

TAIZÉ: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation

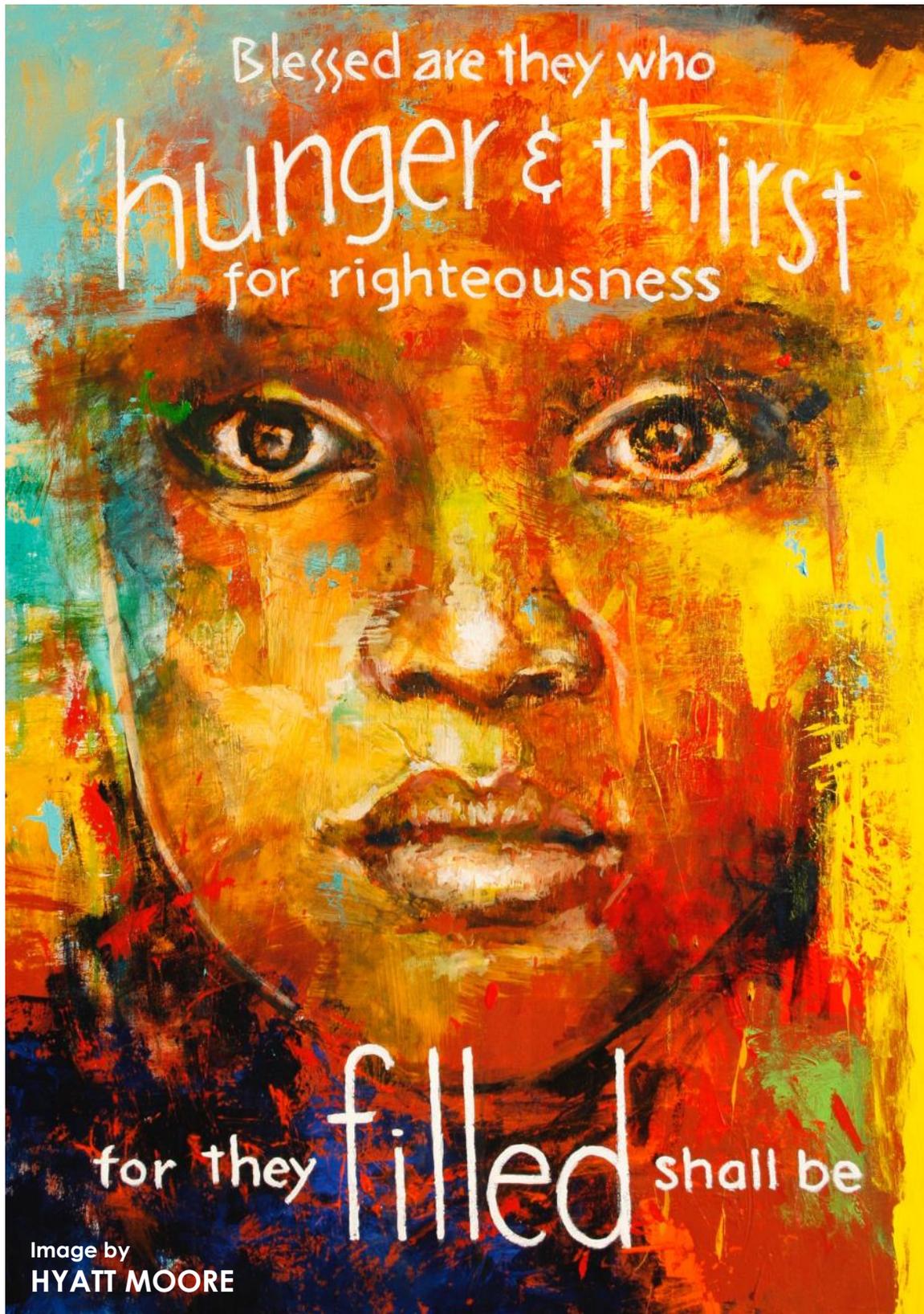


Image by
HYATT MOORE



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

July 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. John Titus

NB29 O Come And Let Us Sing To God

Ve - ni - te, e - xul - te - mus Do - mi - no, ve -
O come and let us sing to God, our hope. God's

ni - te, a - do - re - mus. Ve - ni - te, e - xul - te - mus
mer - cy is for ev - er. O come and let us sing to

Do - mi - no, ve - ni - te, a - do - re - mus. Ve -
God, our hope. God's mer - cy is for ev - er. O

Last time

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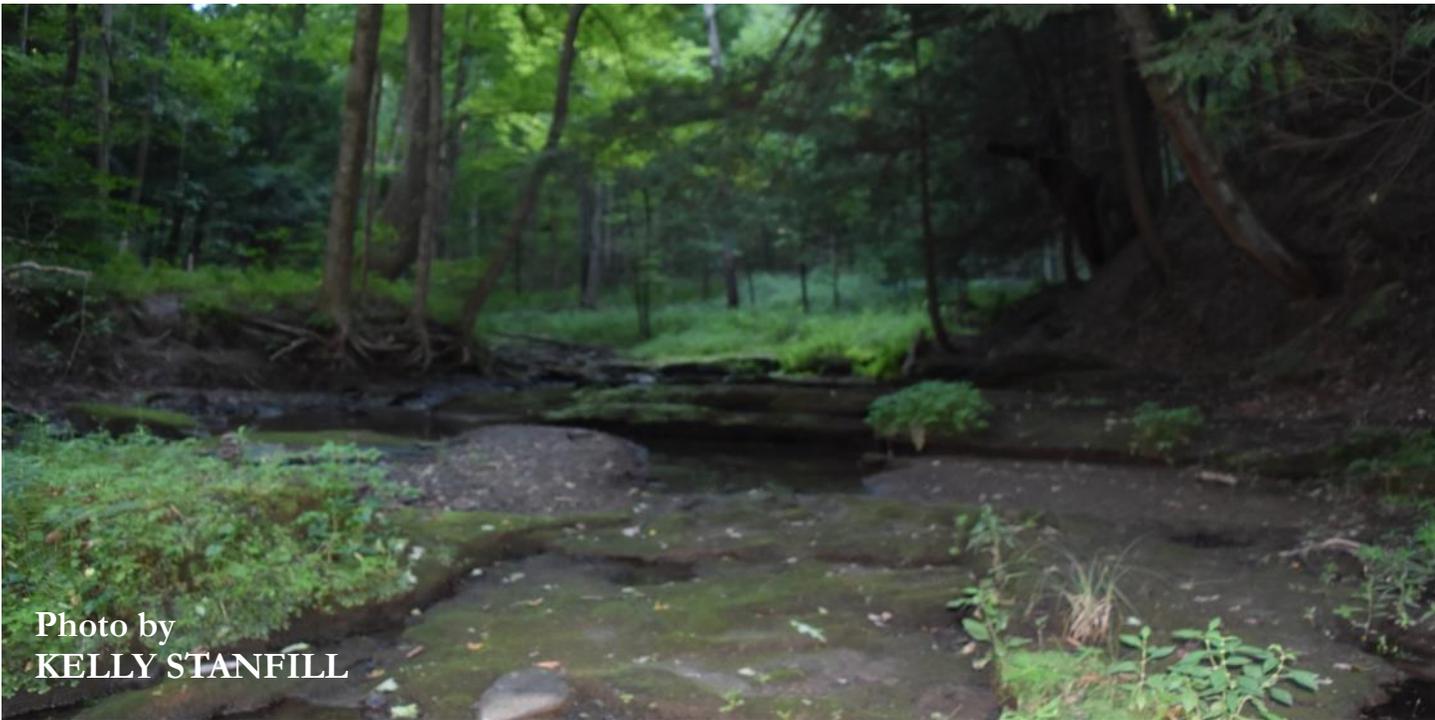


Photo by
KELLY STANFILL

CLM7 O God, Keep Me Safe

Be - hü - te mich, Gott, ich ver - trau - e dir, du
O God, keep me safe, for I trust in you. The

zeigt mir den Weg zum Le - ben. Bei dir ist
path - way to life you teach me. With you is

Freu - de, and Freu - de in all Fül - le. Be -
peace and joy in all full - ness. O

(♪) (♪ Last time)

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Psalm 30 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 1

The musical score is for a four-part setting of 'Alleluia'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The Soprano part is marked 'ad lib.' and begins with a melodic line. The Cantor part provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'.

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All praise to you, O Beloved,
For you have raised me up,
And have not let my fears
Overwhelm me.

ALLELUIA

O Compassionate One,
I cried for help,
And you comforted me.
You, O Love, helped me release
My soul from despair;
You gave me strength to face my fears;
Now love is awakening in me.

ALLELUIA

Sing praises to the Beloved, all you saints,
Giving thanks to Love's holy Name.
Love withdraws when we close our hearts,
Yet ever awaits an open door.
In the evening we may weep,
Yet joy comes with the morning.

ALLELUIA

In my prosperity, I had lost sight of Love,
I found power in my wealth.
In your mercy, O Beloved,
My foundations you shook,
And in recognizing
My separation from you,
I was dismayed.

ALLELUIA

I cried to you for help;
To you, I pleaded for forgiveness:
"What profit in my riches
If I am separated from Love?
Will emptiness praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear me, O Beloved,
And be gracious to me!
O Love, hasten to my assistance!"

ALLELUIA

And you turned my mourning
Into dancing;
You set me free and
Clothed me with gladness.
My soul rejoices and is glad in you;
Songs of gratitude fill my soul,
Rising up to you, O Beloved.
Amen.

ALLELUIA

The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1-6 *(The Inclusive Bible translation)*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mahatma Gandhi, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. all regularly read and were significantly influenced by the Sermon on the Mount. It was a prominent text that they frequently returned to as a source of their activism amidst their own troubled times. From now until Advent we will be meditating on the Sermon on the Mount. May it ground and inspire all of us in the radical teachings of Jesus, as we seek to be salt and light in our own troubled times.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

Blessed are those who are poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who are mourning; they will be consoled.

Blessed are those who are gentle; they will inherit the land.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice; they will have their fill.

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



Breath Prayer

(to assist you in the quiet stillness)

Inhale — Jesus...

Exhale — I hide myself in
your Love ...

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

Vulnerability is the underlying, ever present and abiding undercurrent of our natural state. To run from vulnerability is to run from the essence of our nature, the attempt to be invulnerable is the vain attempt to become something we are not and most especially, to close off our understanding of the grief of others.

— David Whyte (1955), an Anglo-Irish poet

CLM6 How Blessed The Poor In Heart

Be - a - ti - ed voi po - ve - ri, per - ché
How bless - ed the poor in heart, for _____

vos - tro è il re - gno di Di - o. Be -
theirs — is the king - dom of heav - en. How

(♩ Last time)

(♩ Last time)

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Image by HYATT MOORE



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: NB42 Kyrie 6



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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Jesus, thank you for this teaching you gave that shows us the way of following you. Grant us the grace, wisdom and courage to not just hear your words but to put them in practice. Come, Holy Spirit, into our hearts, minds, bodies and spirits and empower us to enact your radical invitations in this world that You created, love and sustain.

KYRIE

God, bless those who are in poor spirit, who feel empty inside and who dread the day. May we too embrace our own vulnerability and poverty of spirit that we may more fully belong to your beloved community.

KYRIE

God, bless those who are mourning and grieving, who ache with loss for someone so much loved. Companion and console them, Holy Spirit. May we also grieve with others and not fear grief but embrace it and metabolize it into compassion and the pursuit of justice.

KYRIE

God, bless the people who are gentle, who do not grasp or shout or demand to be first in the queue. Raise up people in every area of society who lead with gentleness, meekness and tenderness. Soften us in those places where we might be harsh, rough and unkind.

KYRIE

God, bless the people who are hungry and thirsty for justice and who cannot wait for everyone to have their rights. Empower and embolden them to speak, fight, organize, create and seek the liberation of all. Holy Spirit, disrupt us out of our silence, comfort and complacency and create a hunger and thirst in us to live your love in public.

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.

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. Please wait outside the door until the person before you exits.

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.



CLM14 Christ, You Are Light

Christ, you are light for those who follow you. You
be - bit lu - men vi - tae, lu - men vi - tae.
come to bring to all the light of life.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Christ, You Are Light". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the last two lines. There are some dashed lines and circles around certain notes in the original image, possibly indicating specific musical techniques or corrections.

NB31 With You, O Lord

With you, O Lord, is life in all its full - ness, and
 in your light we shall see true light. With you, O Lord, is
 life in all its full - ness, and in your light we shall see true light.

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29 Nothing Can Trouble

$\text{♩} = 72$ *p* Am Dm⁷ G Em/C 1. *mf* F Dm⁶

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne
 Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en. Those who seek God shall

p *mf*

E Am *f* 2. F Dm⁶ E Am

na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
 nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.

f

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Closing Blessing (*in unison*)

May we be like the wise sage, who built a house upon rock so that when the rainy season set in, the torrents came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house, it didn't collapse because it had been set solidly on rock. Likewise, grant us your Love, Grace and Wisdom to put into practice the word we heard this night.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

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

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 bring a cake or some other snacks, please contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

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*

Announcements

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

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.

3rd Friday of month, 7:00-8:30 pm

Connections Group Gathering – July 25

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to attend the summer event *Fridays at Frick* on Friday, July 25. Grounds open at 5 pm; music starts at 6:30 pm and ends around 8 pm. Grab your blanket or chair and join us for these free outdoor concerts! Bring a picnic, buy food from the vendors, relax, enjoy music and talk with EPLC folks! RSVP to connectelc@gmail.com.

Pittsburgh Black Pride Events at ELPC – July 25 and 26

Everyone is invited to the FREE *Pittsburgh Black Pride* concert on Friday, July 25 at 6:30 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary. Then return for a family fun day at ELPC on Saturday, July 26 from Noon-4 pm for *Pittsburgh Black Pride*, co-hosted by Pittsburgh Black Pride, and ELPC's Justice Committee and LGBTQIA+ Ministry. Come share fellowship, food and fun at this free event open to all! Contact Wil Forrest for more info (Wil@coh.net).