# TAIZÉ:

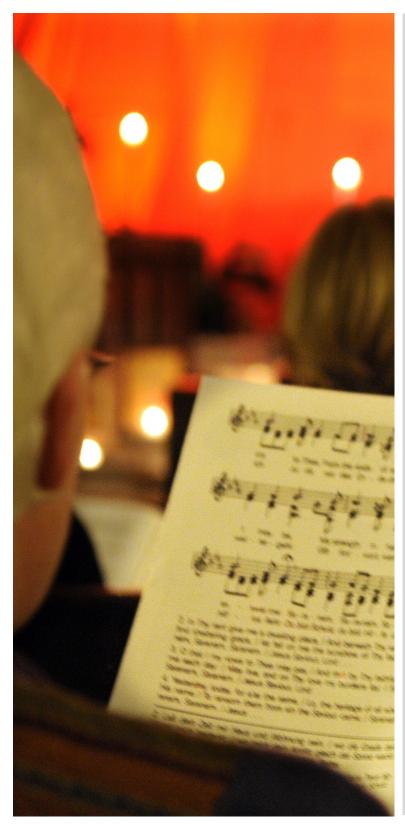
# Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

March 1, 2023 • 7:00 pm





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



# **Welcome to Taizé**

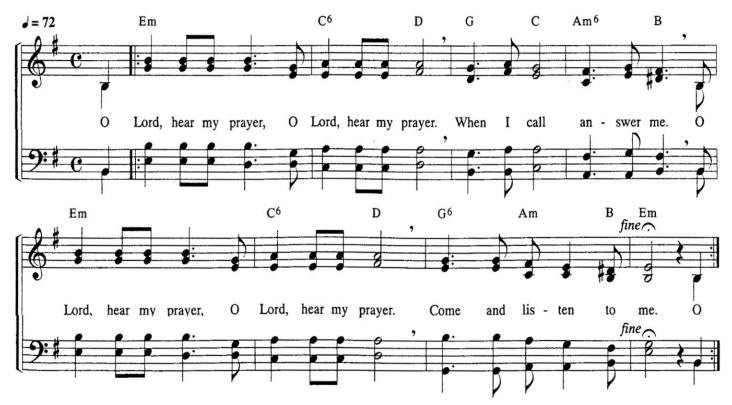
We hope this time and space of prayerful song and quiet meditation will give you rest in body, mind and spirit. We invite you to pray and meditate in a variety of ways as you are so inclined.

- 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.
- Come forward to kneel at the Taizé cross.

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** 

# 20 O Lord, Hear My Prayer (first verse only)



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# **CLM31 I Delight and Rejoice**



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#### Sung Response: \* Secrets of My Heart: Psalm 139



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O my Beloved, you have searched me And known me!
You know when I sit down
And when I rise up;
You discern my innermost thoughts.

#### O LORD, YOU'VE SEARCHED ME...

You find me on the journey And guide my steps; You know my strengths and my weaknesses. Even before words rise up in prayer, Lo, you have already heard my heart call.

#### O LORD, YOU'VE SEARCHED ME...

You encompass me with love where're I go, And your strength is my shield Such sensitivity is too wonderful for me; It is high, boundless gratitude In my soul's response.

#### O LORD, YOU'VE SEARCHED ME...

Where could I go from your Spirit? Or how could I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in darkness, you are there! If I soar on the wings of the morning Or dwell in the deepest parts of the sea, Even there your hand will lead me, And your love will embrace me.

#### O LORD, YOU'VE SEARCHED ME...

If I say, "Let only darkness cover me And the light about me be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to you,
The night dazzles as with the sun;
The darkness is as light with you.

#### O LORD, YOU'VE SEARCHED ME...

More than I know myself do you know me; My essence was not hidden from you, When I was being formed in secret, Intricately fashioned From the elements of the earth.

#### O LORD, YOU'VE SEARCHED ME...

How precious to me as your creations, O Blessed One!
How vast is the sum of them!
Who could count your innumerable
Gifts and blessings?
As all times, you are with me.

## O LORD, YOU'VE SEARCHED ME...



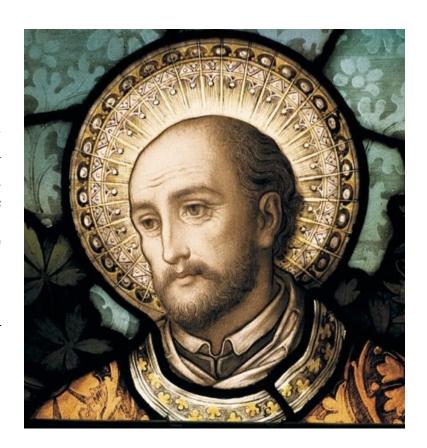
# **Practicing the Examen** (lasting approximately 5-7 minutes)

During Lent we will spend our mediation time practicing the Ignatian Examen; a prayerful reflection on the events of the day or week, helping us detect God's presence and discern God's guidance. It is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work in our daily lives. It involves a few simple prompts coupled with silence and prayerful reflection.

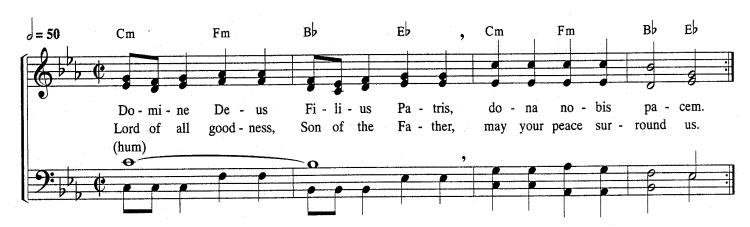
#### **Words from Saints and Ancestors**

All the things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can come to know God better, love God more surely, and serve God more faithfully.

— Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) a Spanish Catholic priest and theologian, who, with Peter Faber and Francis Xavier, founded the order of the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits



#### 30 Lord Of All Goodness



## Unison Prayers of Intercession (adapted from the Celtic Book of Daily Prayer)

#### **Sung Response: 44 Give Peace To Every Heart**



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During the season of Lent we will seek to pray more with our whole bodies as well as our minds and voices.

As you pray these simple prayers below trace your finger in a circle in the palm of your hand, knowing God's presence surrounds what or who you are praying for.

God our Keeper, encircle (name)... Keep protection near and danger far.
GIVE PEACE TO EVERY HEART

God of Courage, encircle (name)... Keep hope within and despair without.

GIVE PEACE TO EVERY HEART

God of Light, encircle (name)... Keep light near and darkness afar.
GIVE PEACE TO EVERY HEART

God of Comfort, encircle (name)... Keep peace within and anxiety without.

GIVE PEACE TO EVERY HEART

Eternal Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer shield (name) on every side.
GIVE PEACE TO EVERY HEART



# **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**



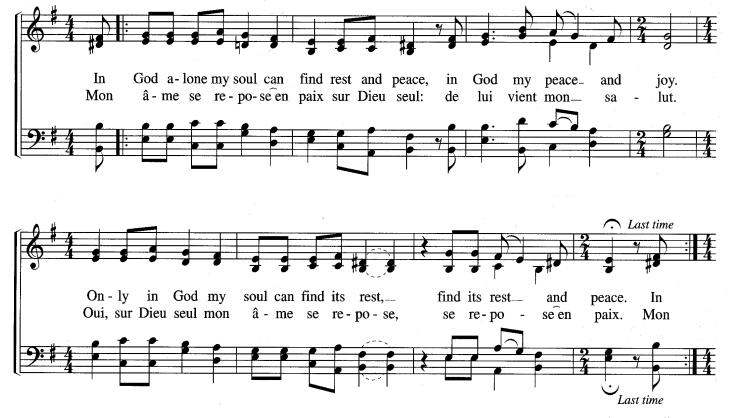
# **Prayer over the Anointing Oil** (in unison)

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.

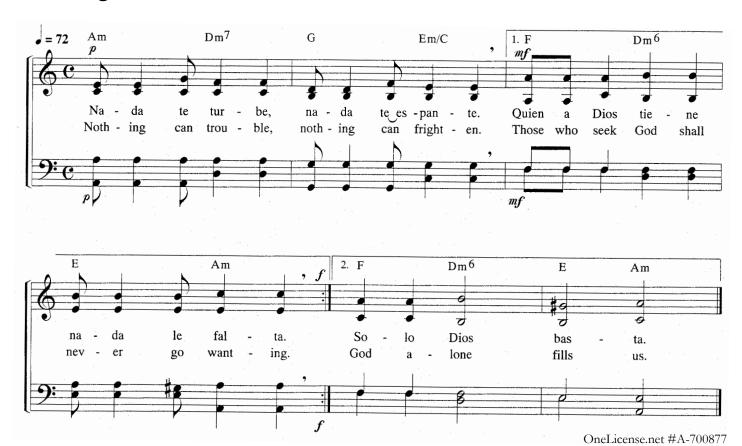


#### **NB8 In God Alone**



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# 29 Nothing Can Trouble







## **SEEKING RENEWAL IN PRAYER**

In order to view our lives, other people and the world in a new way, a personal step is needed. This takes place in the depths of our being, when we welcome into our existence the kindly presence of God. It involves an inner change of direction, which the Gospel calls conversion and which leads us to welcome God's consolation and to love more and more.

We can all look for times and places to find an inner silence, to open a space of listening, and to discover a communion with God. Jesus already invited his friends to do this: "When you pray, go into your room and close the door, to pray to your Father who is there in secret" (Matthew 6:6).

Today, this invitation seems to go somewhat against the stream. We are going through a time when things are becoming much more polarized and when divisions are growing in our societies, sometimes even in Churches and in families. In this context, noise and lies seem to drown out the silent inner developments that require time.

That is why prayer is all the more essential: it is a source of hope, a road to serenity; it makes us able to keep the doors of dialogue open, even with those who are opposed to us or who come from other horizons than we do.

Brother Alois of Taizé

# \* Come, Bring Your Burdens to God



African phonetics:

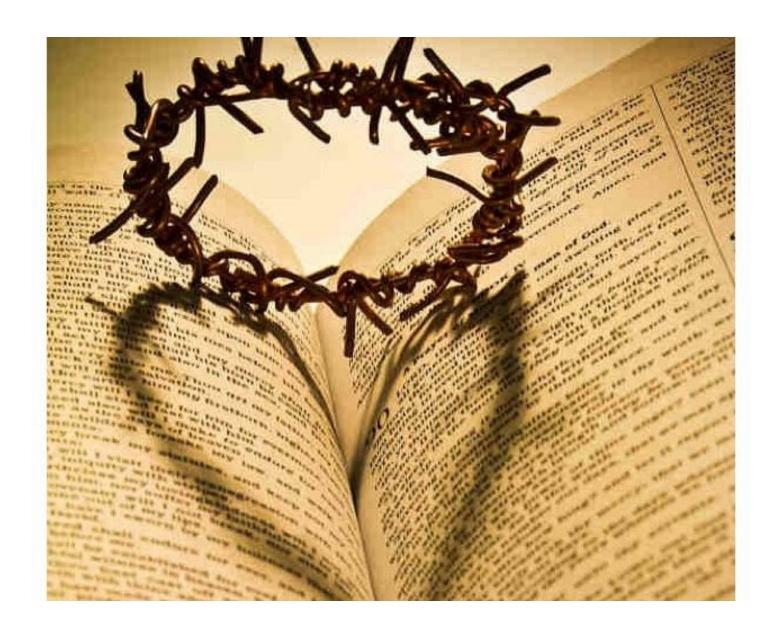
Woh-zah nohm-thwah-loh wah-khoh, U-yehs skah-soh-zah-thee hahyee

# **Closing Lenten Prayer** (in unison)

Search us O Beloved, and know our hearts!
Try us and discern our thoughts!
Help us to face the darkness within and without;
enlighten us that we may radiate
Your Love and Light!

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.



# **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 in 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. Please see the Rev. BJ Woodworth immediately after tonight's service if you would like to participate! Only one session has been held so far!

#### **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 passcode: 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

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

# **Attaining Resurrection Contemplative Retreat**

May 5-7 (Friday-Sat)

Villa Maria Retreat Center, Pulaski, PA
Details forthcoming! Contact Pastor BJ with questions!

# **ELPC EVENTS**

#### Church Tours — March 5 and 19

Tom Morton will lead a *Sanctuary and Chapel* tour on Sunday, March 5. Steve Evrard will guide a *Tower* tour on Sunday, March 19. Both tours will be after the 11 am Sanctuary service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

#### Celebrating Gifts of Women Sunday — March 5

March 8 is *International Women's Day*—a day to celebrate the gifts of women and to name the inequities experienced by women across the globe. We will join this celebration and observance in worship on Sunday, March 5. Pastor Heather will be preaching, and our worship will both celebrate the gifts of women in our church and beyond, and speak to our need to continue our work of gender justice.

#### PW Bible Study — March 6 and 7

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study *Sabbath* on Monday, March 6 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), and Tuesday, March 7 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). Those attending on Tuesday at ELPC are invited to bring a brown bag lunch; beverages will be provided. For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

#### **Connections Group — March 11**

ELPC's Connections Group invites you to Gretchen Chapman's house to play board games from 7-9 pm on Saturday, March 11. Email connectelpc@gmail.com to RSVP.

# Sunday, March 5 • 3 pm

# **Anthony Brown in concert**

ELPC's Cathedral Concerts series will present I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson's Life in Word and Song by baritone Anthony Brown. I Go On Singing tells Paul Robeson's story in his own words, using many first-hand accounts from his autobiography, Here I Stand. The multi-media musical



documentary traces his humble beginnings as a preacher's son in Princeton, New Jersey, to his international celebrity as an advocate for peace and justice.

The performance will bring music and history alive with equal parts documentary and live concert experience. Musical numbers range from spirituals to Broadway, and include Robeson's original arrangements of favorites like *Wade in the Water, Ol' Man River, It Ain't Necessarily So, Water Boy,* and many others. A freewill offering will be received. Contact Dr. Ed for details (EdM@coh.net).