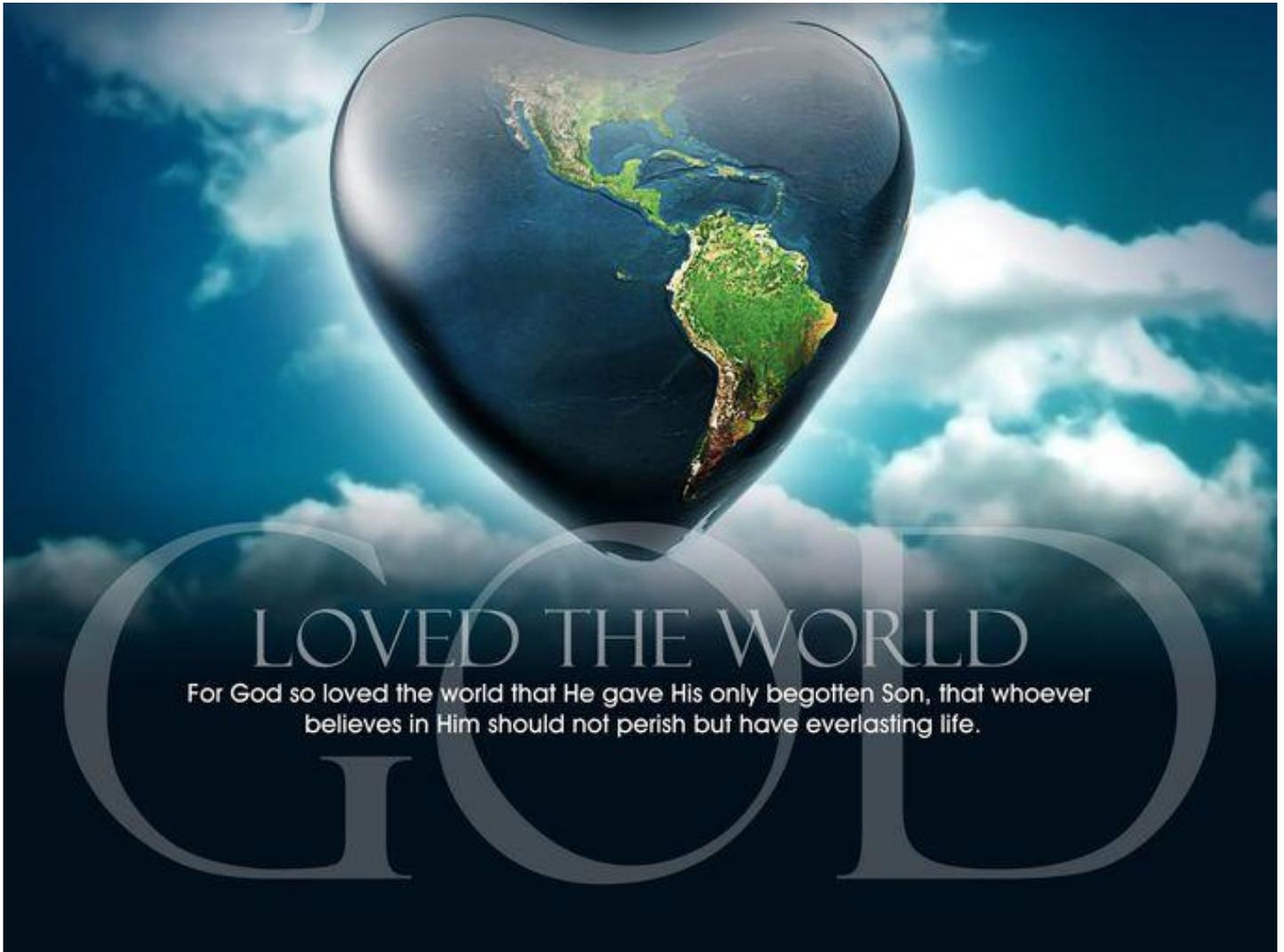


Taizé Prayer



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

April 23, 2025 • 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 Rev. BJ Woodworth

NB2 Be Not Afraid

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris - en, al - le - lu - ia!
 Ne - boj - te se, ra - duj - te se! Kris - tus slav - ný ví - téz z hro - bu vstal.

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris - en, al - le - lu - ia!
 Ne - boj - te se, ra - duj - te se! Kris - tus slav - ný ví - téz z hro - bu vstal.

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CLM22 The Heavens And The Earth Rejoice

In re - sur - rec - ti - o - ne tu - a, Chri - ste,
 The heav - ens and the earth re - joice, Lord Je - sus,

cœ - li et ter - ra lae - ten - tur. In re - sur - rec - ti - o - ne
 raised from the dead, you are liv - ing. The heav - ens and the earth re -

tu - a, Chri - ste, cœ - li et ter - ra lae - ten - tur. In
 joice, Lord Je - sus, raised from the dead, you are liv - ing. The

(♩ Last time)

(♩ Last time)

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Psalm 148 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: * Celtic Alleluia (refrain only)



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Praise the Blessed One!
Give praise from the heavens,
And from all ends of the earth!
Give praise, all you angels,
Angels of earth and of heaven!
Give praise, sun and moon,
Give praise, all you shining stars!
Give praise, all universes,
The whole cosmos of Creation!

ALLELUIA

Praise the Blessed One!
For through Love all was created
And firmly fixed forever and ever;
Yes, the pattern of creation was established.

ALLELUIA

Give praise to the Beloved,
All the earth, all that swim in the deep,
And all the winged ones in the air!
Give praise, all mountains and hills,
All trees and all minerals!
Give praise, all four-legged
And all that creep on the ground!

ALLELUIA

Leaders of the nations and all peoples,
Young and old, give praise!
Unite together in all your diversity,
That peace and harmony
Might flourish on earth!

ALLELUIA

For all are called to be friends,
Companions to the true Friend,
Giving their lives joyfully
As co-creators and people of peace!
Praises be to the Blessed One,
The very Breath of our breath,
The very Heart of our heart!

ALLELUIA



The Word/Meditation: Job 12:7-10 *(The Inclusive Bible)*

But turn to the animals, and let them teach you; the birds of the air will tell you the truth.

Listen to the plants of the earth, and learn from them; let the fish of the sea become your teachers.

Who among all these does not know that the hand of Yhwh has done this?

In God's hand is the soul of every living thing; in God's hand is the breath of all humankind.



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



Breath Prayer

Inhale — Breath of life ...

Exhale — Connect me to All ...

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

Apprehend God in all things, for
God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of
God and is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

If I spent enough time with the
tiniest creature — even a
caterpillar — I would never have
to prepare a sermon.

So full of God is every creature.
— *Meister Eckhart*



G83 Many And Great

LACQUIPARLE 9.6.9.9.6

Dakota hymn
Joseph R. Renville, 1842
Trans. R. Philip Frazier, 1953 (Sioux)

Native American melody (Dakota)
Adapt. Joseph R. Renville, 1842
Harm. J. R. Murray, 1877

1. Man - y and great, O God, are Thy things, Mak - er of
earth and sky; Thy hands have set the heav-ens with stars,
Thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at Thy
word the wa - ters were formed; Deep seas o - bey Thy voice.

Intercessory Prayers

Sung Response: 4 Kyrie 1

♩ = 100

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. (hum) D.C.

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God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe.

KYRIE

We pray, that pollution and cruel exploitation might cease so that rivers can clap their hands, waste places burst into flower, valleys laugh and sing, wildlife live in safety, and all as you intended.

KYRIE

We pray, that the children of tomorrow may not need a museum to show them the wonders of nature today.

KYRIE

We pray that the poorest nations of the world may not harvest their fields only to fill foreign tables.

KYRIE

We pray that Christ who pointed to the birds, the flowers, the corn, the sunset, might not find their beauty lacking were he to return.

KYRIE

Hear us, Creator of all; convert the hearts of those who ravage the earth and strengthen the resolve of those who respect it. And since the earth is your gift to us, prevent us from destroying by thoughtlessness that which is not ours to own.

KYRIE



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.

Closing Refrain

In the communion of the Holy Spirit and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another to the living God, through Jesus Christ. God, in your mercy... **Hear our prayers!**



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.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a bass line in the bass clef. The piece ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

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.



CLM 39 Praise Our God and Savior

Wy - sła - wiaj - cie Pa - na, O — Wy - sła - wiaj - cie Pa - na, O —
Praise our God and Sav - ior, O — praise our God and Sav - ior, O —
Viss - swah vyie - chay Pah - na O — Viss - swah vyie - chay Pah - na O —

(Last time ☺),
Śpie - waj Pa - nu ca - ła zie - mio, al - le - lu - ja, al - le - lu - ja! Wy - sła -
for — God's love en - dures for - ev - er, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise our
Shpyae - vie Pah - noo tsa wah zhay - myo *(Last time ☺)*

* How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion

con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,
 when I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
 that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,

thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played.
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

WORDS and MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953, based on a Swedish folk melody
 and a poem by Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885

O STORE GUD
 11 10.11 10 w. refrain

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to thee;

how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!



*** Christ The Lord Is Risen!**

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n! Christ the Lord is ris'n!
 2. He has con - quered death. He has con - quered death.
 3. Sin has done its worst. Sin has done its worst.
 4. He is King of kings. He is King of kings.
 5. He is Lord of lords. He is Lord of lords.
 6. All the world is his. All the world is his.
 7. Come and wor - ship him. Come and wor - ship him.
 8. Christ our Lord is ris'n! Christ our Lord is ris'n!
 9. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Je - su. Christ the Lord is ris'n!
 Je - su. He has con - quered death.
 Je - su. Sin has done its worst.
 Je - su. He is King of kings.
 Je - su. He is Lord of lords.
 Je - su. All the world is his.
 Je - su. Come and wor - ship him.
 Je - su. Christ our Lord is ris'n!
 Je - su. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Christ the Lord is ris'n! Je - su.
 He has con - quered death. Je - su.
 Sin has done its worst. Je - su.
 He is King of kings. Je - su.
 He is Lord of lords. Je - su.
 All the world is his. Je - su.
 Come and wor - ship him. Je - su.
 Christ our Lord is ris'n! Je - su.
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Je - su.

Text: Tom Colvin, b.1925
 Tune: Garu, Ghanian folk song, arr. by Kevin R. Hackett
 © 1969, Hope Publishing Company

Easter Blessing *(in unison)*

God of Life and Light, awaken us to your presence
among us in the ordinary activity of our lives.

Jesus, the Christ, walk with us, forgive us, and make us your wounded healers.

Spirit, produce your fruit in us that we may become the beloved community of God.

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*

Monthly Taizé Social Gathering

On the first Wednesday of each month, we will create space for people to connect and fellowship after Taizé with some light refreshments and conversation in the Narthex. Taizé is a unique spiritual community within ELPC, and we desire to have time for those who gather to get to know one another. If you would like to volunteer to bring a cake or some other snacks, please contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

SPIRITUAL LIFE 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 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.

May 16, June 20 (etc)

Fridays, 7:00-8:30 pm

**The Rev. BJ Woodworth is Minister of
Taizé Prayer here 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

CHURCH EVENTS

Tool Drive for GCF – April 27

As part of ELPC's celebration of Earth Day, the Neighbors Committee is sponsoring a *Tool Drive* for Garfield Community Farm (GCF) on Sunday, April 27. You can view GCF's wish list and sign up to donate new or gently used items at tiny.cc/gcf-tool-drive. A representative from GCF will be here after the 11 am service on April 27 to provide more info and sign up volunteers.

Church Tour – April 27

Jo Ellen Aleshire will lead a *Sanctuary and Chapel* tour on Sunday, April 27. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service to join.

No Worship Services on Marathon Sunday – May 4

Due to the route of the Pittsburgh Marathon, ELPC will not have any worship services on Sunday, May 4. The church building will be closed.

PW Bible Study – May 5 and 6

Presbyterian Women's 2024-2025 Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: Sustaining Creation's Health for All* will meet on Monday, May 5 from 7-8:30 pm (on Zoom), and on Tuesday, May 6 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). There will be a potluck lunch after Tuesday's Bible Study. Please bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. For more info and Zoom link, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Alternative Transportation Challenge – May 18

Transportation is one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions and plays a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to services and opportunities for all communities. The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee would like to challenge the ELPC congregation to consider lowering its transportation carbon footprint. We can make an impact by working together to care for God's creation.

Join the challenge on Sunday, May 18 if you are able, to get to ELPC by biking, walking, running, carpooling, using public transportation, or driving a hybrid or electric vehicle. Secure indoor bicycle parking will be available in the Harambe Room. Information will be available after worship services on Sundays, April 27 and May 11 to assist you in making a plan!

On Sunday, May 18 we will gather data as people arrive, and report on the total carbon emissions saved compared to single occupancy gas vehicles. Members with electric vehicles will be present after both services to demonstrate and provide information. Contact Nancy Heastings for more info (n.heastings@comcast.net).



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:

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).