Taizé Prayer

MARCH 16, 2022 7 pm

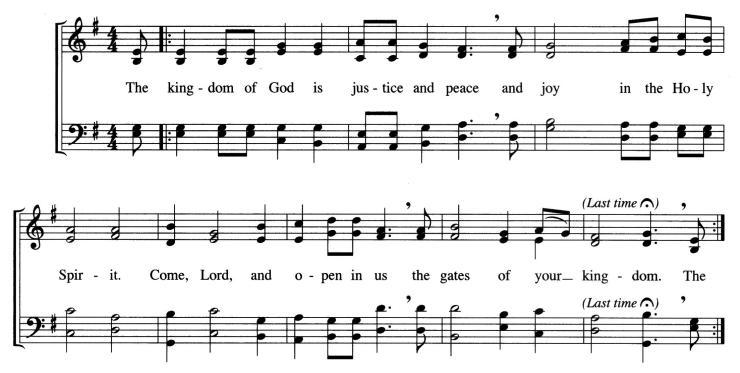


116 South Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800

Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

Welcome and Opening Centering by Rev. BJ Woodworth

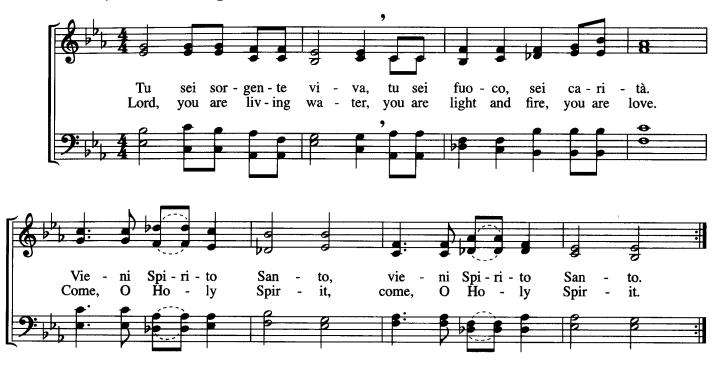
This worship space is created to enhance your prayer. As you enter, grab a prayer stone or palm cross to hold. Feel free to come forward to the craft table to doodle or color a mandala, come sit on prayer cushion and be closer to the front, pray with one of the icons, light a candle, or move with the music. During Lent there are two prayers stations up on the altar! If the songs are new to you, let their simple repeated refrains be sung over you and join in as you are able. 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.



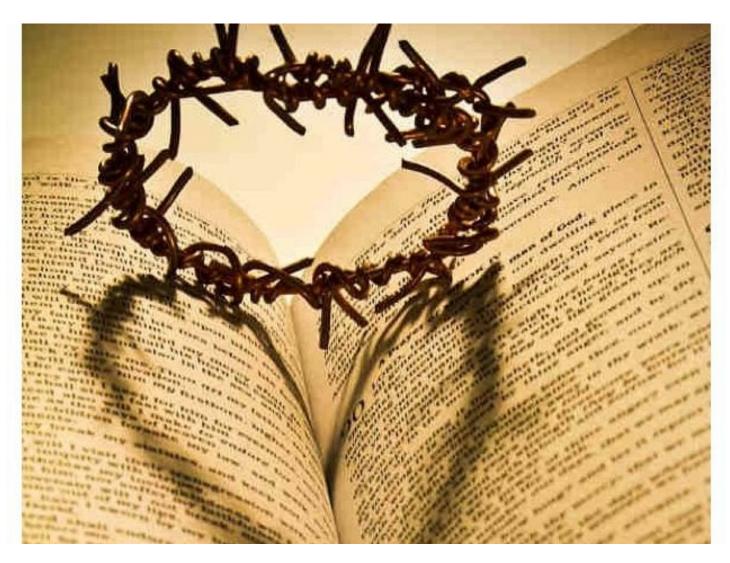
CLM35 The Kingdom Of God

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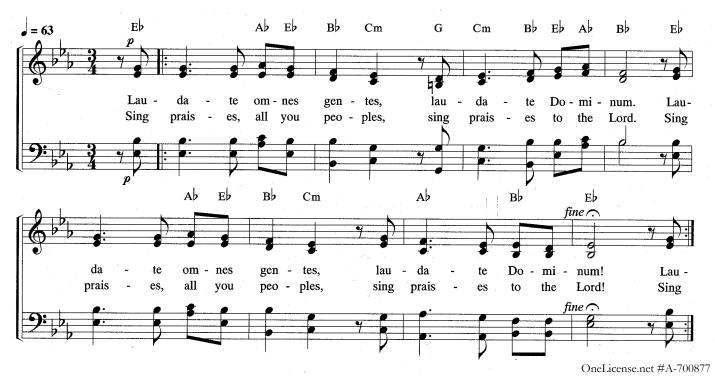
CLM36 Lord, You Are Living Water



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Sung Response: 48 Sing Praises



It is good to praise you, Yahweh, And celebrate your Name in song, Most High— To proclaim your love in the morning And your fidelity through The watches of the night, To the music of a ten-stringed lyre And the melody of the harp. **SING PRAISES, ALL YOU PEOPLES**

Your deeds, Yahweh, fill me with joy; I shout in triumph over the work of your hands. How great are your works, Yahweh! How profound your thoughts!

SING PRAISES, ALL YOU PEOPLES

Those who don't realize this are senseless; They are fools because they can't understand That though the corrupt Keep springing up like grass And all evildoers blossom and flourish, It is only so that They will be destroyed forever— While you, Yahweh, reign on high forever! **SING PRAISES, ALL YOU PEOPLES** Come and watch your foes, Yahweh, Come and watch your foes perish And all evildoers will be scattered. I have raised my horn high, Strong as the wild ox; I am anointed with fine oil.

SING PRAISES, ALL YOU PEOPLES

With my own eyes I've seen the defeat of my enemies, And I've heard the downfall of my cruel foes. The just flourish like a palm tree, And grow as tall as the cedars of Lebanon, Transplanted in the house of Yahweh. SING PRAISES, ALL YOU PEOPLES

They flourish in the courts of the Most High— Still full of sap in old age, They still produce abundance fruit, Eager to declare that Yahweh is just— My rock, in whom there is no wrong.

SING PRAISES, ALL YOU PEOPLES

The Word/Meditation: Luke 13:6-9

Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.""

Silent Meditation (for 5-8 minutes)

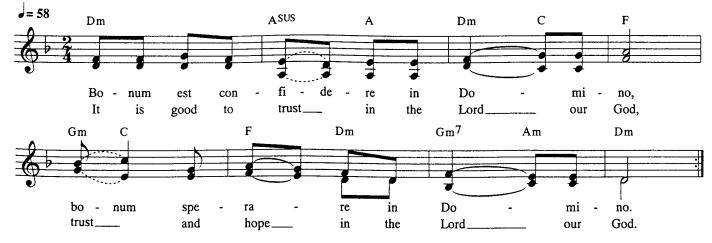
During the season of Lent, we will hold silence after the Word. If this is new to you, simply notice if a word or phrase strikes you, intrigues you or even troubles you. Ponder it, repeat it, be with it, and above all simply **REST** in the quiet.

Words from Phuc Luu

A fig tree is forsaken Abandoned because it does not yield What was intended by its owner Waiting bare Without produce Perhaps broken and diseased Left unwanted But the Rabbi waits for the plant to bear fruit Resisting to cut it down just yet Wanting to see what is to come Fertilizing the roots In hopes for a plentiful season Bearing witness of what all is to come A world of peace and abundance A world of fullness and fertility

A patient farmer Tending to his garden Watering the soil of the soul Restoring the brokenness of the body So that we might sprout the goodness that is in store Biding his time Until he could reap Not death, but life The harvest of the kingdom to come Of healing and wholeness Of togetherness and connection The branches reaching out To gather us all

11 It Is Good To Trust



Sung Response: 4 Kyrie 1



Jesus, thank you for your patient and persistent trust with our lives that are sometimes unfruitful. Thank you for your tender care, nurturing us, protecting us, and feeding us, amidst seasons of drought, dryness, and instability.

KYRIE

As the wise gardener, come with your gentle rain of love to water the soil of our lives, till up our soil, fertilize our hearts, bodies, minds, and souls, taking what is old and allowing it to compost into new life.

KYRIE

Come, Holy Spirit, and reveal to us, through your inner wisdom, those things in our lives that keep us from growing, seeing your work in the world, and being fruitful. Come till up the places in our hearts that are like hard and rocky soil and obscured with weeds.

KYRIE

Come, Jesus, into your Church and patiently prune away the branches that are getting in the way of new growth, new directions, and new ways of being in the world.

KYRIE

Grant us courage to grow and develop into the people and church you desire us to be. Let us be ever planted by the streams of living water, yielding fruit in season, and growing into oaks of righteousness whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

KYRIE

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



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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.



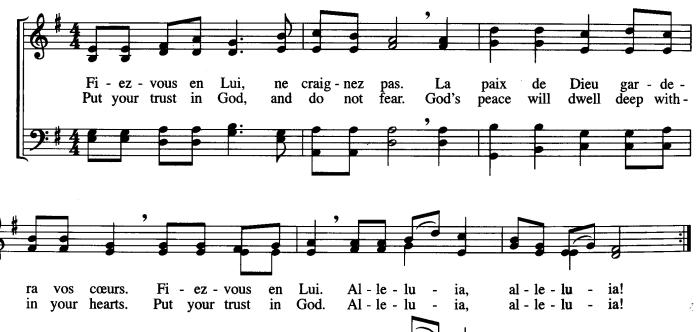
NB9 Christ Of Compassion



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CLM18 Put Your Trust In God



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G74 Masithi



The Closing Blessing (in unison)

In this season of Lent, may you know that God waits to be gracious to you, and will rise to show mercy to you. May you know that in returning and rest you shall be saved, and in quietness and trust is your strength.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen. **People: Amen.**

SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

Contemplative Prayer

Join Rev. BJ Woodworth on Zoom during the season of Lent for Contemplative Prayer, involving the reading of a Psalm and Centering Prayer (20 minutes of silence), in community with one another.

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

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).

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

Spring Yoga and Creation Contemplation classes

In March and April, Katrina Woodworth will teach one class on Wednesdays from 8-9 am on Zoom. Winter is waning and Spring is around the corner. Seasonally and spiritually, we are entering into Lent, Easter and Spring. What better way to transition than to get on our mat and be in touch with our bodies! Inspired by the PC(USA) Lenten Daily Reflection Calendar, our yoga practice, readings and meditations will focus on caring for creation in solidarity with Christ's sacrifice and resurrection! Please register in advance at http://tiny.cc/spring-yoga. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Enneagram Study Group

Join facilitator Lynn Holden on the third Mondays of March through June (begins March 21) and Sept through Dec, from 12:30-1:30 pm on Zoom (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127, Passcode: 9types) for an Enneagram Study Group. The Required book is *The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Path to Spiritual Growth* by Christopher L. Heuertz.

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).

ELPC EVENTS

Taizé Podcast Now Available

If you are unable to come to our Taizé services in person on Wednesdays at 7 pm, stream or download a 15-minute contemplative recording each week. Each podcast includes a brief time of centering, music, a meditation, and a closing prayer. You can find a link to listen to the recordings at www.ELPC.church, in our *This Week in Worship* email news flash each Friday, or in our new app.

Support Our Winter Food Drive - March 20

Following 11 am worship on Sunday, March 20, the Neighbors Committee will host a *Winter Food Drive* in the staff parking lot on Baum Blvd. Requested donations include: canned or dried fruit, canned vegetables, cereal, crackers,



individual fruit cups, jelly, peanut butter, pasta and sauces, rice, soups and broth, salt, seasonings, and spices. Contact Tim VanFleet (tavanfleet@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice (patricefs@coh.net) for info.

Church Tours – March 20

Join us on March 20 for a tour of the tower. Please wear closed-toe walking shoes for the tower tour. The tour begins after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Sunday, March 20. Please gather



in the Highland Lobby at the hospitality desk to join the tour guide.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – March 27

Join us at our LGBTQ Ministry's next *Spiritual Gathering* — either in person at the church or online via Zoom on Sunday, March 27 at 12:30 pm. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome — in fact we will be focusing on our wonderful allies during this time together! For more details or to attend, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

ELPC and OHM Marathon: Fun, Fitness and Fellowship

ELPC is inviting runners and fast walkers to be part of the Open Hand Ministries Pittsburgh Marathon Fundraiser. Registration is free. ELPC will have two relay teams. Please join us! For ELPC relay teams, contact team captain Bob Forloines (rforloines@gmail.com; 610.331.1134).

To participate as an individual in any of the marathon races, please contact OHM's Cheryl Lowitzer (marathon@openhandpittsburgh.org; bit.ly/Ohm2022).

Tread Lightly for Lent 2022 **DAILY REFLECTION / ACTION CALENDAR**

The Presbyterian Hunger Program strives to walk with people in moving towards sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" God's world. However, some of our collective choices have led to a changing global climate. To turn this tide, we must commit to treading lightly on God's Earth.

In Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us.

Our hope is that this Lenten calendar will be the beginning of actions intended to create more mindful behaviors throughout the year.

March 16

Pray: God, show us your people how to honor your gift of Creation. Let us not be selfish with our gift, rather allow us to share as generously with each other as you have shared with us. Amen.

March 17

Explore Creation Care Prayers from other traditions: https:// blessedtomorrow.org/six-interfaith-creation-care-prayers/

March 18

Learn more about your personal ecological footprint: www.footprintcalculator.org.

March 19

Pray: God of Enough, Let us remember those in this world who still have not been able to realize your abundance because we have taken more than what we need. And let that remembering drive us to change. Amen.

March 20

Download Considering Our Treasure from PHP and take one of the action steps listed in the study. https://tinyurl.com/y27szc3z.

March 21

Read and Reflect on Isaiah 65:17-25.

March 22

Pray: "In the rising and setting of the sun and the cycles of the seasons, in the patterns of the shining stars, may we remember the goodness of God. Amen."

March 23

Refresh your memory regarding which items your city or town allows for curbside recycling. Remind your family, friends and coworkers to recycle.

Reflect and Act