunch will be provided each day.

Please fill out the registration by Sunday, September 19 at www.ELPC.church. Learn more at cac.org/conspire-2021.



*Please visit our website for more
information about the ministries of
East Liberty Presbyterian Church.*

WWW. **ELPC**.CHURCH

INFORMATION ABOUT TAIZÉ

ABOUT TAIZÉ: Taizé is an international ecumenical prayer community in Taizé, France which was founded in 1940 by a young seminary student, Roger Schultz, as a place of hospitality and reconciliation during World War II. Today, thousands of young people come each week to Taizé to pray with the brothers and discern God's purpose for their lives. Taizé Prayer Pilgrimages and Intercontinental Meetings around the globe bring together thousands more in an effort to become the prayerful, reconciled presence of Christ wherever they live.

Taizé prayers at East Liberty Presbyterian Church were begun in the Spring of 1992 in preparation for an intercontinental meeting in Dayton. The experience proved to be so meaningful that we have continued to pray every Wednesday evening since then, inviting people of all backgrounds to join with us.

Taizé is located in eastern France, southeast of Paris, north of Lyons, due west of Geneva, Switzerland, between the towns of Chalon-sur-Saône and Macon. Here are the ways to get Taizé information:

Address:	Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France
To contact Taizé:	community@taize.fr
To visit Taizé:	meetings@taize.fr
List of useful info:	info@taize.fr
Web site:	www.taize.fr
Telephone:	011-33 385 50 30 02 Fax: 011-33 385 50 30 16

YOU ARE WELCOME AT EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Our congregation seeks to promote peace, justice and human dignity; to reflect a spirit of openness, sharing and learning in our ministry and mission; to build a richly diverse faith community that witnesses to our oneness in Christ across all boundaries of race, social class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity. *(From our Strategic Plan.)*

ELPC Web site:	www.ELPC.church
E-mail:	BJW@coh.net

You are welcome at any of our programs and worship services. It is possible to have more than one church home. Perhaps you would be interested in becoming a member or friend of this Church. If so, please speak to The Rev. BJ Woodworth, Minister of Taizé Prayer (BJW@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x141).

Brother Roger

founder of Taizé

ON PRAYER

From the depths of the human condition, a secret aspiration rises up. Caught up in the anonymous rhythms of schedules and timetables, men and women of today are implicitly thirsting for the one essential reality: an inner life, signs of the invisible.

Nothing is more conducive to a communion with the living God than a meditative common prayer with, as its high point, singing that never ends and that continues in the silence of one's heart when one is alone again.

In a technological society, there is a clear separation between prayer and work. When inner life and human solidarity appear to be in competition with one another, as if people had to choose between them, that opposition tears apart the very depths of the soul.

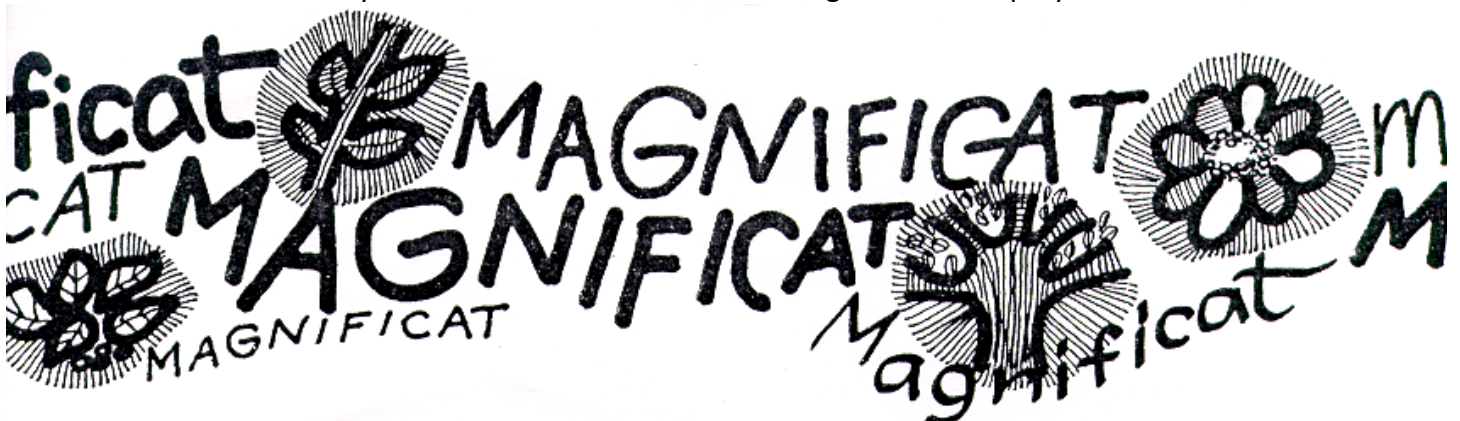
Prayer is a serene force at work within human beings, stirring them up, transforming them, never allowing them to close their eyes in the face of evil, of wars, of all that threatens the weak of this world. From it we draw the energy to wage other struggles—to enable our loved ones to survive, to transform the human condition, to make the earth a place fit to live in.

ON SINGING

Singing is one of the most important forms of prayer. A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of the prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect, and that gradually penetrates the heart and the whole being. These simple chants also provide a way of praying when one is alone, during the day or at night, or even in the silence of one's heart while one is working.

ON SILENCE

When we try to express communion with God in words, we rapidly reach the end of our capacities. But in the depths of our being Christ is praying, far more than we imagine. Compared to the immensity of that hidden prayer of Christ in us, our explicit praying dwindles to almost nothing. That is why silence is so essential in discovering the heart of prayer.





**Christ Jesus, in your Gospel we find
a hope for all human beings.**

**The Kingdom, the Life of God in
fullness, is already present among
us and within us.**

**Even if we sense hardly anything of
your presence, we place our trust in
you. And your love and your joy can
blossom in our lives.**

(Brother Alois of Taizé)