TAIZÉ:

PRAYERFUL SONG & QUIET MEDITATION

June 28, 2023 7:00 pm



116 South Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206 ELPC.church 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.

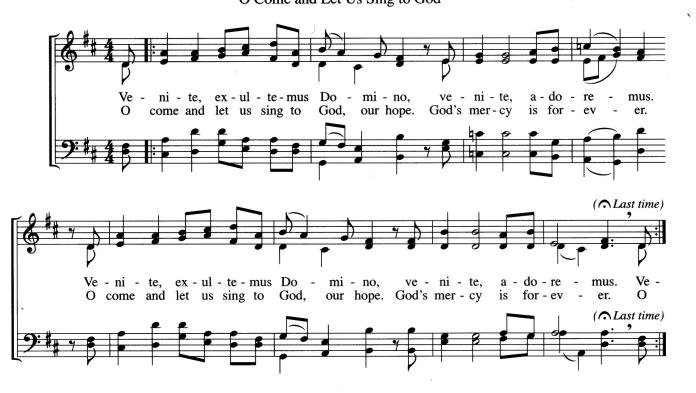
May you awaken to the restful and restorative presence of the Spirit, and may you carry that awareness with you out into the world.

Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

Welcome and Opening Centering by The Rev. John Titus

NB 29

VENITE, EXULTEMUS DOMINO O Come and Let Us Sing to God



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Sung Response:



I offer myself into your Hands, That I may live fully into your Life. Open my heart's eyes, that I may see The wondrous blessings of Creation. ALLELUIA

I am a sojourner on earth; yet I know myself as a spiritual Being! My soul is consumed with an intense Longing to be blessed and sustained by you, O Divine Lover!

ALLELUIA

May I not be a bearer of disharmony, One who is arrogant and greedy; Teach me to stand firm when faced with injustice and oppression, To be fervent in my stance for truth!

ALLELUIA

Even though fears rise up, may my eyes Remain focused on You. For in Love Consciousness do I delight; O my Counselor and Friend!

ALLELUIA

With my heart's ear I hear the injunction To pray for my enemies, even those Who persecute me! How can I, weak and fear-filled, Heed this difficult teaching?

ALLELUIA

Help me to understand the way of your precepts, and the strengths to follow through. My soul is willing, O Merciful One, Yet the body would flee. Who is the enemy from whom I run, but The ego-fears hidden in the shadows within! ALLELUIA Strengthen me according to your Life, lead Me gently into the Light. For, I have chosen The way of faithfulness; with trust in You., I will face my own darkness.I will not run from the illusions which beset me, so that each one may be transformed in and through your Love.

ALLELUIA

The Word/Meditation: Romans 12:3-8 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members of that one body, we belong to each other. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your gift for teaching. If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.



Words from Saints and Ancestors

Humble people are down to earth, they are not alienated from their own nature. They except their origins and are content to be what they are. They do not need lies and evasions to inflate their importance in the eyes of their associates, or to buttress their self-esteem. They overcome the tendency to regard others as competitors or rivals, and so they work with whatever they have, and waste no time envying those who possess different qualities. The humble are equally content with both the gifts and the limitations that come from their nature or their personal history.

-Michael Casey (1942) a monk of Tarrawarra Abbey in Australia; a retreat master and lecturer on monastic spirituality.



17. OCULI NOSTRI Our Eyes are Turned

Prayers of Intercession

Sung Response: 6 Kyrie Eleison 13



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Gracious God may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love and help us to humbly use our gifts to love and serve others.

KYRIE, ELEISON, ELEISON

God our creator, help everyone to share all the good gifts that you have given to us. May those who lead the nations of the world be given wisdom.

KYRIE, ELEISON, ELEISON

God our friend, we pray for our families and friends. May we be able to love and help each other just as you love and help us.

KYRIE, ELEISON, ELEISON

Compassionate God, give your strength and healing to all those who are sad, lonely, or sick and bless all those who use their gifts of compassion and service to help them.

KYRIE, ELEISON, ELEISON

God of hope, we thank you that not even death can separate us from your love. We pray for all who mourn, that they may feel your care for them.

KYRIE, ELEISON, ELEISON

Loving God we give this week into your hands. Be with us in all that we will do, may we be awake to your presence in all we do and say and follow your will and your way.

KYRIE, ELEISON, ELEISON

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.





49 Live in Charity



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Closing Unison Prayer

May evening continue to come upon us and bring us peace. May day sink into night and darkness close around us. May our hearts continue to be stilled and quiet. May we be gathered into Oneness and inner striving cease. May your gentle rest descend upon us all.

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

SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

Meditation Hour

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Chapel each Tuesday from 6-7 pm for an hour devoted to meditation. The session will include an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. John is a retired psychologist and a long time student and practitioner of insight meditation. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome!

Tuesdays, 6-7 pm

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).

June 16 7:00-8:30 pm (note new time)

The Rev. BJ Woodworth is Minister of Taizé Prayer 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 BJW@coh.net

Our summer worship continues with one Sunday service at 10 am in the Courtyard (weather permitting).

ELPC EVENTS

Fridays in The Rain Garden-

The Environmental Team and Gardening Crew are hosting *Workdays in the Rain Garden* on Fridays again this summer. Please join them for a morning of weeding, mulching, and fellowship from 9 am to Noon on every SECOND Friday from May through September. Green thumbs are not required—just bring your energy, curiosity, and commitment to our church and community. Contact Don Breitbarth for more info (don.breitbarth@gmail.com).

Chapel Market: Expanded Hours and Donation Request

The Chapel Market has expanded its hours of operation! It is now open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5-7 pm, in addition being open every Thursday from 10 am—Noon. The Chapel Market is also seeking donations of summer clothing, especially children's clothes. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open.

Help Needed! The Children and Families Ministry team and the Youth and Young Adult Committee are looking for folks who are interested in helping plan and support our church's ministry to kids, teens, families and young adults. If you would like to learn more about the work of these committees, please talk to Pastor Heather or Sara Hackett.

Calling All Graduates - Info due June 30

As school-years come to a close, many members of our church family are celebrating milestone graduations—and we want to celebrate YOU! If you are graduating from high school, vocational/technical school, college, graduate school, etc., send your name, degree earned, and the name of the institution from which you are graduating to Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net) by June 30.

Still Thinking About Doing a Mission Trip?

There's still time to register for our summer Mission Trips! Middle school youth in grades 6–8 are heading to Crestfield from July 5–8 for summer camp fun and volunteering. High school youth in grades 8–12 are serving with North Street Mission in Wooster, Ohio from Aug 6–11. Participants in the high school summer mission trip must meet certain requirements, including

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.





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

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: To contact Taizé: To visit Taizé: List of useful info: Web site: Telephone:

Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France community@taize.fr meetings@taize.fr info@taize.fr www.taize.fr 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.churchE-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 x241).



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