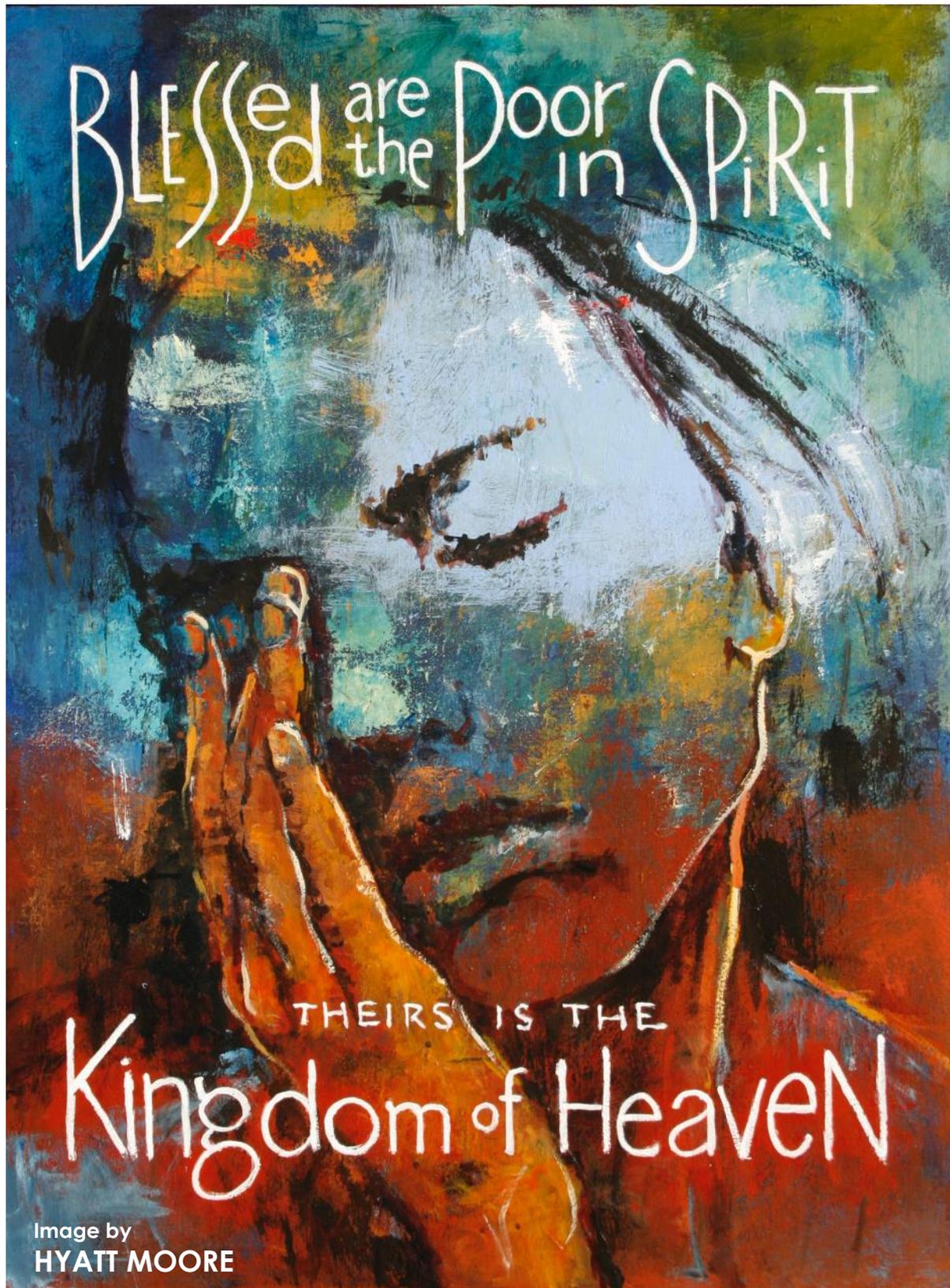


TAIZÉ: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

September 10, 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

p = 76 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: NB37 Alleluia 17



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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

For you understand us,
Requiring us not
According to our ignorance and error.
As far as the heavens are high
Above the earth,
So great is your loving response
Toward those who are humble.

ALLELUIA

So far does your enduring strength
Uphold those who face
The darkness within.
As parents are concerned
For their children,
So you come to those
Who reach out in faith.
For our ways are known,
Our weaknesses seen with compassion.

ALLELUIA



The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1, 38-42 *(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:

You've heard the commandment, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I tell you, offer no resistance whatsoever when you're confronted with violence.

When someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer the other.

If anyone wants to sue you for your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go two miles.

Give to those who beg from you. And don't turn your back on those who want to borrow from you.

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



Breath Prayer

(to assist you in the quiet stillness)

Inhale — Come, O patient Love

...

Exhale — soften 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

Non-violence is a power which can be wielded equally by all—children, young men and women, the elders, provided they have a living faith in the Source of Love and have therefore equal love for all humankind ... pervading the whole being and not be simply applied to isolated acts.

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

15 Show Us Your Mercy

Lento (♩ = 80)

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of Lento (♩ = 80). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has four measures with chords A, (A) Dm, Gm, and A. The second staff has four measures with chords (C), (D), and (D), followed by a 'To repeat' section and a 'Fine' section. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Os - ten - de no - bis Do - mi - ne, mi - se - ri - cor - di - am tu -
 Show us your mer - cy, Ris - en Lord, show us the kind - ness of your

am. A - men! A - men! Ma - ra - na - tha! Ma - ra - na - tha! Os - ten - de - tha!
 love. A - men! A - men! Ma - ra - na - tha! Ma - ra - na - tha! Show us your - tha!

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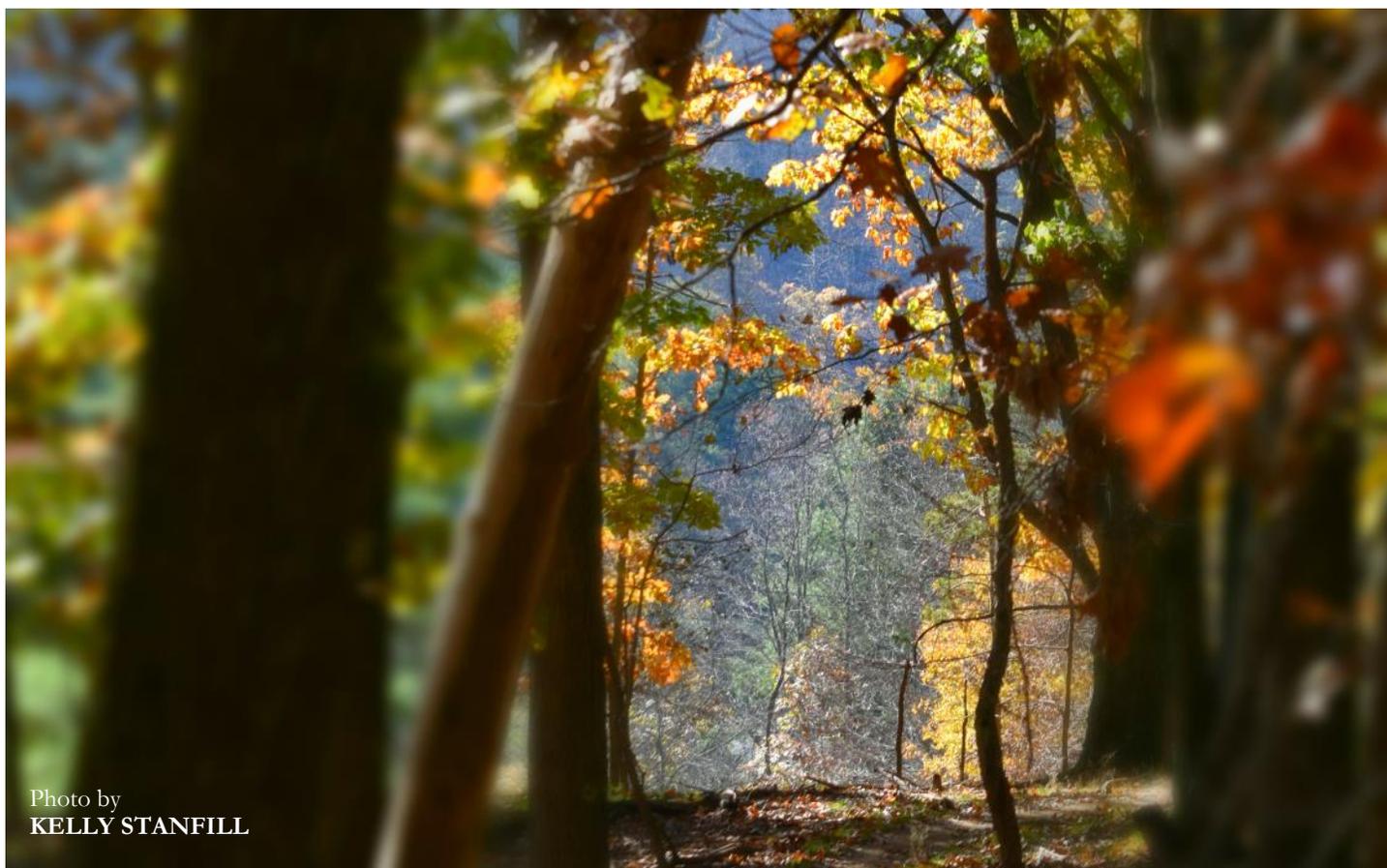


Photo by
 KELLY STANFILL

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: G91 Lead Me, Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righ-teous-ness, make thy way
plain be - fore my face.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Lead Me, Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righ-teous-ness, make thy way' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and the same key signature and time signature. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'plain be - fore my face.' The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and time signature.

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God of peace, thank you for being gentle, loving, compassionate, and nonviolent! Thank you for not imposing yourself upon us, but gently calling us to your wisdom and ways. Help us to turn the other cheek, open-handedly share our possessions and go the extra mile.

LEAD ME, LORD

Help us to be nonviolent to ourselves. Give us the grace to let go of judgement turned inward upon ourselves and to love and accept ourselves, cultivating inner peace, as we dwell in your peace. Grant us wisdom to have boundaries and safeguard ourselves amidst seeking non-violent attitudes and behaviors.

LEAD ME, LORD

Help us to practice loving nonviolence toward everyone we know and meet, that we might love neighbor as ourselves. Help us to be peaceful to all creatures and all creation, that peace may abound to all sentient beings and your beautiful creation.

LEAD ME, LORD

We pray for those who suffer persecution and violence under the hands of authoritarian leadership. Make us instruments of your peace, that we might do our part to help abolish war, poverty, hunger, racism, sexism, xenophobia, systemic injustice and environmental destruction.

LEAD ME, LORD

As we follow the nonviolent Jesus on the path of peace and love, help us to claim our identity as your beloved children, that we might always be enveloped in your harmony and affection, and serve peace, justice and love, now and forever.

LEAD ME, LORD

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.

31 Give To Us Your Peace

$\text{♩} = 72$
mp Am C Dm ESUS E

Do - na no - bis pa - cem Do - mi - ne.
Give to us your peace, O Je - sus Christ.

mp

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a common time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The music is in a minor key, indicated by the Am chord. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is marked with *mp* and includes a key signature change to B major for the final chord (E).

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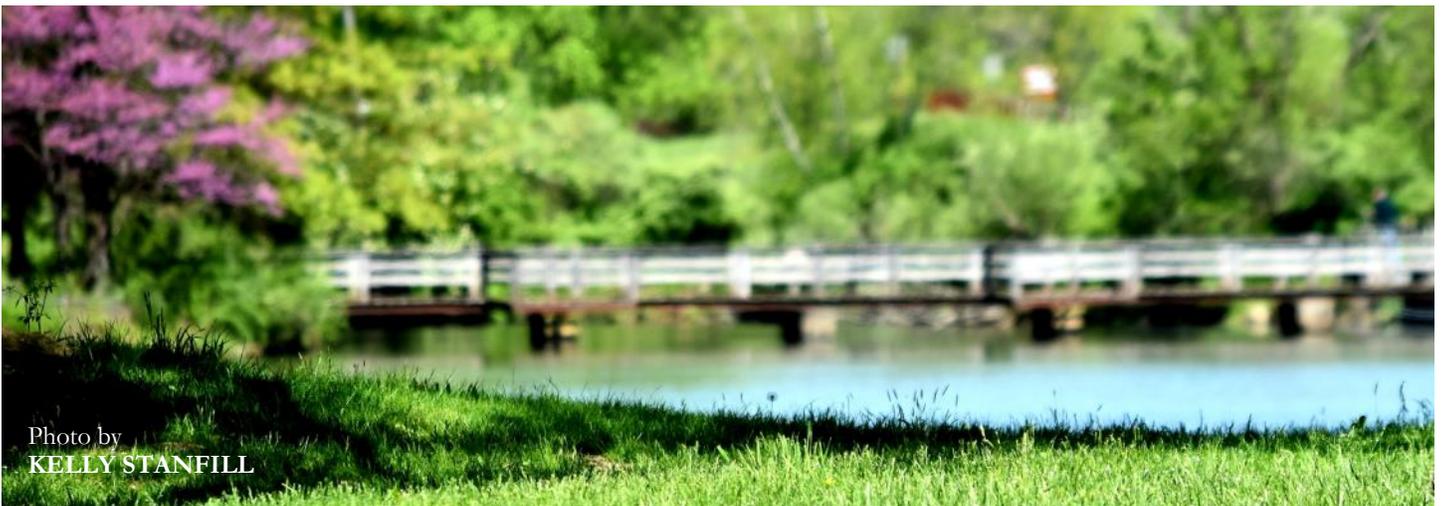


Photo by
KELLY STANFILL

NB57 Psalm 103: God Can Only Give Faithful Love

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!

Last time

Verses (Cantor)

A *freely* *a tempo* **B** *freely* *a tempo* **D.C.**

O ————— God ev - er car - ing. O ————— God who for - gives us.
 Dieu est ten - dres - se. Dieu qui par - don - ne.

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* Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thy own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)
 MUSIC: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)

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FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10.Ref.

Continued on next page ...



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

Contemplative Prayer

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

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.

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



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.

Giving Our Deaths Away Retreat — Oct 31 to Nov 2

From Friday–Sunday, Oct 31–Nov 2, join us for a Spiritual Life retreat on Halloween, All Saints Day, and the Day of the Dead at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Pulaski, PA. Amid our normal retreat rhythms of solitude and community, silence and conversation, stillness and activity, we will explore our mortality, our hopes and fears surrounding death, and what our tradition(s) have to say about death and eternal communion we have with saints and ancestors.

According to the Spanish mystic John of the Cross, we have three essential struggles in life: 1) To get our lives together, 2) To give our lives away, and 3) To give our deaths away.

What is asked of us in the first two struggles is more obvious and captured in the first half of life. But what does it mean to give our deaths away in the later parts of our life? How we approach death and dying leaves a legacy, a particular spirit, which either nurtures or haunts those left behind. If we die at peace with ourselves, loved ones, the world, and with God, then like Jesus, we will leave behind a spirit that nourishes, warms, consoles, and gives our loved one's sacred permission to be at peace. Join us as we sit with these questions, listen to God and ourselves, and explore this on retreat in community with one another.

RSVP to Norma by Sunday, Oct 19 (412.441.3800 x211). For cost info, visit tiny.cc/giving-our-deaths-away. Scholarships available; contact Pastor BJ (BJW@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. Visitors can stop by our *Welcome Table* to receive a gift bag. The Membership & Outreach Committee is sponsoring a *Social Hour* after the 11 am service.

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).



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).

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

Silence and Love

Christ says: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). We need silence in order to welcome these words and put them into practice. When we are agitated and restless, we have so many arguments and reasons not to forgive and not to love too easily. But when we "have calmed and quieted our soul", these reasons turn out to be quite insignificant. Maybe we sometimes avoid silence, preferring whatever noise, words or distraction, because inner peace is a risky thing: it makes us empty and poor, disintegrates bitterness and leads us to the gift of ourselves. Silent and poor, our hearts are overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, filled with an unconditional love. Silence is a humble yet secure path to loving.

— *Brother Alois of Taizé*

