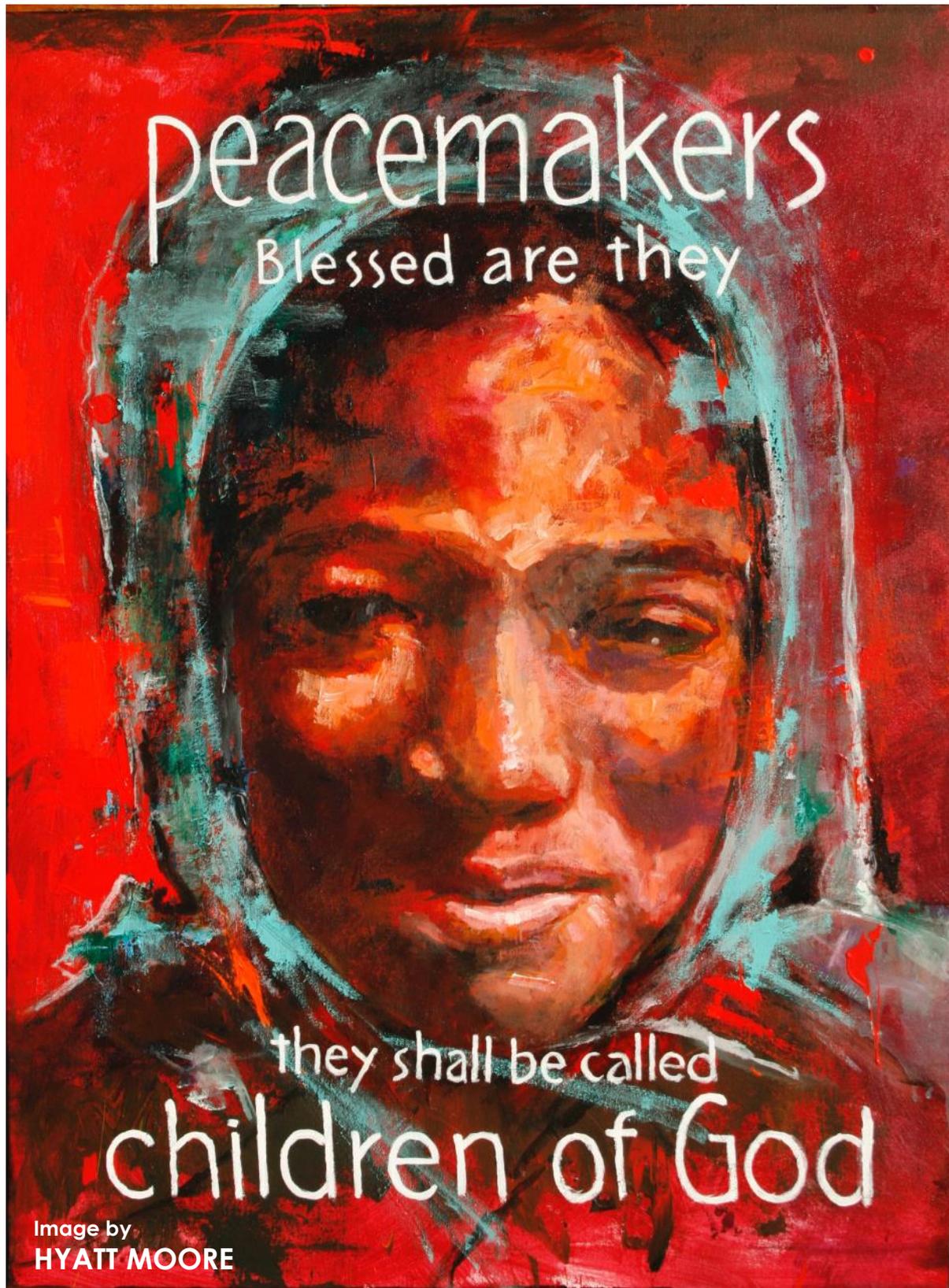


TAIZÉ: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

August 20, 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

NB33 Grant Us Your Peace, O Lord

Canon

Da pa - cem, Do - mi - ne, da pa - cem,
Grant us your peace, O Lord, grant us your

O Chri - ste, in di - e - bus no - stris.
peace, O Lord, may it fill all our days.

Coda

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*The (B) and (D) entrances in the canon are sung a fourth lower.

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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. Bei -
peace and joy in all full - ness. O

() (Last time)

() (Last time)

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Psalm 144 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 1

The musical score is for a 4/4 piece in B-flat major. The Soprano part (ad lib.) begins with a rest, followed by a melodic line with lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". The Cantor part begins with a melodic line and lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia." The accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand.

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Blessed are You, O Radiant One,
You, who are hidden within our hearts,
Even as we are hidden within your Heart!
You invite us to participate
In the Divine Unfoldment,
As we Awaken from our long sleep
And give birth to creativity.

ALLELUIA

Open us that we might recognize
The Divine in every person,
And become sensitive
To all we meet along the path.
For You are the Breathing Life of all,
The infinite and eternal within our hearts.

ALLELUIA

Evoke the Child in our souls,
That purity and grace might flourish!
Inflame us with compassion
So we nurture ourselves and others
With healing and forgiveness!
Empower us with wisdom and knowledge,
That we might bring forth the Divine Plan!
And let us recognize the Truth
That clear vision might unfold.

ALLELUIA

Let us sing a new song to You,
O Beloved, with drums and flutes
Let us express our joy!
You who are Divine Love,
Receive our devotion,
That we may walk in beauty.
May our heart's ears heed well
The Divine Word written on every heart,
That integrity and justice
May dwell within us.

ALLELUIA

Let each one be receptive
To the Spirit that inspires,
Allowing our will to respond with action;
And may all judgments and denials
Be released, that our souls are freed
To serve the Light with joy!

ALLELUIA

Thus will we recognize oneness
with the Divine Spark
Dwelling within our hearts,
Fanning it to illuminate the way.
Gratitude and inner peace
Will abide in every tranquil soul,
Blessing the universe
That lovingly cares for us.

ALLELUIA

The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1, 23-26 *(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:

If you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your sister or brother has a grudge against you, leave your gift there at the altar. Go to be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift.

Lose no time in settling with your opponents — do so while still on the way to the courthouse with them. Otherwise your opponents may hand you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the bailiff, who will throw you into prison. I warn you, you won't get out until you have paid the last penny.

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

Forgiveness is twice blessed. It frees the one forgiven from guilt and you from bitterness. Forgiveness sheds light on the subject. It lets love, instead of judgment, shine in. Judgment curdles the soul; forgiveness invites your spirit to burst into bloom.

— from *“Heart and Soul”* by Daphne Rose Kingma

CLM9 God Is Forgiveness



Bóg jest mi - łoś - cią miej - cie od - wa - gę żyć dla mi - łoś - ci.
God is for - give - ness. Dare to for - give and God will be with you.



Bóg — jest mi - łoś - cią. Nie lę - kaj - cie się.
God — is for - give - ness. Love, and do not fear.

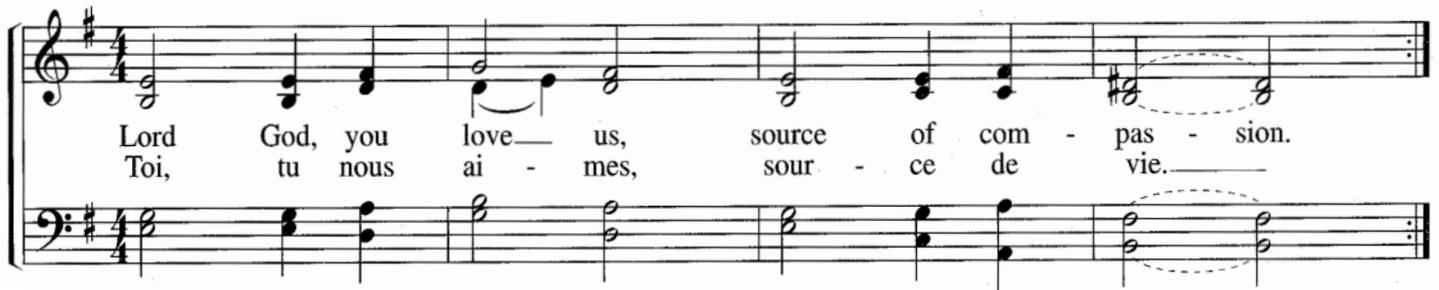
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Prayers of Intercession

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: NB14 Lord God, You Love Us



The image shows a musical score for the song 'Lord God, You Love Us'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The lyrics are: 'Lord God, you love us, source of compassion. / Toi, tu nous ai mes, sour ce de vie.' The word 'vie' is followed by a long horizontal line, indicating a long note or a breath mark. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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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.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

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.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

We pray for those who are experiencing the brokenness of relationships, where conflict, discord and misunderstanding run deep. Help all people to search the depths of their own hearts, so that your gift of reconciliation may be born.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

We pray for the church. May we be humble in our service and generous with our invitations to the marginalized.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

We pray for the needs of the world. Inspire and empower leaders to forego the honor and privileges of power, and to address the concerns of the poor and vulnerable.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

We pray for those in our community who are burdened by suffering: the sick... those in need... and all who seek a deeper knowledge and connection with you.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

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 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.



CLM28 I Lift Up My Eyes

Canon

1

L'a - ju - da em vin - drà del Se - nyor, del Se -
I - lift up my eyes to the hills; from -

2

nyor, el nos - tre Déu, que ha fet el cel i la
where shall come my help? My help is in God who cre -

3

4 (Last time ♪)

ter - ra, el cel i la ter - ra. L'a -
at - ed the earth and the heav - ens. I

* Prayer Of St. Francis

Sebastian Temple



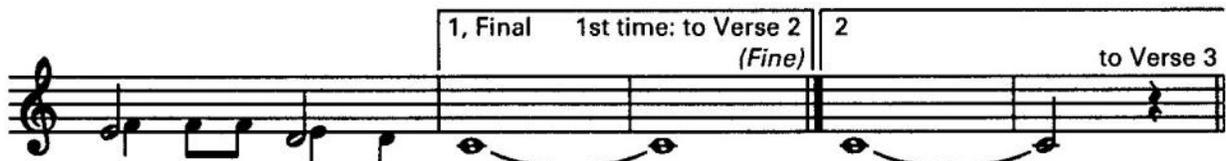
1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where there is ha-tred,
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where there's de-spair in
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It is in par-don-



1. let me bring your love. _____ Where there is in - ju -
 2. life, let me bring hope. _____ Where there is dark-ness -
 4. ing that we are par-doned, _____ In giv-ing of our -



1. ry, your par-don, Lord, And where there's doubt, true
 2. _____ on - ly light, And where there's sad - ness
 4. selves that we re - ceive, And in dy - ing that we're



1. faith in you. 2. joy.
 2. ev - er
 4. born to e - ter - nal life.



3. O Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek So much to be con-



3. soled, as to con-sole, To be un-der-stood, as to un-der-



3. stand, To be loved, as to love, with all my soul.

G114 Let It Breathe On Me

Slow with feeling

Let it breathe on me, Let it breathe on me, Let the

breath of the Lord, now, breathe on me,

Let it breathe on me, Let it breathe on me,

Let the breath of the Lord, now, breathe on me.

Verses

1. While I'm work - ing Lord in your vine - yard here,
2. When the path - way Lord, I can not see,

I can do naught if Thou aren't near,
When the way is dark, Lord, breathe on me,

Oh, come, bless-ed Lord, just so close to me
Give me grace to know when Thou art near

That I may feel you breathe on me.
Oh, I pray Thee, Lord, please breathe on me.

Text: Magnolia Lewis-Butts
Tune: Magnolia Lewis-Butts; Harm. by W. O. Hoyle
© 1941, Bowles Music House



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

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



Labyrinth Prayer Walk

The Labyrinth is available on:
Wednesdays and Thursdays
10 am—7 pm
in McKelvy Room

Volunteers Needed

We need 3 to 6 more people on our team to help with the set up and teardown of the labyrinth. Set up happens on Wednesdays from 9-10 am; teardown is Fridays from 9-10 am.

Prayer Vigil for Immigrants – August 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).

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 connectelc@gmail.com.

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.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering – Sept 7

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sunday, Sept 7 after the 11 am worship service. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to RSVP (Wil@coh.net).

ELPC Seeking Associate Pastor for Connection and Care

The process has begun to seek a new Associate Pastor for ELPC who will oversee connection and care and be the liaison for the Board of Deacons and M&O Committee. The position description is listed at elcpc.church/careers.

Choir Rehearsals Resume – Sept 4 and 16

If you are interested in joining any of the choirs at ELPC, please contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net). Rehearsals for each of the 3 choirs resume on:

- *Journey Praise Team* — Thursday, Sept 4 at 5:30 pm
- *Chancel Choir* — Thursday, Sept 4 at 7 pm
- *Handbell Choir* — Tuesday, Sept 16 at 6 pm

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.CathedralofHope.org
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).