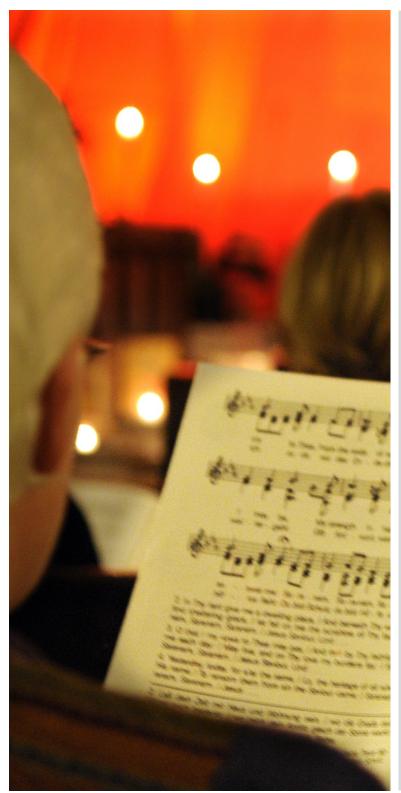
# TAIZÉ:

PRAYERFUL SONG & QUIET MEDITATION

February 8, 2023 7:00 pm



116 South Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206 **412.441.3800** 



# Welcome to Taizé

We hope this time and space of prayerful song and quiet meditation will give you rest in body, mind and spirit. We invite you to pray and meditate in a variety of ways as you are so inclined.

- Hold a prayer stone, palm cross or prayer beads.
- Allow the simple repeated refrains to be sung over you and join in as you are able.
- Come forward to the table to doodle or color a mandala.
- Sit on a prayer cushion or chair at the front to be closer to the icons and artwork.
- Light a candle in prayer for another.
- Visit one of the prayer stations up on the altar.

May you awaken to the restful and restorative presence of the Spirit, and may you carry that awareness with you out into the world.

#### **Prelude by Gerard Rohlf**

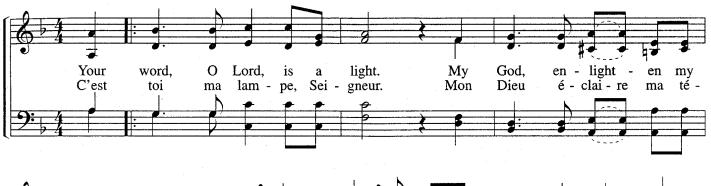
#### Welcome and Opening Centering by The Rev. BJ Woodworth

#### **NB10 In The Lord**



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#### NB32 Your Word, O Lord







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#### Sung Response: 2 Alleluia 7



Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, Who live with spiritual integrity! Blessed are those who honor the Inner Being, Who follow you with their whole heart, Who enfold the world with love And walk on peaceful paths! ALLELUIA

You have shown us the way of Truth, The way that leads to freedom. O, that I might ever reflect the light! Then I shall know inner peace, As I surrender myself into your hands. ALLELUIA

I will praise you with a grateful heart, As I lean on your great kindness. As I forsake the path of darkness, O have mercy on me!

#### ALLELUIA

How can the young keep to the straight path? Only by learning to listen to the still voice within. With all my heart I see you: Let me not wander from your teachings! ALLELUIA

Your love is imprinted upon my heart, That I may walk in your light. Blessed are you, O Counselor; Guide me in all that I do, That with my lips I may bear Witness to the truth of your way. ALLELUIA With your word in my heart, I delight more than with the world's riches. I listen in the silence, Awaiting the clarity of your counsel. May I become a living fountain of joy As I give thanks for your bountiful blessings! ALLELUIA



#### The Word and Meditation: selected readings from 1 Corinthians 3 and 6 (Message translation)

You realize, don't you, that you are the temple of God, and God's Self is present in you? No one will get by with vandalizing God's temple, you can be sure of that. God's temple is sacred—and you, remember, are the temple. Your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you... So let people see God in and through your body.

#### Quiet Meditation and Reflection (lasting approximately 5-7 minutes)

#### **Words from Saints and Ancestors**

As the body is clothed in cloth and the muscles in the skin and the bones and the muscles and the heart and the chest, so are we, body, and soul, closed in the Goodness of God and enclosed. God is the means whereby our Substance and our Sensuality are kept together so as to never be apart.

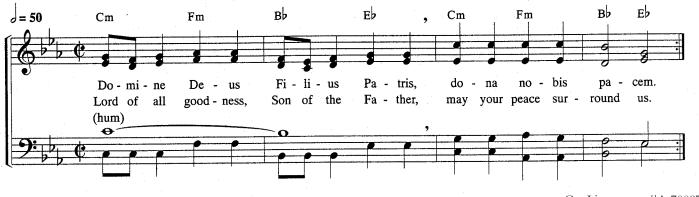
— Julian of Norwich (1343-after 1416) English mystic and anchoress, whose writings "Revelations of Divine Love" are the earliest surviving English language works by a woman



#### CLM20 | Am Sure | Shall See

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#### **Prayers of Intercession**



#### Sung Response: 30 Lord Of All Goodness

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Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

LORD OF ALL GOODNESS



#### **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)

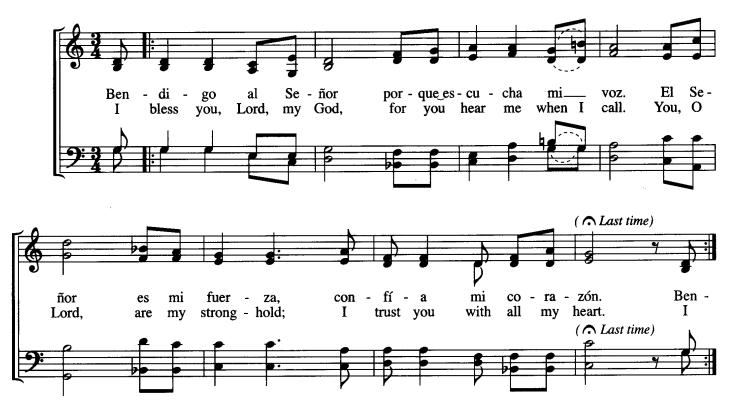
We have an anointing station this evening for those seeking individual prayer to share joys or concerns. Any desiring prayer, and/or anointing with oil, are invited to come forward, waiting in the center aisle if the station is full. To assist in hearing prayer concerns, anointing happens to the left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







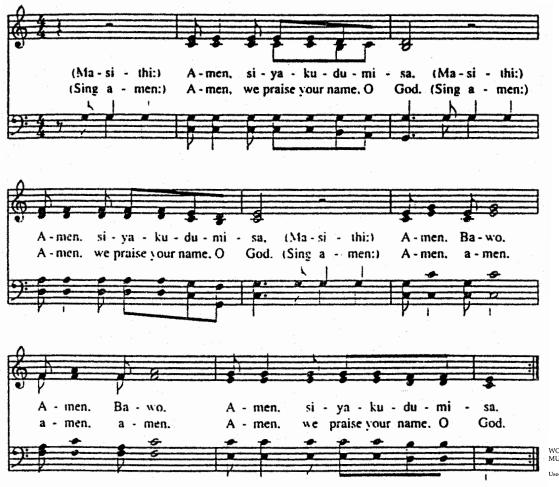


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#### **CLM18 Put Your Trust In God**



#### G74 Masithi (Sing Amen)



WORDS: South African hymn MUSIC: Attr. S. C. Molefe

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#### Pilgrim's Blessing (in unison)

In this season of Epiphany... be faithful to the next step; rely on more than the map; heed the signposts of intuition and dream; follow the star that only you will recognize; keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path; press on beyond distractions, beyond fatigue, beyond fatigue, beyond what would tempt you from the way... that will take you to the place where at last you will kneel to offer the gift most needed — the gift that only you can give before turning to go home by another way. *(adapted from "For Those Who Have Far to Travel" by Jan Richardson)* 

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



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

# ELPC.CHURCH

# **SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS**

#### A Lenten Journey of Embracing the Wisdom of Our Ancestors, Bodies, and the Earth — Feb 23 to March 30

Decolonizing is a popular buzzword i n conversations about spirituality, but what is it? What does it look like? Join other congregants on a Lenten journey focused on understanding the impact of colonization on our spiritual practice.



Together, let's consider ways to deepen our connection to God by learning to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors, our bodies, and the Earth itself.

Each Thursday during Lent (Feb 23– March 30) from 5:30–7 pm, the Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger will lead us as we explore a particular theme and discuss ways to implement new ideas or strengthen our spiritual practice throughout the week.

We cannot change the past, but we can rediscover what we lost and build a fuller, richer sense of the Divine in our midst.

A light dinner will be served. The suggested donation is \$25. RSVP to Norma (412.441.3800 x211) by Sunday, Feb 19.

#### **Contemplative Prayer on Mondays**

On Mondays from 7:30–8 am, you're invited to a weekly time of quiet contemplation and reflection. The Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead us through a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art, and our bodies to help us start our day and week in communion with God and one another.

Join us online at www.tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer. Enter meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 and passcorde: bestill when prompted. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net) for more info.

#### **Cathedral Yoga**

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

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

#### **JourneyDance**

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

Feb 17, March 17, April 21 May 12 *(second Friday)* 7:00-8:30 pm *(note new time for 2023)* 

# **ELPC EVENTS**

#### Environmental Book Study: Superman's Not Coming – Feb 9

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is continuing their study surrounding water with their next book *Superman's Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It* by Erin Brockovich.

Read the book and join them for a discussion on Thursday, Feb 9 at 7 pm, led by Sandy Brake on Zoom. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

#### See Derek Webb in Concert – Feb 10

All are invited to join the Young Adult Ministry on Friday, Feb 10 at 8 pm for Derek Webb in concert in the ELPC Bowling Alley. A member of contemporary Christian band Caedmon's Call, Derek's newest solo work, *The Jesus Hypothesis*, takes another look at doubt and faith in beautiful ways. Tickets can be purchased online at DerekWebb.com.

#### LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – Feb 12

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Feb 12. For more info or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

#### Webinar by Author Dr. William Yoo – Feb 13

Presbyterian Women and the Facing Systemic Racism Committee encourage your participation in a webinar with Dr. William Yoo of Columbia Theological Seminary, the author of the book *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church.* The live webinar will be on Monday, Feb 13 from 6:30-8:30 pm. It is free, but requires pre-registration at: *signupgenius.com./go/9040b4ba5a82ba0fa7-justice1#/* 

Books can be purchased at a bookstore or through the PC(USA) store. Additionally, please email Michele Bossers if you might be interested in discussing this book sometime later in the spring (michele2285@gmail.com).

# 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 x241

# 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.

