



# TAIZÉ:

*Prayerful Song &  
Quiet Meditation*



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

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[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

**February 28, 2024 • 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.

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**

## CLM35 The Kingdom Of God

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly

Spir - it. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom. The

(Last time ♪)

(Last time ♪)

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system ends with a repeat sign. The second system ends with a final double bar line. There are two '(Last time ♪)' markings above the final notes of each system.

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## NB9 Christ Of Compassion

O Je - su Chri - ste in te con - fi - do.  
Christ of com - pas - sion, Lord God, I trust you.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn. It consists of a single system of music with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staves. There are dashed circles around the notes for 'Je - su' and 'Christ of'. The score ends with a final double bar line.

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**Psalm 1** (selected verses from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

**Sung Response: 11 It Is Good To Trust**

♩ = 58

Dm A SUS A Dm C F

Bo - num est con - fi - de - re in Do - mi - no,  
It is good to trust in the Lord our God,

Gm C F Dm Gm<sup>7</sup> Am Dm

bo - num spe - ra - re in Do - mi - no.  
trust and hope in the Lord our God.

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Blessed are those  
Who walk hand in hand with goodness,  
Who stand beside virtue, who sit in the seat of truth;  
For their delight is in the Spirit of Love,  
And in Love's heart they dwell day and night.

**IT IS GOOD TO TRUST**

They're like trees planted by streams of water,  
They yield fruit in due season,  
And their leaves flourish;  
And in all they do, they give life.

**IT IS GOOD TO TRUST**

The unloving are not so;  
They are like dandelions which the wind blows away.  
Turning from the Heart of Love,  
They will know suffering and pain.

**IT IS GOOD TO TRUST**

They will be isolated from wisdom;  
For Love knows the way of truth,  
The way of ignorance will perish,  
As Love's penetrating Light breaks through hearts  
Filled with illusions:  
Forgiveness is the way.

**IT IS GOOD TO TRUST**



## Visual Meditation (*"Bearing Fruit" by Phuc Luu, produced by The Work of the People*)

*During the season of Lent our meditations will be visual, spoken and written.  
Notice where your own being is drawn in words or images.*

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

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### Breath Prayer

*Inhale* — Water the soil...

*Exhale* — Of my soul...


**Breath Prayer** is an ancient practice that connects short phrases with our breathing, help ground us in this moment, focuses us and refreshes us body, mind, and soul.

*On your inhale say or be mindful of the first phrase.*

*On your exhale say or be mindful of the second phrase.*

You may also carry this with you throughout your week, and let this embodied practice hold you, knowing that many across space and time are breathing and praying with us.

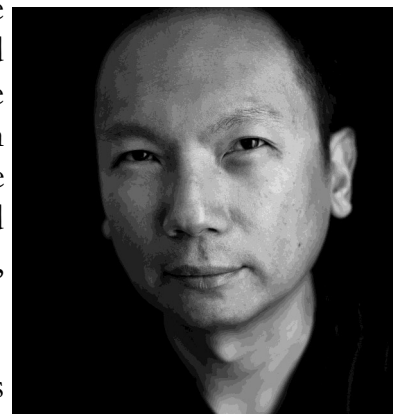
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Born in Vietnam and raised in Houston, Texas, Phuc Luu seeks the integration and writes about the intersection of art, philosophy, and theology. His work has appeared in the Amerasia Journal (UCLA), The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling, the Truett Journal of Church and Mission, and NPR's This I Believe. He has been interviewed by the Houston Chronicle on the subject of art and religion and has published on a variety of topics such as Medieval philosophy, pastoral care, theology and culture, philosophy of religion, and art and culture.

Phuc Luu holds advance degrees in theology and philosophy. He has served on the Nobel Peace Prize Committee for the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) for seven years as a task group member. He has taught philosophy and theology at Sam Houston State University and Houston Baptist University and working on a forthcoming book, Jesus of the East.



## "Bearing Fruit" by 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.*

## 47 In The Lord

The musical score is written for a 3/4 time signature with a tempo of 69. It features two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system includes the lyrics: "In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a- El Se-nyor és la me-va for-ça, el Se-nyor el me-u cant. Ell m'hae-stat la sal-va-ci-". The second system includes the lyrics: "fraid; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near. In the ó. En ell con-fi-o, i no tinc por. En ell con-fi-o, i no tinc por. El Se-". The score includes various chords (Dm, C, F, Bb, Am) and musical notations such as triplets and a "fine" marking.

*In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-  
El Se-nyor és la me-va for-ça, el Se-nyor el me-u cant. Ell m'hae-stat la sal-va-ci-*

*fraid; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near. In the  
ó. En ell con-fi-o, i no tinc por. En ell con-fi-o, i no tinc por. El Se-*



## Prayers of Intercession (© The Anglican Church of Australia)

*If you would like to read aloud one of our prayers, please see our greeter in the back to volunteer before we begin.*

### Sung Response: CLM8 I Bless You, Lord, My God

Ben - di - go al Se - ñor por - que es - cu - cha mi voz. El Se -  
I bless you, Lord, my God, for you hear me when I call. You, O

ñor es mi fuer - za, con - fi - a mi co - ra - zón. Ben -  
Lord, are my strong - hold; I trust you with all my heart. I

(Last time)

(Last time)

Gardner of our souls, thank you for your persevering persistence in journeying with us. Thank you for fertilizing our roots, tending to our lives, and watering our parched souls. May your kind and gentle hand continue to bring healing and wholeness to us all.

**I BLESS YOU, LORD, MY GOD**

Bless the garden of your Church, O Gardner of our souls. Guide those who plant and tend it. Protect the young, strengthen the flourishing, and make us fruitful in ministry and mission.

**I BLESS YOU, LORD, MY GOD**

Bless the gardens of the world, the soil and rain and sunshine, and the work of all who sow and reap. Give abundant harvests and teach us to share them with justice.

**I BLESS YOU, LORD, MY GOD**

Bless the gardens of our community, the shelter of families, the fragrance of friendship. In all our care for one another, make us grow in wisdom and love, in gentleness, kindness and truth.

**I BLESS YOU, LORD, MY GOD**

Give tender care to all who are struggling through weakness, sickness, grief, or change. Show us your grace at work in the times when growth is painful or when death is near.

**I BLESS YOU, LORD, MY GOD**

Give eternal life to all whom you love, through Jesus Christ, the true vine. Give us grace to abide in him as fruitful branches and bring us at last with all your saints to resurrection life.

**I BLESS YOU, LORD, MY GOD**

## 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 confidentiality.*

*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 bearing 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.**



## NB25 Where There Is Charity

U - bi - ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
Where there is char - i - ty, self - less love,

u - bi - ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
where there is char - i - ty, God is tru - ly there.

CLM30 Nothing Can Ever

Musical score for "Nothing Can Ever" in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three systems of vocal melody and piano accompaniment.

System 1:  
Vocal: Noth - ing can ev - er come be - tween us and the love of God, the  
Piano: Accompaniment for the first system.

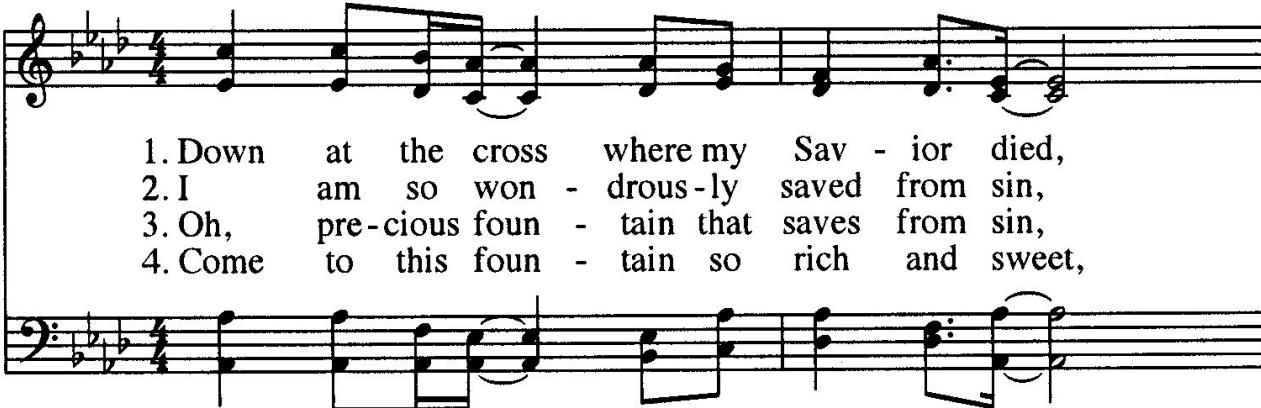
System 2:  
Vocal: love of God re - vealed to us in Christ Je - sus.  
Piano: Accompaniment for the second system. Includes the instruction *(Last time ♩)* above the final measure.

System 3:  
Vocal: O O  
Piano: Accompaniment for the third system, featuring sustained chords.

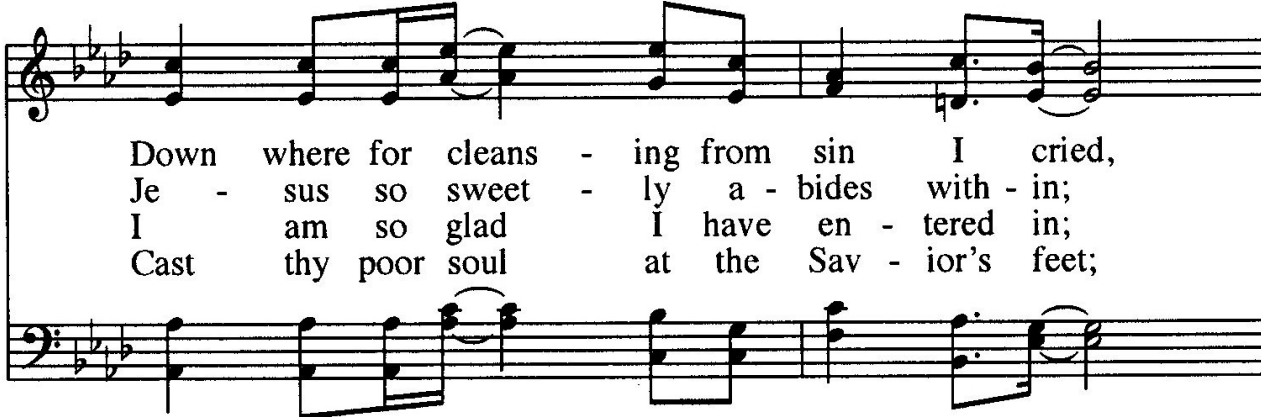
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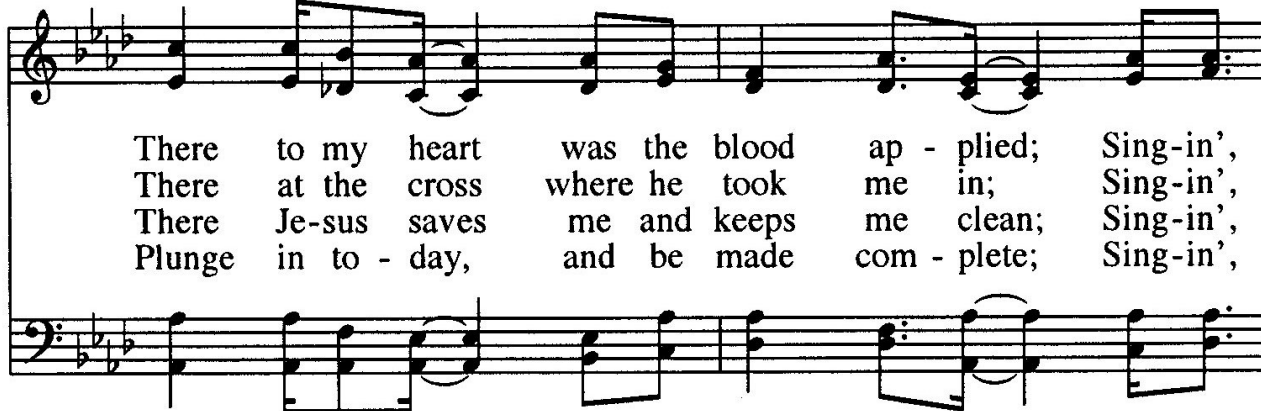
# \* Down At The Cross



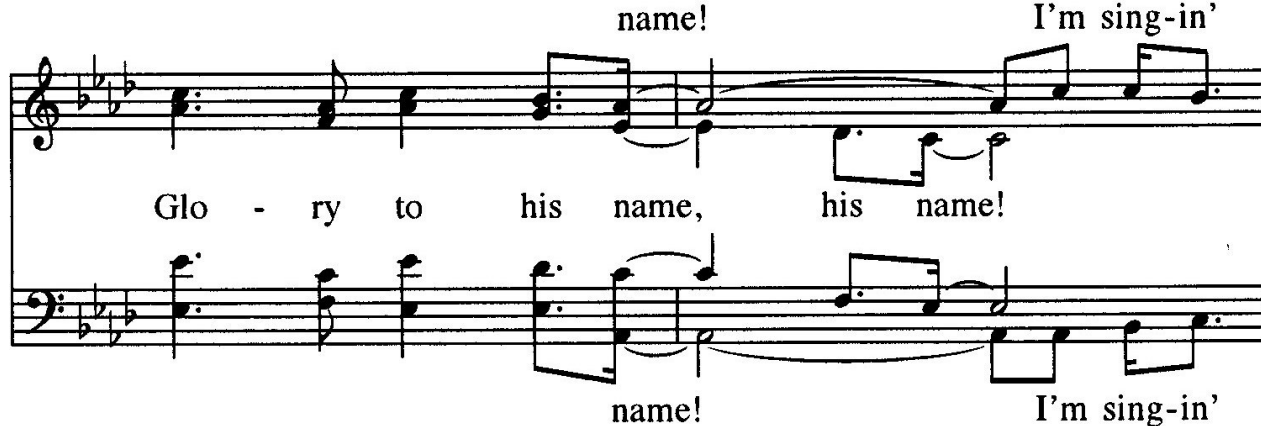
1. Down at the cross where my Sav - ior died,  
 2. I am so won - drous - ly saved from sin,  
 3. Oh, pre - cious foun - tain that saves from sin,  
 4. Come to this foun - tain so rich and sweet,



Down where for cleans - ing from sin I cried,  
 Je - sus so sweet - ly a - bides with - in;  
 I am so glad I have en - tered in;  
 Cast thy poor soul at the Sav - ior's feet;



There to my heart was the blood ap - plied; Sing-in',  
 There at the cross where he took me in; Sing-in',  
 There Je - sus saves me and keeps me clean; Sing-in',  
 Plunge in to - day, and be made com - plete; Sing-in',



name! I'm sing-in'  
 Glo - ry to his name, his name!  
 name! I'm sing-in'

*Continued on next page....*

Glo - ry to his name, Pre-cious name.

I'm sing-in'

Glo - ry to his name, Pre-cious name.

his name.

There to my heart was the blood ap - plied; sing-in'

name.

Glo - ry to his name, his name.

name.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Tune: GLORY TO HIS NAME, 999 7 with refrain; John H. Stockton, 1813–1877; arr. by Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, b.1953, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.



**Unison Lenten Prayer** *(adapted from Jan Richardson in "Circles of Grace")*

In this Lenten season,  
let us remember we were built for this ancient path,  
inscribed upon our bones,  
the persistent pattern echoing in our heartbeats.

Let this be the season where we turn our faces  
towards the One who calls to us:

*Return, return.*

May we open wide our arms to the wind  
that knows how to bear us home.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

**Postlude by the Taizé Musicians** *(depart as you so desire)*



# SPIRITUAL LIFE & CHURCH EVENTS

## Contemplative Prayer

During Lent, Pastor BJ will be practicing *Centering Prayer*, “a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.” (*from Contemplative Outreach*).

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: bestill

## 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.

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).

March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21  
7:00-8:30 pm

## Soup & Sustenance – Thursdays

Join us from 5:30– 6:45 pm any Thursday (through March 28) in the McKelvy Room for soup, bread and fellowship. Soup and bread are provided; if you want to volunteer to bring a soup one week, contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

## LABYRINTH available in LENT

You are invited to come and walk the labyrinth on the stage in the Social Hall, beginning Feb 15 to March 26.



- ♦ Tuesdays, 10 am–2 pm
- ♦ Thursdays, 10 am–7 pm
- ♦ Sundays, 10 am–2 pm

## Food Drive

Please bring canned goods to worship throughout the season of Lent for the EECM Food Pantry.

## ELPC Rainbow T-Shirts for Sale – Through March 17

Buy an ELPC rainbow tie-dyed shirt from March 1-17 online at <http://tiny.cc/elpcpride> (\$16 each; credit card only; includes small fee). They will also be sold in-person on Sunday, March 10 after the Journey and Sanctuary worship services (\$15 each; cash/check payable to ELPC).

They are available in short- and long-sleeved options, with sizes ranging from S-4XL. The front of the shirt says *East Liberty Presbyterian Church* and the back says *God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.* They are perfect for the upcoming Pittsburgh Pride marches in June, or for wearing around each day as you share God’s love for all in a colorful, stylish way.

You will be contacted when the shirts are ready for pick up at ELPC. For more info, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

## PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters – March 4 and 5

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, March 4 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, March 5 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). Those attending Tuesday morning are invited to bring a bagged lunch and stay for fellowship after the lesson. For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

## “Necessary Risks” Event – March 9

Anyone who seeks a more just and equitable world is invited to a day of worship, learning, discussion, and good food on Saturday, March 9 from 9 am– 3 pm, sponsored by Presbyterian Women. The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott will be our guide. She is the author of *Necessary Risks*, which grew out of her experiences as a college chaplain and volunteer at a men’s prison.



Registration must be received by noon, Wednesday, March 6. You do not have to be Presbyterian or a woman to participate. For info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

## Free Covid Vaccine Clinic – March 5

Free Covid vaccines and blood sugar and cholesterol screenings will be administered on Tuesday, March 5 from 2-6 pm at Eastminster Presbyterian Church (250 N Highland Ave, 15206) by East Liberty Family Health Care Center. This event is open to the public. For more info, please visit [www.elfhcc.com](http://www.elfhcc.com).



# 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.

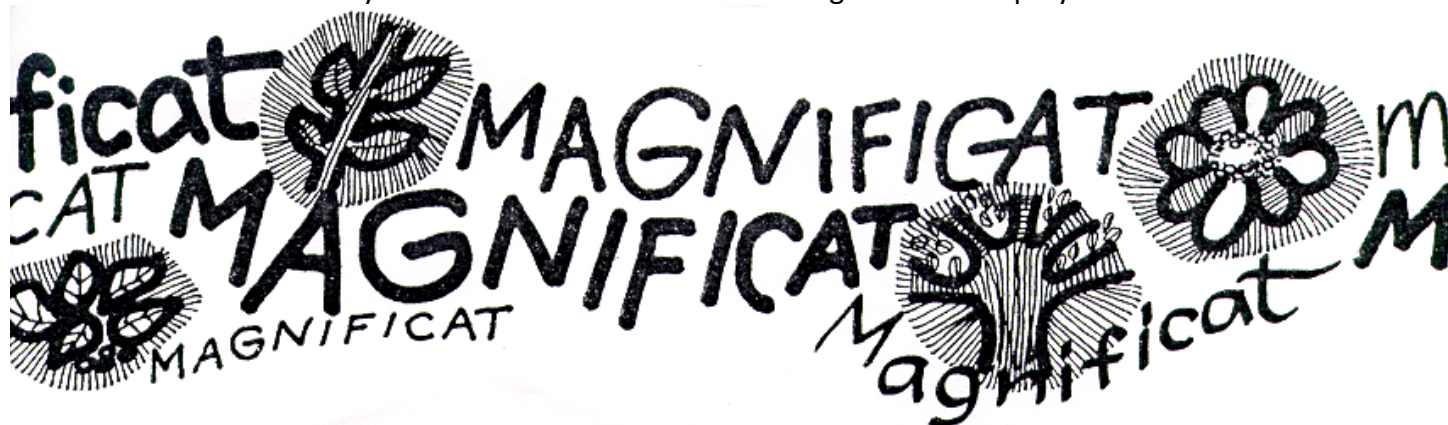
Prayer is a serene force at work within human beings, stirring them up, transforming them, never allowing them to close their eyes in the face of evil, of wars, of all that threatens the weak of this world. From it we draw the energy to wage other struggles—to enable our loved ones to survive, to transform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

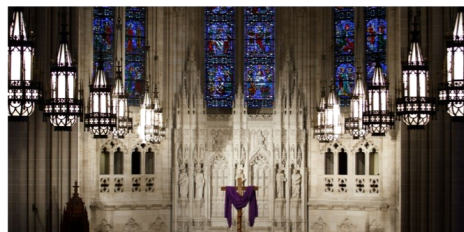
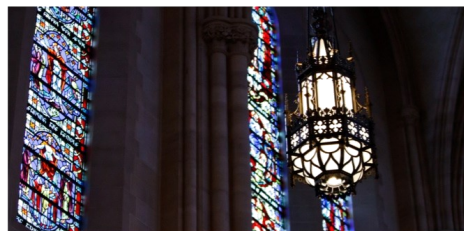
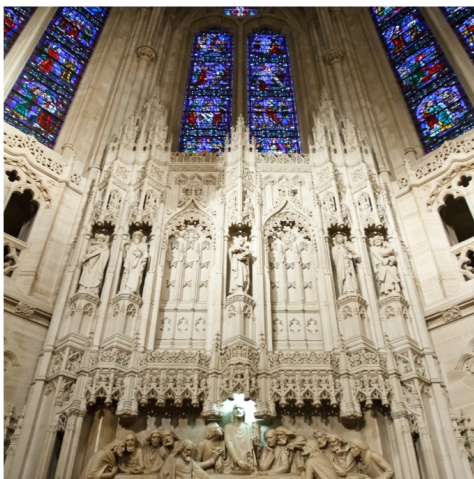
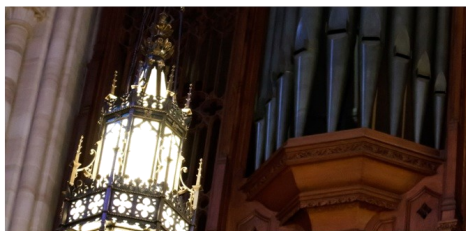
## ON SINGING

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.*

**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:

<b>Address:</b>	Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France
<b>To contact Taizé:</b>	community@taize.fr
<b>To visit Taizé:</b>	meetings@taize.fr
<b>List of useful info:</b>	info@taize.fr
<b>Web site:</b>	www.taize.fr
<b>Telephone:</b>	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 x241).