

EPIPHANY

TAIZÉ PRAYER

January 5, 2022 • 7:00 pm



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

412.441.3800

www.ELPC.church



Shine Like Stars!

During the Season of Epiphany, we celebrate the appearance of Jesus the Christ in the midst of humanity; we rejoice in the dawning of the Light of Christ in darkness. Like the magi we too look for “stars” that will lead us to the Christ, as we are attentive to the light of God showing forth and manifesting itself in ourselves, others and all the world.

We are inviting you to help us create a piece of art, a star-lit sky, to share the Taizé Community with the larger ELPC church community.

In this season of Epiphany (Jan 5-Feb 23) we are inviting you to decorate stars with your scribblings, doodles, and prayers. There are star mandalas you can do in the bulletin, and stars at the craft table in the front of the Chapel. Leave your stars in the basket at the altar.

Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

Welcome and Opening Centering by Rev. BJ Woodworth

This worship space is created to enhance your prayer. Please feel free, at any time, to come to the front to sit on the rug and be closer to the light, to pray with one of the icons, to light a candle with your prayer, to move with the music, or to sing in whatever language is comfortable to you. We hope that you will become aware of the presence of the living God as you pray in this place and that you might take that awareness out with you into the world.

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.

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NB27 Veni Lumen

O Ve - ni Cre - a - tor Spi - ri - tus.
Come Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er.

O Ve - ni lu - men cor - di - um,
Come Cre - a - tor Spir - it! Come!

ve - ni lu - men cor - di - um.
Come and lead us with your light!

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Psalm 72 (selected verses; from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 1

Soprano ad lib.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor

Al - le - lu - ia.

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Bring justice to the peoples, O Beloved,
And your mercy to all generations!
May the people be known for mercy,
Rendering justice to the poor!
Let their spirits soar as the eagle,
Let joy abide in every heart!
May we heed the cry of the poor —
The young and the old,
Helping to free all those in need,
Awakening the souls of oppressors!

ALLELUIA

May we know oneness with you
As long as the sun endures,
As long as the stars shine,
Throughout all generations!
May we acknowledge you
In the rain falling on the fields,
Like showers that water the earth!
In our day may justice flourish,
And peace abound, throughout all the nations!

ALLELUIA

May every heart open
To your love from sea to sea,
From the River of Life out to the universe!
May fears that paralyze the people
Rise up from the depths into your Light!

ALLELUIA

Long may you live in our hearts,
May praises be sung to you!
May our prayers rise up before you
And blessings of love be freely rendered!
May we be ever grateful
For the grain of the fields,
For the fruits of the vine to be shared with all;
And may the people blossom forth in the cities,
Diverse like flowers in the meadow!
May your Name live on forever,
Your Love endure as long as the sun!

ALLELUIA

May the people bless themselves in knowing you,
And all nations call you blessed!
Blessed be the Beloved,
The One who dwells in open hearts,
Who guides us along the way.
Blessed be you, who comes in the Name of Love;
May your glory fill the earth!
Amen and Amen!

ALLELUIA

The Word/Meditation: Matthew 2 (selected verses)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, astrologers from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." ...They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Words from Pope Francis

The hearts of the Magi "were open to the horizon, and they could see what the heavens were showing them, for they were guided by an inner restlessness. They were open to something new. The Magi personify all those who believe, those who long for God, who yearn for their home, their heavenly homeland. That longing keeps hope alive in the community of believers, which from week to week continues to plead: 'Come, Lord Jesus'."

* Jesus, The Light of the World



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.
2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.
3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.
4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,
Join the tri - umph of the skies.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



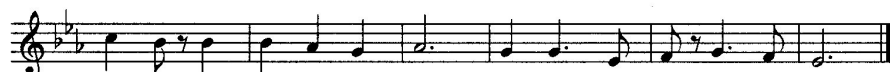
Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the



light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the



dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -



round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

Prayers of Intercession ("O Star Flinging God" written by Glenn Mitchell)

In the season of Epiphany, you may also write your prayers for light and guidance on a star and bring it forward and place it in the basket.

Sung Response: G91 Lead Me, Lord



O Star-flinging God,
whose light dances across eternity,
dazzle us into your presence
this new year.

Open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

LEAD ME, LORD

Awaken us to your presence, knit to the ordinary.
Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present.
Heal us, that we might be healers.

LEAD ME, LORD

Reconcile us to you and to ourselves,
that our living might be reconciling.

LEAD ME, LORD

Stop us often, we pray
with news that is good,
with hope that holds,
with truth that transforms with a Word,
tailored to this trail we're on.

LEAD ME, LORD

May the word of your grace guide our steps
like the sun by day
and the north star by night,
as we travel into the gift of a new year.

LEAD ME, LORD



Silent and Spoken Prayers

Please feel free to add your spoken petitions.

A note about praying for others out loud: Some people are comfortable with having their prayer concerns lifted up in public worship. Others are not. Before you share aloud any prayer concerns, please be sure that you are not breaking confidentialities.

Whether or not you say the person's name out loud, God hears and receives the intentions of your heart.

NB53 The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name; thy king - dom come;

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread;

for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us;

lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the King - dom,

and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Prayer over the Anointing Oil *(in unison)*

We have an anointing station this evening for those seeking individual prayer to share joys or concerns. Any desiring prayer, and/or anointing with oil, are invited to come forward, waiting in the center aisle if the station is full. To assist in hearing prayer concerns, anointing happens to the left in the columbarium.

Bless this oil, O Lord, pressed from the fruit of the earth. Let it be a holy ointment for the wounds and worries of those who receive it. May it be a sign to all of us of your constant desire to touch our lives and bring us to health and wholeness. Amen.



36 The Lord Is My Light

Calmly (♩ = 66)

(A1) Dm G (A2) (B1) (B2) fine

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

Theme II

(A1) (A2) (B1) (B2) fine

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

Each of the two themes can be sung *separately*, either in unison or as a round (two voices only: coming in on A1 and B1). The two themes can also be sung *together*, preferably with theme I for female and theme II for male voices.

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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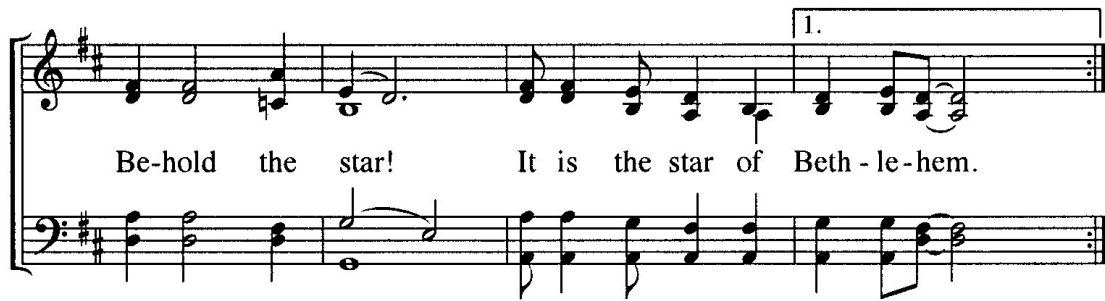


* Behold The Star

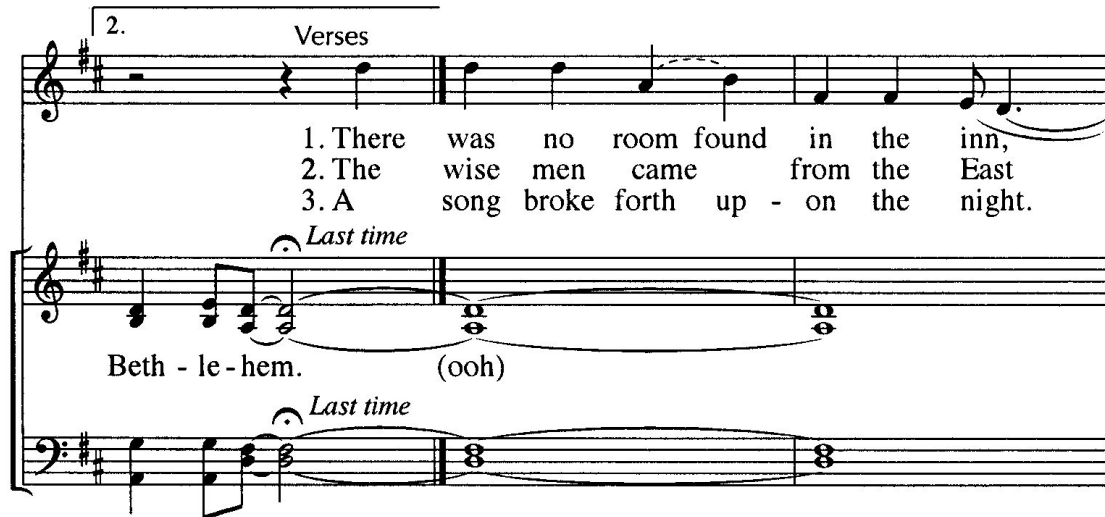
Refrain



Be-hold the star! Be-hold the star up yon-der!



Be-hold the star! It is the star of Beth - le - hem.



2. Verses

1. There was no room found in the inn,
2. The wise men came from the East
3. A song broke forth up - on the night.

Beth - le - hem. (ooh)



For him who was born
To wor - ship him, the
Peace on earth, good -

It is the star of Beth - le - hem. (ooh)

free from sin. Oh,
 "Prince of Peace."
 will to men.

It is the star of Beth - le - hem.

Text: Negro Spiritual
 Tune: BEHOLD THE STAR, LM with refrain; Negro Spiritual, arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense.net #A-700877

The Closing Blessing *(in unison)*

Radiant Morning Star, you are both guidance and mystery.
 Visit us with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions.
 Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes
 to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom
 bearing profound and unusual gifts.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.





Taizé

Christmas Music

Please stay after tonight's Taizé service for a 20 minute program of Christmas music with Taizé musicians:

Kathy Whittaker (piano);
Charlie Anderson (flute);
and guest artist
Wendy Webb Kumer (flute).

Program

What Child Is This

William Chatterton Dix

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary

Balm In Gilead

Traditional Spiritual

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul
Sometimes I feel discouraged and feel my work's in vain
But then the holy spirit revives my soul again

Pastorale

Nicolas Chedeville

Characteristic instrumental piece evoking shepherds in the fields

A La Nanita

José Ramón Gomis

A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea,
Mi niño tiene sueño, bendito sea, bendito sea.
Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby-by
My baby's sleepy, bless him, bless him.

Medley:

O Come Little Children

Christoph von Schmid and
Johann Schulz

O come, little children, O come, one and all.
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this day.¹
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.

Carol of the Baggpipers

Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

When Christ our Lord was born at Bethlehem afar,
Altho' 'twas night, there shone as bright as noon a star:
Never so brightly
Never so whitely
Shone the stars, as on that night!
The brightest star went
Away to call the Wise Men from the Orient.

SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

Contemplative Prayer

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies.

Mondays, 7:30 am to 8 am
Meeting ID #959 8065 3992
Passcode: bestill

Yoga and Centering Prayer Offering

The ELPC Spiritual Life Committee is excited to offer Yoga and Centering Prayer led by Katrina Woodworth in the Sanctuary. This class include breathing practices along with Hatha Yoga postures and ends with 10–15 minutes of silent Centering Prayer. Donations are accepted. Please register in advance online at www.tiny.cc/yoga-and-prayer.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8-9 am

Enneagram Lunchtime Discussion Group

Each month on Zoom we will explore and reflect upon different aspects of the Enneagram, our Enneagram's approach to time, spiritual practices, our bodies etc. These topics are chosen by those within the group from month to month, often through an article or podcast to reflect upon.

3rd Tuesdays of the month, 12:20-1:30 pm
Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127
Passcode: 9types

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month (with a few exceptions) from

Third Friday of every month (mostly), 6:30-7:45 pm
(Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 13)

Yoga Retreat

Treat yourself to the first ever *yoga retreat* at ELPC! Whether you are a regular attendee to Wednesday night Cathedral Yoga or not, consider joining Yamuna Morgenstern and Katrina Woodworth for a *yoga retreat* in the church. We will begin the day with yoga, followed by moments for movement, reflection, meditation, and lunch. We hope also to offer the experience of *kirtan* (sacred call and response chanting in Sanskrit) and perhaps the labyrinth. We will end the day with a luscious restorative yoga class to send you on your way with a divine sense of renewal. Register by Jan 23 to Norma (Norma@coh.net).

Saturday, Jan 29, 9 am-5pm
Suggested donation \$35-\$60 (*includes lunch*)

ELPC EVENTS

Sanctuary/Chapel Tours — Jan 9 and 23

Following the 11 am service on Sundays, Jan 9 and 23, join a tour of ELPC highlighting church history and architectural contrasts of the Chapel and Sanctuary. The Narthex, Trinity Chapel, and Chancel will be included. Please gather at the Highland Lobby after worship.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Jan 16

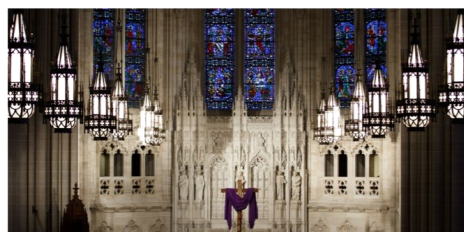
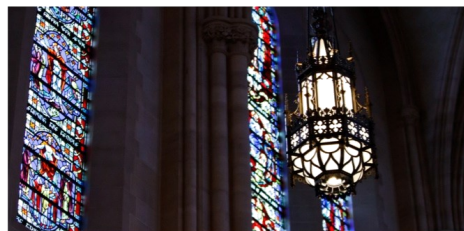
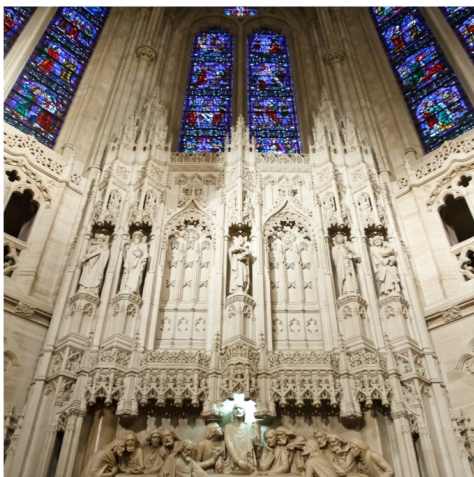
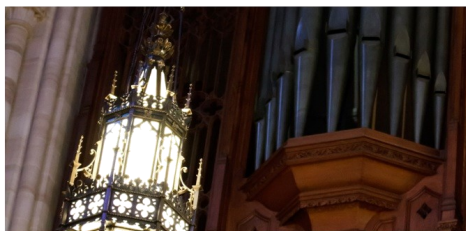
You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Jan 16 at 12:30 pm to share food and fellowship. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. This month we will meet in person and via Zoom. Contact Wil Forrest for more info and/or to attend (412.441.3800 x118; Wil@coh.net).

A Letter from the Birmingham Jail — Jan 30

On April 16, 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." That statement is still true today.

During the Church School hour on Sunday, Jan 30, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee and the Faith Formation Board invite all adults and students in grade 6 and up to participate in a discussion of the Rev. Dr. King's Letter from the Birmingham Jail. Join us—either in person or via Zoom (tiny.cc/MLK-letter or call 312.626.6799; enter meeting ID 874 9214 5751 and passcode 651698 when prompted).

The Rev. BJ Woodworth is Minister of Taizé Prayer here at ELPC. BJ is also Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and is available to provide spiritual direction to anyone who is a part of the ELPC community (attending Taizé makes YOU a part of that community). He can be reached at 412.441.3800 x141 or at BJW@coh.net.



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.

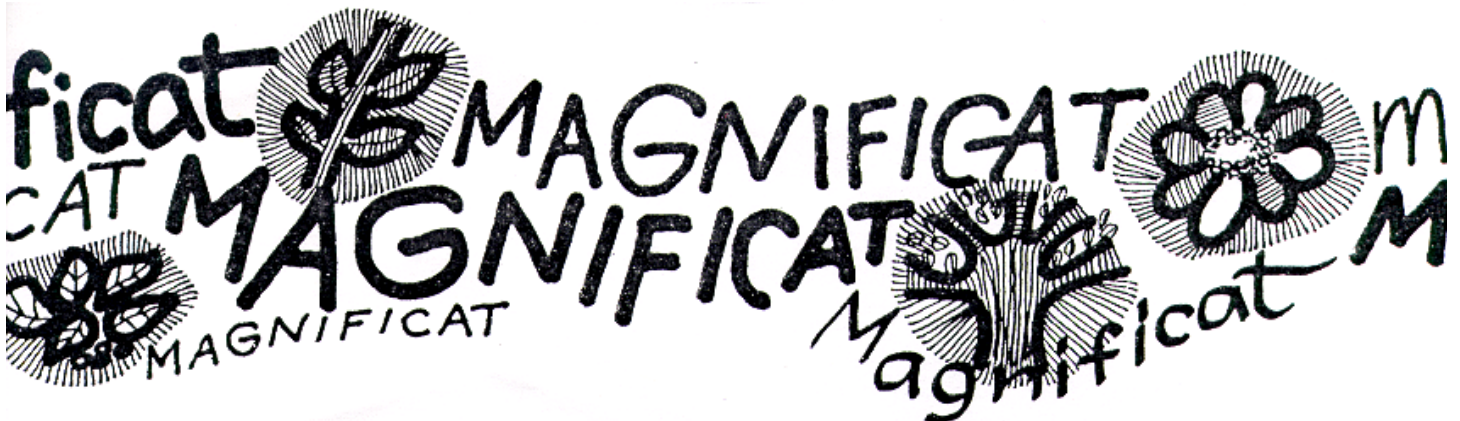
Prayer is a serene force at work within human beings, stirring them up, transforming them, never allowing them to close their eyes in the face of evil, of wars, of all that threatens the weak of this world. From it we draw the energy to wage other struggles—to enable our loved ones to survive, to transform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





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