



TAIZÉ

PRAYERFUL SONG AND
QUIET MEDITATION

The Courageous Choice
by artist
Lisle Gwynn Garrity



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

December 11, 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 Poem “Instructions for a Hard Choice” by The Rev. BJ Woodworth


* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

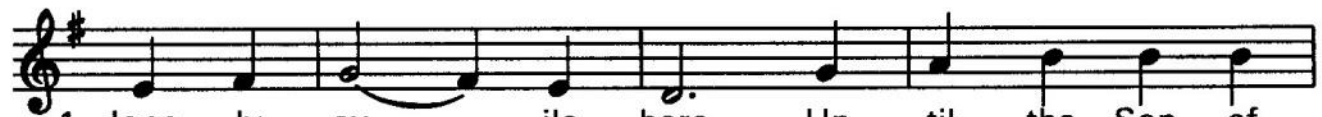
Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who
 4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
 6. O come, Thou Day-spring from on high And
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In




1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
 2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
 3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient
 4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy
 5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the
 6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
 7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our



1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
 2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
 3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -
 4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry
 5. way that leads on high, And close the path to
 6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
 7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain



1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
 2. ways to go.
 3. ty and awe.
 4. o'er the grave.
 5. mis - er - y.
 6. put to flight.
 7. Prince of Peace.



el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6, para. in *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: *Processionale*, 15th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I.

NB15 Lord, Jesus Christ

Je — sus your light is shi — ning with - in us. Let not my
Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, ne lais - se

doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me. Je — sus your light is
pas mes té - nè - bres me par - ler. Jé - sus le Christ, lu -

shi — ning with - in us. Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.
mière in - té - rieu - re, don - ne - moi d'ac - cueil - lir ton a - mour.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are in English and French. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final two lines and ends with a double bar line.

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Isaiah 35:1-10 (from *Inclusive Bible translation*)

Sung Response: * Alleluia (Veni Emmanuel)

(VENI EMMANUEL) Stephen Pishner

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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Let the desert and the wilderness exult!
Let it rejoice and bloom like the crocus!
Let it blossom profusely,
Let it rejoice and sing for joy!
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
The splendor of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of Yhwh,
The splendor of our God.

ALLELUIA

Strengthen all weary hands,
Steady all trembling knees.
Say to all those of faint heart;
“Take courage! Do not be afraid!
Look, Yhwh is coming,
Vindication is coming,
The recompense of God —
God is coming to save you!”

ALLELUIA

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
The ears of the deaf will be unsealed.
Then those who cannot walk
Will leap like deer,
And the tongues of those
Who cannot speak will sing for joy.

ALLELUIA

Waters will break forth in the wilderness,
And there will be streams in the desert.
The scorched earth will become a lake;
The parched land, springs of water.
The lairs where jackals used to dwell
Will become thickets of reed and papyrus.

ALLELUIA

And through it will run a highway,
A road called the Sacred Path.
The unclean may not travel by it,
But it will be for God’s people alone;
And no traveler—not even fools—
Will go astray.

ALLELUIA

No lions will be there,
Nor will any fierce beast roam about it,
But the redeemed will walk there —
For those whom Yhwh has ransomed will return.

ALLELUIA

They will enter Zion shouting for joy,
With everlasting joy on their faces;
Joy and gladness will go with them,
And sorrow and lament will flee away.

ALLELUIA

Scripture for Meditation: Matthew 1:18-25 *(from Inclusive Bible translation)*

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly.

This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus — 'Salvation' — because he will save the people from their sins."

All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet:

"The virgin will be with child and give birth,
And the child will be named Immanuel" —

A name that means "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. He did not have intercourse with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

Silence for Visio Divina

*(lasting approximately
5-7 minutes)*

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image of *The Courageous Choice*. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, letting God pray in you or offering your own silent prayer.

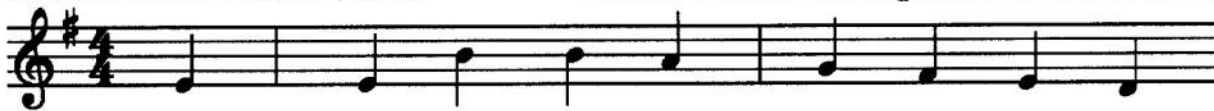


Words from the artist Lisle Gwynn Garrity

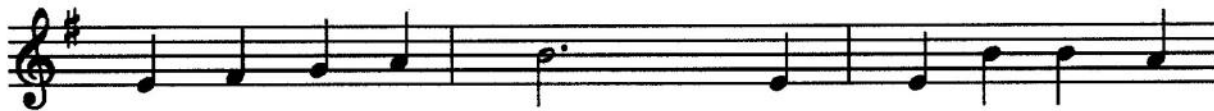
* A Better Way / God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional English carol (18th cent.)



When Jo - seph learned of Ma - ry's state he
 He planned to leave her qui - et - ly and
 Said Ga - briel, "Jo - seph, do not fear to
 Like Jo - seph woke from sleep to find his



pon-dered her dis - grace He cal - cu - lat - ed
 not cre - ate a scene But Ma - ry still would
 make Ma - ry your wife She bears in - side her
 path-way had been changed Still here to - day God



all the shame the scan - dal would cre - ate But
 grow with child; what then would her fate be? When
 womb the hope of ev - er - last - ing life The
 calls us all to choose the bet - ter way Be -



not con - tent to see her stoned he of - fered her some
 Jo - seph went to sleep that night an an - gel in - ter -
 son that she will bear to you is Je - sus the Mes -
 - yond our wild - est dreams is still a call - ing that re -



grace
 - vened Oh there is a bet - ter way, God's bet - ter way Oh
 - siah"
 - mains



we can choose the bet - ter way

Intercessory Advent Prayers *(adapted from Howard Thurman and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)*

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: * **Come, Lord, Light of Our Hearts**

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Come, Lord, Light of Our Hearts'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment line in the middle, and a bass line at the bottom. The lyrics are: 'Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus! / Come, Lord, light - of our hearts!'. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final double bar line with repeat dots.

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May the sounds of Advent stir in your people a deep longing and a patient trust in your slow work, O God. Come again to set us free from the dullness of routine and the poverty of our imaginations.

COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

As this new spirit gradually forms within us, may we give you the benefit of believing that your hand is in fact leading us, and accept the anxiety of feeling ourselves in suspense and incomplete.

COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

Break the patterns which bind us to small commitments and to the stale answers we have given to questions of no importance.

COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

Let the Advent trumpet blow, let the walls of our defenses crumble, and make a place in our lives for the freshness of your love, well-lived in the Spirit, and still given to all who know their need and dare receive it.

COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

Watching and waiting, we pray for this the world, longing for a light to dawn amidst deep darkness: for nations at war... for the creation groaning in travail... for leaders needing wisdom and guidance... and for all who live in worry and fear.

COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

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.

Jesus' Prayer for the Disciples / Life Giver (Tune: TALLIS CANNON)

1. Life-giv-er, Lov-er of us all, up-on your ho-ly name we call;
2. We pray this day for bread to live, for-give our sins as we for-give,
3. For all the cos-mos is your own, your pow'r of love which we have known,
your new day come, your will be done, on earth as in all realms be-yond.
and give us strength in time of test. Grant us re-lease from e-vil's death.
the splen-dor, ra-diant, with-out end. To God be praise! A-men. A-men.

Written by Laurie Y. J. Aleona, 1988



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.



NB19 Our Soul Is Waiting

A Last time

Our soul is wait - ing for God. Our hearts find joy — in the Lord.
Notre âme at - tend le Sei - gneur. En lui la joie de no - tre cœur.

Verses (Cantor)

B D.C.

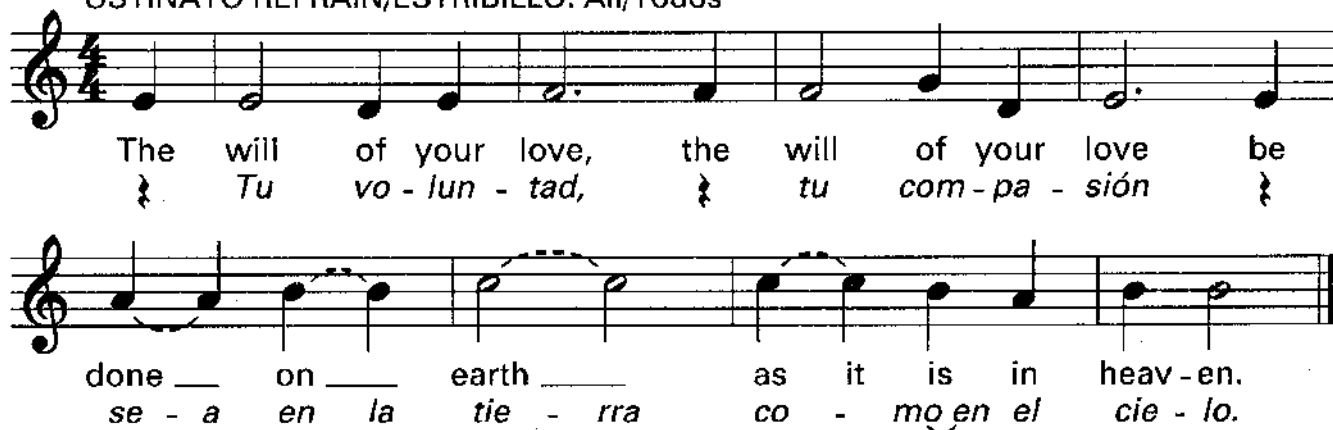
O O

G107 The Will Of Your Love

Text suggested by Brother Roger, Taizé Community
Spanish translation by Pia Moriarty and Bob Hurd

Suzanne Toolan, RSM

OSTINATO REFRAIN/ESTRIBILLO: All/Todos



The will of your love, the will of your love be
Tu vo-lun-tad, tu com-pa-sión

done on earth as it is in heav-en.
se-a en la tie-rra co-mo en el cie-lo.

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Hoping in Season and out of Season by Brother Alois of Taizé

Humanity is able to move forward because of the multitudes of women and men who give themselves without counting the cost, even in times of upheaval and uncertainty.

People have become more aware of structures of injustice, sometimes inherited from the past. And unfortunately, power has not always been exercised to serve the good of all. In the face of such abuses, frustration and anger are comprehensible. Who will be daring enough to be creators of justice and peace beyond the divisions that are splitting our societies apart?

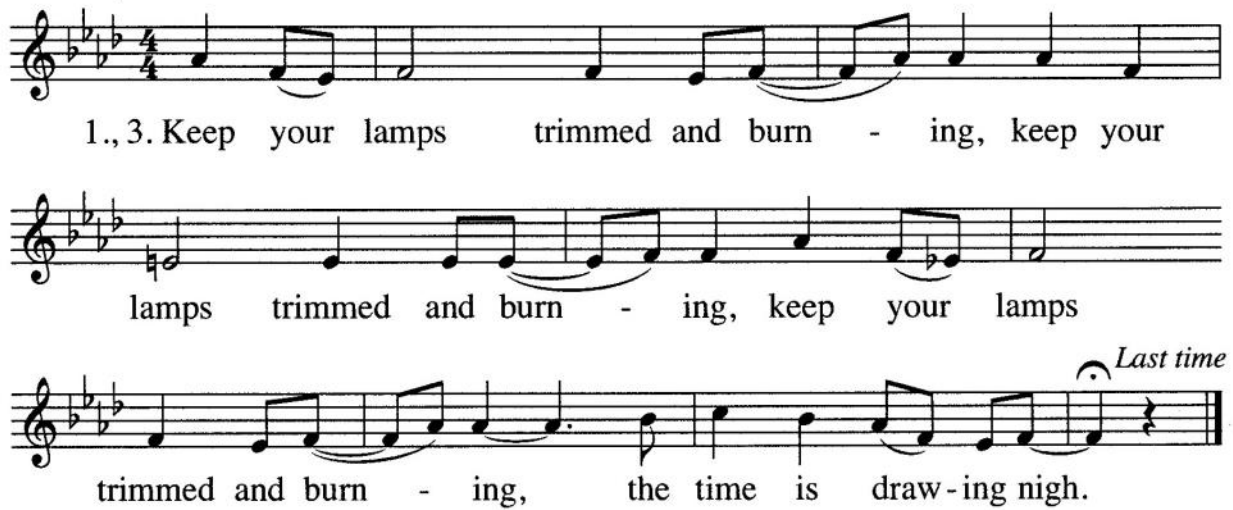
Yes, in the midst of the difficult realities of the present, we can glimpse reasons to hope, and even at times to hope against all hope. For this, we need to come together with others who have made different choices—with Christians from other denominations, with believers of other religions, and with people who are agnostic or atheist and who are also committed to solidarity and sharing.

Joy is renewed when we live as brothers and sisters, when we remain alongside the most deprived: the homeless, men and women who are elderly, ill or lonely, children in difficulty, people living with disabilities, migrants.... Life's circumstances can make us all vulnerable. And the pandemic is exposing the weak spots of our humanity.



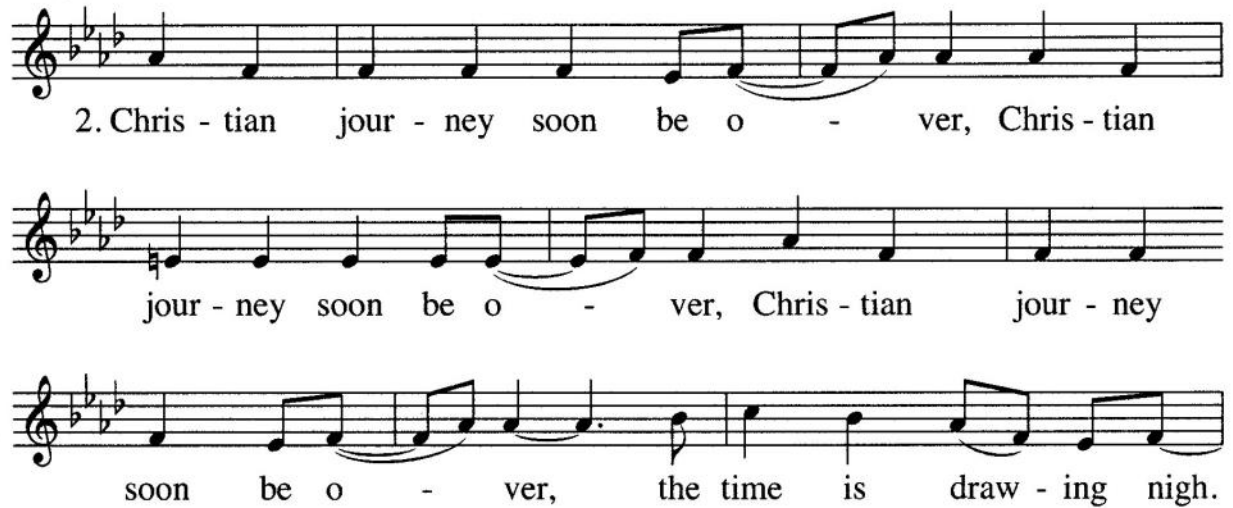
* Keep Your Lamps Trimmed And Burning

Verses 1, 3



1., 3. Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
trimmed and burn - ing, the time is draw - ing nigh. *Last time*

Verse 2



2. Chris - tian jour - ney soon be o - ver, Chris - tian
jour - ney soon be o - ver, Chris - tian jour - ney
soon be o - ver, the time is draw - ing nigh.

Bridge



Chil - dren, don't get wea - ry, chil - dren,
don't get wea - ry, chil - dren, don't get
wea - ry till your work is done. **D.C.**

Closing Unison Prayer *(adapted from Rumi)*

May we all see our bodies like Mary; each of us with a Jesus inside.

May we see, beyond our doubts and trust, God is really there within,
so innocently drawing life from us
with her umbilical universe – infinite existence ...
though also needing to be born.

May we say, “Yes,” God also needs to be born in us - breathing life into this world.

The body is like Mary, and each of us, each of us has a Christ within.

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

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Group

ELPC offers an online prayer group each Tuesday morning from 8-8:20 am, hosted by ELPC member Steve Evrard. These 20-minute sessions feature scripture readings, responsive prayer, and interactive dialogue. All are welcome at this opportunity for fellowship and prayer.

Tuesdays, 8-8:30 am

Meeting ID: 896 9680 6662 • Passcode 116
or you may call in by dialing 929.205.6099

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

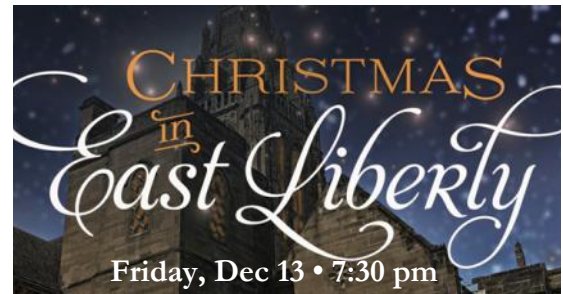
Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month (with a few exceptions).

Dec 27 ♦ Fridays, 7-8:30 pm

Donations for Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is in need of **winter clothing (especially men's)** and **full-sized toiletries items** (soap, body wash, toothpaste, toilet paper, toothbrushes, lotion etc.) Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open (on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 5-7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am-12 pm).

If you would like to volunteer in the Chapel Market, please contact Gerald McClendon (GeraldM@coh.net).



This highly anticipated free concert and East Liberty tradition will feature holiday favorites performed by The Brass Roots, ELPC Chancel Choir, and organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore.

Join us in the Sanctuary or virtually on YouTube or Facebook.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering – Dec 15

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sunday, Dec 15 at 12:30 pm. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5 PM FRIENDS & FAMILY SERVICE

10 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Both services will be held in the Sanctuary, feature the celebration of the Lord's Supper and candle lighting, and will be led by Pastor Michael Diaz.



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:

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).