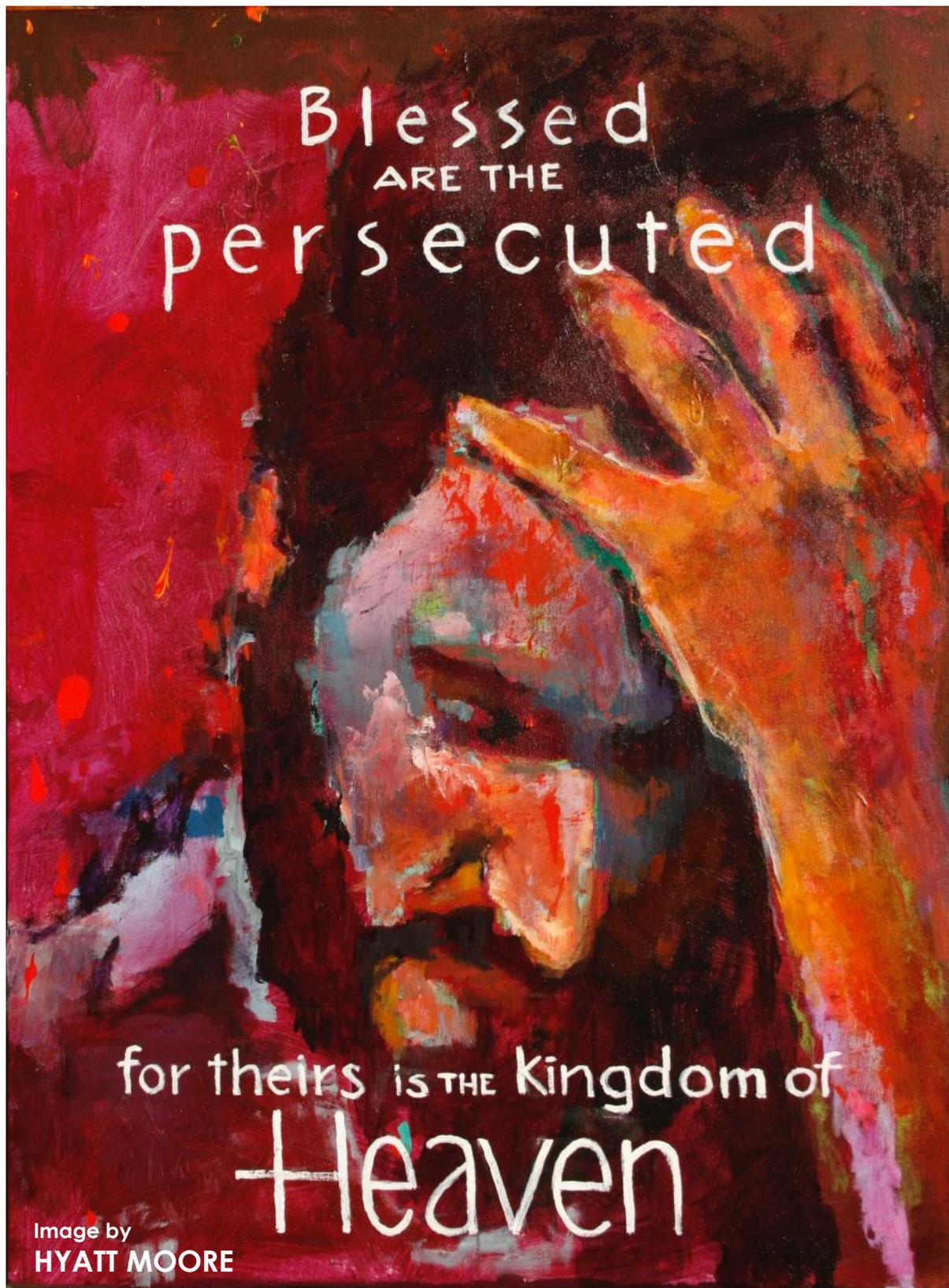


TAIZÉ: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

September 3, 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. Dr. Michael Diaz

42 Come And Pray In Us

♩ = 89

(A) Cm G Cm Fm G (B)

Come and pray in us, Ho - ly Spir - it, come and pray in us,
 Vie - ni, Spi - ri - to cre - a - to - re, vie - ni, vie - ni,

(C) (D)

come and vis - it us, Ho - ly Spir - it, Spir - it, come, Spir - it come.
 vie - ni, Spi - ri - to cre - a - to - re, vie - ni, vie - ni!

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CLM16 Whoever Walks In God's Love

1.

El al - ma que an - da en a - mor, ni can - sa ni se can - sa. El
 Who - ev - er walks in God's love tires no one nor grows wea - ry. Who -

2. (♩ Last time)

can - sa. O O El
 wea - ry. O O Who -

(♩ Last time)

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Psalm 15 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: CLM3 Alleluia 21

Cantor
S, A
T, B
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, —
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! le - lu - ia!
D.S.
D.S.

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O Beloved, You invite us to rest
In the abode of your Heart,
To forgive our weaknesses
And renew our love.
Who will respond with hearts
Opened wide to Love?

ALLELUIA

Those who walk with integrity,
Who are in harmony with your Word,
And sing the heart's song.

ALLELUIA

Whose tongues speak truth
Judging not others
And seeking only the good.

ALLELUIA

Whose eyes behold not
The outer garments of the body,
But see within the inner robe of Love.

ALLELUIA

Whose own weaknesses
Are acknowledged
And brought to light in prayer;
Those who are just in all affairs of life
And take not advantage of another.

ALLELUIA

Those who dwell in the Heart of Love,
Who act justly, with integrity,
Will join the Dance of Life,
Will sing the Songs of Joy!

ALLELUIA

Their family, friends and,
Indeed, the world,
Will be blessed by their love.

ALLELUIA

The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1, 33-37 *(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:

Again, you have heard that our ancestors were told, “Don’t break your vow; fulfill all oaths made to our God.” But I tell you not to swear oaths at all. Don’t swear by heaven, for it is God’s throne. Don’t swear by the earth, for it is God’s footstool. Don’t swear by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great Ruler. And don’t swear by your own head, for you can’t make a single hair white or black.

Say “Yes” when you mean “Yes” and “No” when you mean “No.”

Anything beyond that is from the Evil One.

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

Because I do not know words – tender, true,
and worthy enough to tread upon the pristine
sweep of your soul,
I give up on words
and offer you the integrity of silence,
the undefiled page,
and the wordless wonder of your own beloved self.

— from a poem by Loretta Ross



NB24 Holy Spirit, Come To Us

p

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus, tu - i a - mo - ris i - gnem ac - cen - de.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, kin - dle in us the fire of your love.—

p

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus, ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

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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Gracious creator, we thank you that you give us to each other, for we discover new dimensions of your grace in the friction and the comfort of life together. In your body we learn what it means to be whole. In your mercy, help us to set our fear aside. Loosen our grip on what we know, if it is keeping us from what you would want to teach us.

KYRIE

Help us to speak plainly with truth and integrity when we tell someone “yes” or “no” so that others can depend on the genuineness and honesty of our words.

KYRIE

We pray for this community and for your church all over the world. You shaped us for service; show us the good we may do - for when you use us, we come alive.

KYRIE

We pray for those we have labeled useless: for those whose youth and strength are gone, for those whose convictions are strange to us, for those who cannot find a place in the economies we trust.

KYRIE

We pray for those whose prophetic lives challenge and inspire us; sustain such faithful witnesses.

KYRIE

Spirit, we do not know how to pray for peace in broken lands, for justice when the weak have no advocates, for lives overwhelmed by despair, for those who live with chronic pain and mental illness. Groan in us when we do not have words to know how to pray.

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 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.



Our olive oil is from the Palestinian village of Bil'in. Sent to us by Iyad Burnat, a nonviolent, international peacemaker. Bil'in has had 60% of its land stolen by Israel and now houses an illegal settlement for 100,000 European and American Jewish people.

36 The Lord Is My Light

Calmly (♩ = 66)

(A1) Dm G (A2) (B1) (B2) fine

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

(A1) (A2) (B1) (B2) fine

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

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G118 Friend

Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost,
Comforter, Teacher
Paraclete, Mediator, Advocate, Reminder
Some call you Holy Spirit
And some say Holy Ghost,
But I long to call you Friend.

Holy Dove, Spirit of Love,
Spirit of Truth, Leader
Holy One, Mighty One, Counselor, Revealer
Some call you Holy Spirit
And some say Holy Ghost,
But I long to call you Friend.

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NB16 Let Your Servant Now Go In Peace

Nunc di - mit - tis ser - vum tu - um Do - mi - ne, se -
Let your ser - vant now - go in peace, O Lord, now -
ne, Do - mi - ne,
Lord, O Lord,
Last time
cun - dum ver - bum tu - um in - pa - ce, Nunc di -
go in peace ac - cord - ing to your word, Let your
Last time
(Do - mi - ne.)
(to your word.)

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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 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*

TONIGHT!

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

Contemplative Prayer – Begins Sept 8

Join us for our Monday morning *Contemplative Prayer* sessions. Together on Zoom we will spend 20–30 minutes, quieting our souls, breathing, listening to and for that still small voice within through guided scripture meditation, silence, and music—all in community with others in our faith family.

Mondays, 7:30-8 am

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: bestill

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

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.



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.

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).

Youth Group – Begins Sept 11

Together with youth in grades 7–12 from Sixth Presbyterian Church, we share dinner, pray, play, and explore faith through service projects, arts and crafts, conversations, silly games, and whatever else we dream up on Thursdays from 4:30-7 pm. Register online at ELPC.church, or contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Visitor Sunday – Sept 14

Sept 14 will be *Visitor Sunday* at ELPC. We encourage all members of the congregation to invite someone—a newcomer to Pittsburgh, a family member, a friend, or a neighbor to join us in worship. If you attend online, consider welcoming a friend or relative to participate online alongside you. Visitors will be encouraged to stop by our *Welcome Table* to receive a gift bag after either the Journey service or the Sanctuary service. The Membership & Outreach Committee is sponsoring a *Social Hour* after the 11 am service. A church tour will be provided as well.

Young Adult Happy Hour – Sept 15

Kicking off at Pastor BJ's house in East Liberty on Monday, Sept 15 and continuing on the third Monday of every month from 6–7:30 pm, join us for appetizers and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks available). Details and RSVPs via evite — contact Sara Hackett for the link (SaraH@coh.net).



INQUIRERS CLASS

Sunday, Sept 28
after 11 am worship

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* after the 11 am service on Sunday, Sept 28 in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

Register online using this QR code, visit elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member, or contact Jen King (Jenk@coh.net).

