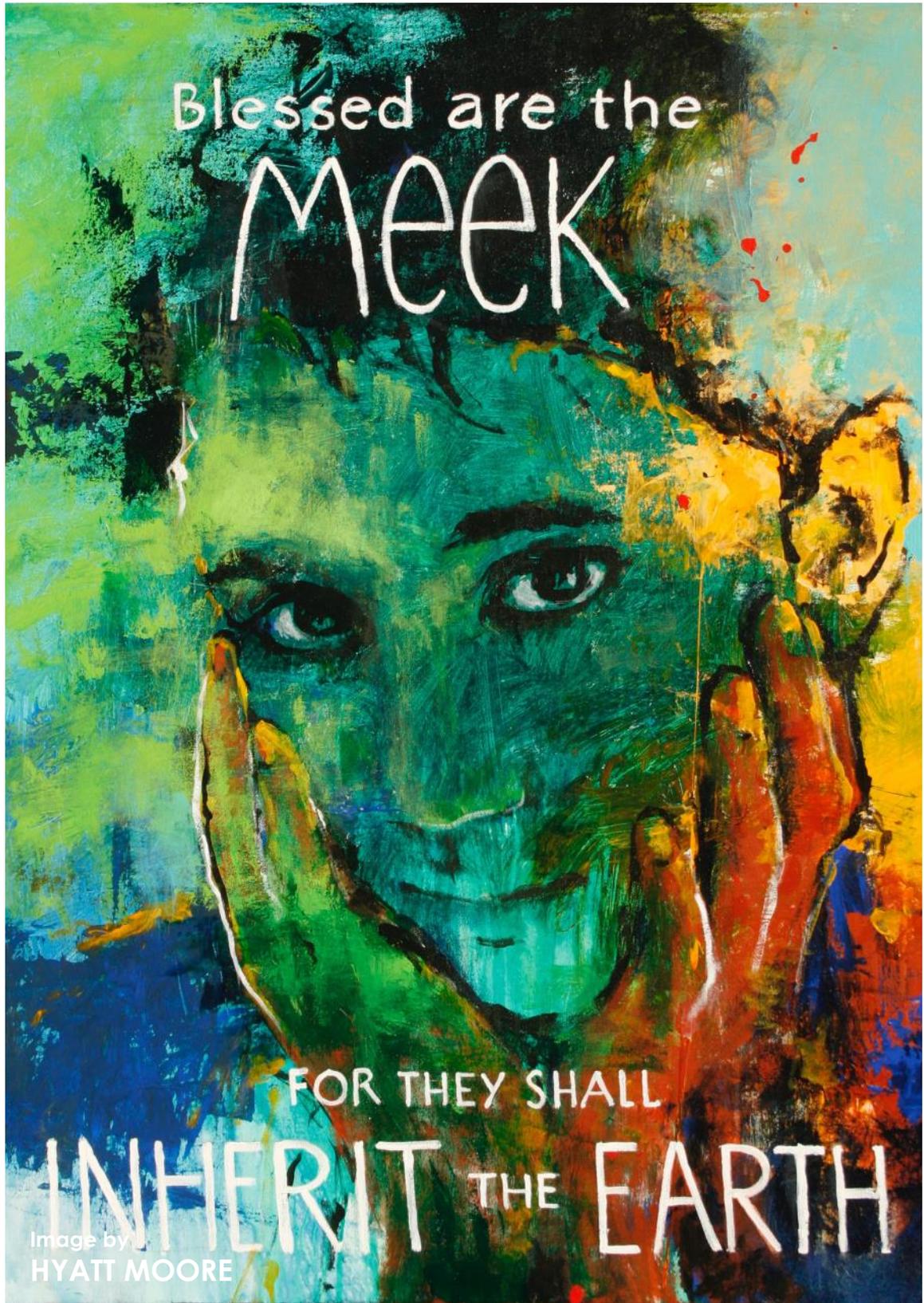


**TAIZÉ:** Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

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

**August 13, 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**

## NB22 Sing To The Lord

Sing to the Lord, all my be - ing, let ev-'ry-thing in me pro-claim God's sal-va-tion.  
 Lo - be den Herrn, mei-ne See - le, und al-les in mir sei-nen hei - li - gen Na-men!

Sing to the Lord, all my be - ing, and re-mem-ber all of God's mar-vel - ous deeds!  
 Lo - be den Herrn, mei-ne See - le, und ver - giß nicht, was er dir Gu - tes ge - tan!

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## 9 Bless The Lord

$\text{♩} = 76$  *p* Dm G Dm B $\flat$  C F A

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

*p* Dm G Dm B $\flat$  C Dm

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

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**Psalm 103:1-9** (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

**Sung Response: CLM2 Alleluia 20**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features two vocal parts: Soprano/Alto (S, A) and Tenor/Bass (T, B). The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" The score includes a Cantor part and a solo part for the Tenor/Bass voice.

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Bless the Beloved, O my soul,  
And all that is within me;  
I bless your Holy Name!  
Bless the Beloved, O my soul,  
And remember the goodness of Love.

**ALLELUIA**

You forgive our stubbornness,  
You heal our disease,  
You save us from the snares of fear,  
You crown us  
With steadfast Love and Mercy.  
You satisfy our every need  
And renew our spirit like the eagle's.

**ALLELUIA**

Through you comes peace  
And justice for all who are oppressed.  
You make known the pathway of truth,  
And guide us on the Way.

**ALLELUIA**

You are merciful and gracious,  
Quelling our anger  
With your patient Love.  
You love us more  
Than we can ask or imagine;  
In truth, we belong to you.

**ALLELUIA**

## The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1, 17, 20-22 *(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:

Don't think I've come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them.

I tell you, unless your sense of justice surpasses that of the religious scholars and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

You've heard that our ancestors were told, "No killing" and "Every murderer will be subject to judgment." But I tell you that everyone who is angry with sister or brother is subject to judgment; anyone who says to sister or brother, "I spit in your face!" will be subject to the Sanhedrin; and anyone who vilifies them with name-calling will be subject to the fires of Gehenna.

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



### Breath Prayer

*(to assist you in the quiet stillness)*

*Inhale* — Search me, Beloved ...

*Exhale* — know my heart ...

**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

“Edward,” she said softly, “Learn this from me. Holding anger is a poison. It eats you from inside. We think that hating is a weapon that attacks the person who harmed us. But hatred is a curved blade. And the harm we do, we do to ourselves.”

— from “The Five People You Meet in Heaven” by Mitch Albom



## 34 Spirit Of Christ Jesus

♩ = 58    B $\flat$     A    Dm    ,    3    C    F    ,

Spi - ri - tus Je - su Chri - sti, Spi - ri - tus ca - ri - ta - tis, con -  
Spir - it of Christ Je - sus, Spir - it of lov - ing kind - ness, con -

B $\flat$  F C Dm Gm A F B $\flat$  F C Dm A Dm

fir - met cor tu - um; con - fir - met cor tu - um.  
firm your heart and keep it; con - firm your heart and keep it.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 58. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, and the piano accompaniment is shown on the bass line.

## 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: NB57 God Can Only Give Faithful Love

The image shows a musical score for the song 'God Can Only Give Faithful Love'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The melody features a prominent dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and a 'Last time' marking with a fermata over the final note. The lyrics are: 'God can on - ly — give faith - ful love: ten - der - ness and for - give - ness! Dieu ne peut que don - ner son a - mour, no - tre Dieu est ten - dres - se!'.

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Jesus, thank you for teaching us in the Sermon on the Mount, showing us the way of following you. Grant us the grace, wisdom and courage to not just hear these words but to put them in practice. Send your Spirit to us and empower us to enact your radical invitations in the world You created, love and sustain.

### **GOD CAN ONLY GIVE FAITHFUL LOVE**

Search us, O Beloved, know our hearts! Try us and discern our thoughts! Help us to face the darkness within; enlighten us that we may radiate your Love and Light.

### **GOD CAN ONLY GIVE FAITHFUL LOVE**

We pray for the universal church. May discord among denominations yield to unity and a common commitment to share the good news, of mercy and forgiveness of Christ.

### **GOD CAN ONLY GIVE FAITHFUL LOVE**

We pray for those who hold authority in government. Enable policymakers to enact justice, transforming places of violence, hatred and conflict into havens of respite and peace.

### **GOD CAN ONLY GIVE FAITHFUL LOVE**

We pray for all those in our community and neighborhoods who are suffering the burden of illness, distress or any kind of pain. May they be comforted, companioned by your presence and healed by your mercy.

### **GOD CAN ONLY GIVE FAITHFUL LOVE**

O God, our Creator, you inspire us to trust in the things we cannot see and to ground our faith in your promises to us. Give us the clarity of your vision and make us ready to serve you as we await your return.

### **GOD CAN ONLY GIVE FAITHFUL LOVE**

## 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.*

## 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 features a treble and bass clef staff for each system. The lyrics are placed between the staves.

## 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.**



## NB18 Our Darkness

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the  
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

deep - est night is clear as the day light. Our  
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè - re. La té -

*Last time*

# NB25 Where There Is Charity

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

The first system of musical notation is in treble and bass clefs, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. It includes a change in time signature from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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# G84 Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

The first system of the sheet music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and a treble line with chords and triplets.

For if you lead me, I can - not stray.

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a half note G5. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a triplet of eighth notes in the treble line.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

The third system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a half note D6. The piano accompaniment features a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a triplet of eighth notes in the treble line.

Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

The fourth system concludes the melody. The vocal line has a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, a quarter note G6, and a half note A6. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a triplet of eighth notes in the treble line.

Continued on next page...

I am weak and I need thy strength and power  
 Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness,  
 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
 Be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
 I am blind with - out thy Light to see,

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see,  
 I am put - ting all my trust in thee.  
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

## **Closing Blessing** *(in unison)*

May we be like the wise sage, who built a house upon rock so that when the rainy seasons 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, may any word we heard this night be filled with the Love, Grace and Wisdom of God and put into practice in our lives.

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

# 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

## Prayer Vigil for Immigrants – August 15, 22 & 29

The ELPC Mission Board encourages participation in the weekly *Prayer Vigil for Immigrants* held on the sidewalk adjacent to the ICE offices at 3000 Sidney St, 15203. Prayers begin on Fridays at 8 am and conclude at 10 am. The interfaith vigil is sponsored by Pax Christi, Casa San Jose and the Sisters of Saint Joseph. If you wish to bring a sign, please use a message from your faith about welcoming the immigrant. Parking is available in the public garage two blocks west of the ICE offices. For more information, please text Michele Bossers (412.303.9243).

## Registration is Open for Hope Academy's Fall Term

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts is now accepting registrations and scholarship applications for the 2025 Fall Term. Learn more about our classes and private instrument lessons online at [tiny.cc/hope-academy](http://tiny.cc/hope-academy).

## Exterior Church Tour – Aug 17

Penn Hackney will lead a tour of the exterior of ELPC on Sunday, Aug 17. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 10 am worship service to participate.

## ELPC Fire Safety Training and Drill – Aug 17

ELPC's Safety & Security Advisory Committee (SSA) will be presenting a series of trainings concerning important issues to create a safer church for us all.

Following worship on Sunday, Aug 17, all are invited to stay for a fire safety training and drill presented by our very own Isaiah Wilson, who is a fire safety professional. The congregation will be invited to stay in the Sanctuary after worship ends for this session. Please note that this training will include a fire drill which includes a loud alarm.

Over the next few months, we will have trainings on first aid, Stop the Bleed, AED, CPR, and intruder threat. All these trainings will be attended by staff members and open to church leaders. Some, such as the fire safety/fire drill and intruder threat, will include sessions intended for all congregation members to attend.

## Connections Group Gathering – Aug 24

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to grab your blanket or chair and join us for a free outdoor concert at the Highland Park Reservoir on Sunday, Aug 24 for a *Reservoir of Jazz* performance by Paul Cosentino's Boiler Maker Jazz Band. Music starts at 5 pm and ends at 7 pm. Bring a picnic, buy food from the vendors, relax, enjoy music and talk with EPLC folks! RSVP to [connectelpc@gmail.com](mailto:connectelpc@gmail.com).

## The Rev. BJ Woodworth is Minister of Taizé Prayer 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](mailto:BJW@coh.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:

<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.)*

<b>ELPC Web site:</b>	www.CathedralofHope.org
<b>E-mail:</b>	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).