



East Liberty Presbyterian Church October 9, 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 the Taizé Musicians** 

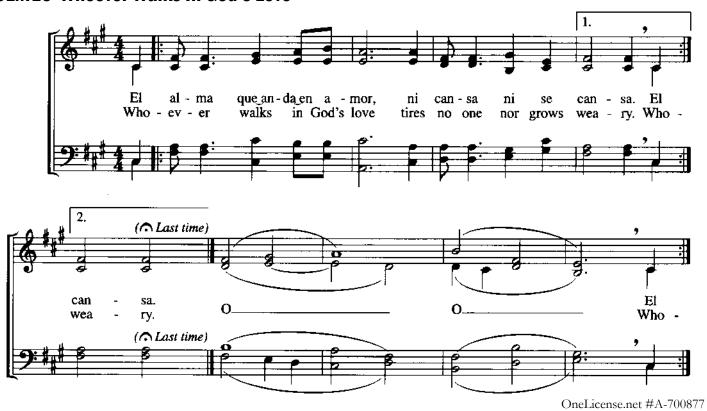
Welcome and Opening Centering by The Rev. BJ Woodworth

# CLM20 I Am Sure I Shall See



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# **CLM16** Whoever Walks In God's Love



# Sung Response: CLM3 Alleluia 21



Eternal and Immortal One, You have been our refuge in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Before you had formed the earth and the world From everlasting to everlasting, You are the Alpha and the Omega.

# **ALLELUIA**

When our days on Earth are ended, You welcome us home to your Heart, To the city of Light, Where time is eternal And days are not numbered.

# **ALLELUIA**

You gather those who love you,
As friends returning from a long journey,
Giving rest to their souls.
You anoint them
With the balm of understanding,
Healing wounds of the past.

**ALLELUIA** 

For our days on Earth are a mystery, A searching for you,

A yearning for the great mystery

To make itself known.

The years pass and soon the harvest is at hand, A time to reap the fruit of one's life.

Who has lived with integrity?

Who will reflect the Light,

Who can bear the radiant beams of love?

#### **ALLELUIA**

Who have reverenced the Counselor, And opened their hearts To the Spirit of Truth? Teach us, O Beloved, to honor each day That we may have a heart of wisdom.

#### **ALLELUIA**

Continued on next page....

Awaken us, O Holy One!
Too long have we been asleep!
Have mercy on your people!
Help us to wait in silence,
Listening for your gentle voice;
Strengthen us with courage
To face the fears within.
O, that we might be converted in our hearts,
And walk together in peace and harmony!

**ALLELUIA** 

Let your love be known to the nations, Your glory to our children's children. Let the grace and gentleness Of the Holy Spirit be upon us, Guiding our feet Upon paths of love consciousness. Increase the light within us, O Beloved, hear our prayer! Amen.

**ALLELUIA** 

# **Scripture for Meditation: Mark 10:17-27** (from Inclusive Bible translation)

As he was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: No killing. No committing adultery. No stealing. No bearing false witness. No defrauding. Honor your mother and your father."

The other replies, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood."

Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, "There is one thing more that you must do. Go and sell what you have and give it to those in need; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me."

At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property, became crestfallen and went away sadly.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, "How hard it is for rich people to enter the kin-dom of God!"

The disciples could only marvel at these words. So Jesus repeated what he had said: "My children, how hard it is to enter the realm of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the Needle's Eye gate than for a rich person to enter the kin-dom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at this and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible — but not for God. With God all things are possible."



# **Breath Prayer**

*Inhale* — Help me...

Exhale — lay down my treasures...

**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.

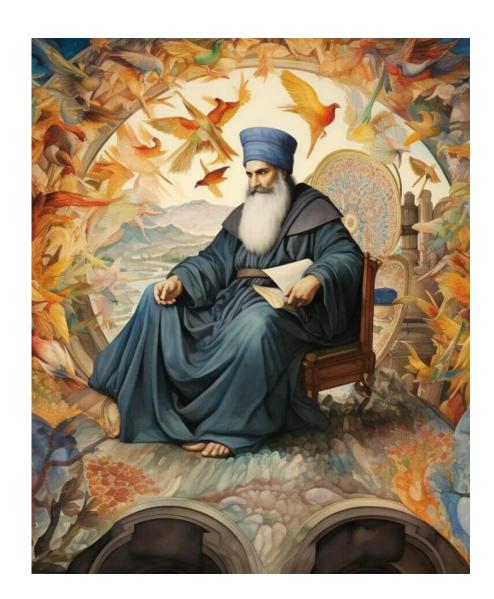


# Words from Saints and Ancestors

Walk patiently through this troubled world, and you will find great treasure.

Even though your house may be small, look within it!

— Rumi (1207-1273) a 13th-century poet, Hanafi faqih, Islamic scholar, Maturidi theologian, and Sufi mystic



# \* I Found the Treasure



# **Prayers of Intercession**

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: NB17 Our Eyes Are Turned





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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.

# **OUR EYES ARE TURNED**

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.

# **OUR EYES ARE TURNED**

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.

## **OUR EYES ARE TURNED**

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.

# **OUR EYES ARE TURNED**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

# **OUR EYES ARE TURNED**

# **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)

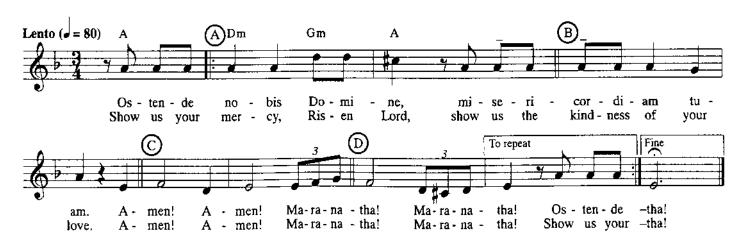
We have an anointing station this evening for those seeking individual prayer to share joys or concerns. Any desiring prayer, and/or anointing with oil, are invited to come forward, waiting in the center aisle if the station is full. To assist in hearing prayer concerns, anointing happens to the left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





# **15 Show Us Your Mercy**



# **G107** The Will Of Your Love



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# **G74 Masithi (Sing Amen)**



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

# **Closing Unison Prayer**

Go out into the world and live as children, depending on God and on each other, trusting the guidance of God and holding tight to God's hand.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

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

# TAIZÉ MUSICIANS:

Charlie Anderson....... flute
James Avant...... vocalist
David Bennett...... cello
Alyssa Creasy...... pianist
Jennifer Gorske..... music director/vocalist
Chris Markwell..... vocalist
Gerard Rohlf..... guitar



# **SPIRITUAL LIFE & CHURCH EVENTS**

## **Contemplative Prayer**

Monday morning *Contemplative Prayer* will restart tomorrow, Sept 9 from 7:30-8 am. Please join Pastor BJ Woodworth on Zoom (Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992; Passcode: bestill) for 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture.

Mondays, 7:30-8 am

#### **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, 6-7 pm

# **JourneyDance**

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

Oct18, Nov 15, Dec 27 ♦ Fridays, 7-8:30 pm

# Revolutionary Love Tour with Valrie Kaur — Oct 15

In the thick of a divisive election season, join visionary civil rights leader Valarie Kaur in an immersive experience of storytelling, music, song, ancestral wisdom, and community-building on Tuesday, Oct 15 from 6-9 pm at 1Hood Media (460 Melwood Ave, 15213). We invite you into a space for soulful introspection, deep listening, and courageous action. Each stop uplifts local leaders, artists, and advocates who catalyze hope. You will leave with the tools needed to lead with love and courage in your daily life. Free event; but RSVP: tiny.cc/revolutionary-love-tour.

# A Day with Cole Arthur Riley - Nov 2

Cole is the creator of *Black Liturgies* and author of *This Here Flesh*. She is a native of Pittsburgh and will be offering her wisdom and sharing from her liturgies at Sixth Presbyterian Church (1688 Murray Ave, 15217) on Saturday, Nov 2 from 9 am—2 pm. The cost is \$20 per person. Cole will be speaking on **Dignity, Justice, Lament, and Solidarity**. What is our story and where does it begin? How can you practice justice and reconciliation in the mundane and in the systemic? What does it mean to exist in solidarity with another? Register online at:

https://www.jotform.com/form/242466134554053.

# Family Bowling - Oct 13

Families with children and teens are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship next Sunday, Oct 13 for pizza and bowling. Please RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

# Young Adult Ministry: Jam with the YAMs! - Oct 13

If you are 18–40, please join the young adult ministry *Jam with the YAMs!* We will gather on the third Sunday of each month from Noon-1 pm in the Harambe Room (Oct 13 is not the third Sunday, but will be the next gathering because of a scheduling conflict). Contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

# Are You Ready to Vote? — Oct 13

The members of the ad hoc Voting Team (under Justice Committee) will be available to do online voter registration, mail-in ballot requests, and check voter status and polling locations. Join us in the Fellowship Room before and after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Oct 13. We will have nonpartisan voter guides (paper and online) that will give you info about offices and candidates. Contact Nancy Heastings for more info (n.heastings@comcast.net).

# Panel Discussion on Incarceration - Oct 13

As part of the art show Abolitionist Expressions currently being sponsored by ELPC's Justice & Worship, Music & Arts Committee, there will be a panel discussion on Sunday, Oct 13 at Noon in the McKelvy Room exploring the experience of incarceration from multiple perspectives. Panelists will be The



Rev. Dr. Tami Hooker, Rita Nordquist, etta cetera, and Barbara Jewell. More info on these panelists is on the flyer around the church, and in the rooms where the artwork is displayed (Highland and Trustees Rooms). Refreshments will be provided.

#### Full Inclusion Sunday with RCC - Oct 13

On Sunday, Oct 13, ELPC will celebrate *Full Inclusion Sunday* at our 11 am service, with our Artists-in-Residence, RCC, joining our Chancel Choir. The Renaissance City Choir (RCC) affirms and celebrates LGBTQIA+ identity through the unifying power of music. RCC is western Pennsylvania's only LGBTQIA+ and allies choral group and affirms, by example and through song, the worth and dignity of those in our community. The RCC rehearses and performs at ELPC and wants to thank the leadership and members of ELPC for providing a safe space and artistic home. *RCC's Holiday Concert will be here on Saturday*, *Dec* 7.











Please visit our website for more information about the ministries of East Liberty Presbyterian 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:** Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France

To contact Taizé: community@taize.fr
To visit Taizé: meetings@taize.fr
List of useful info: info@taize.fr

Web site: www.taize.fr

**Telephone:** 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).

# 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.





# East Liberty Presbyterian Church