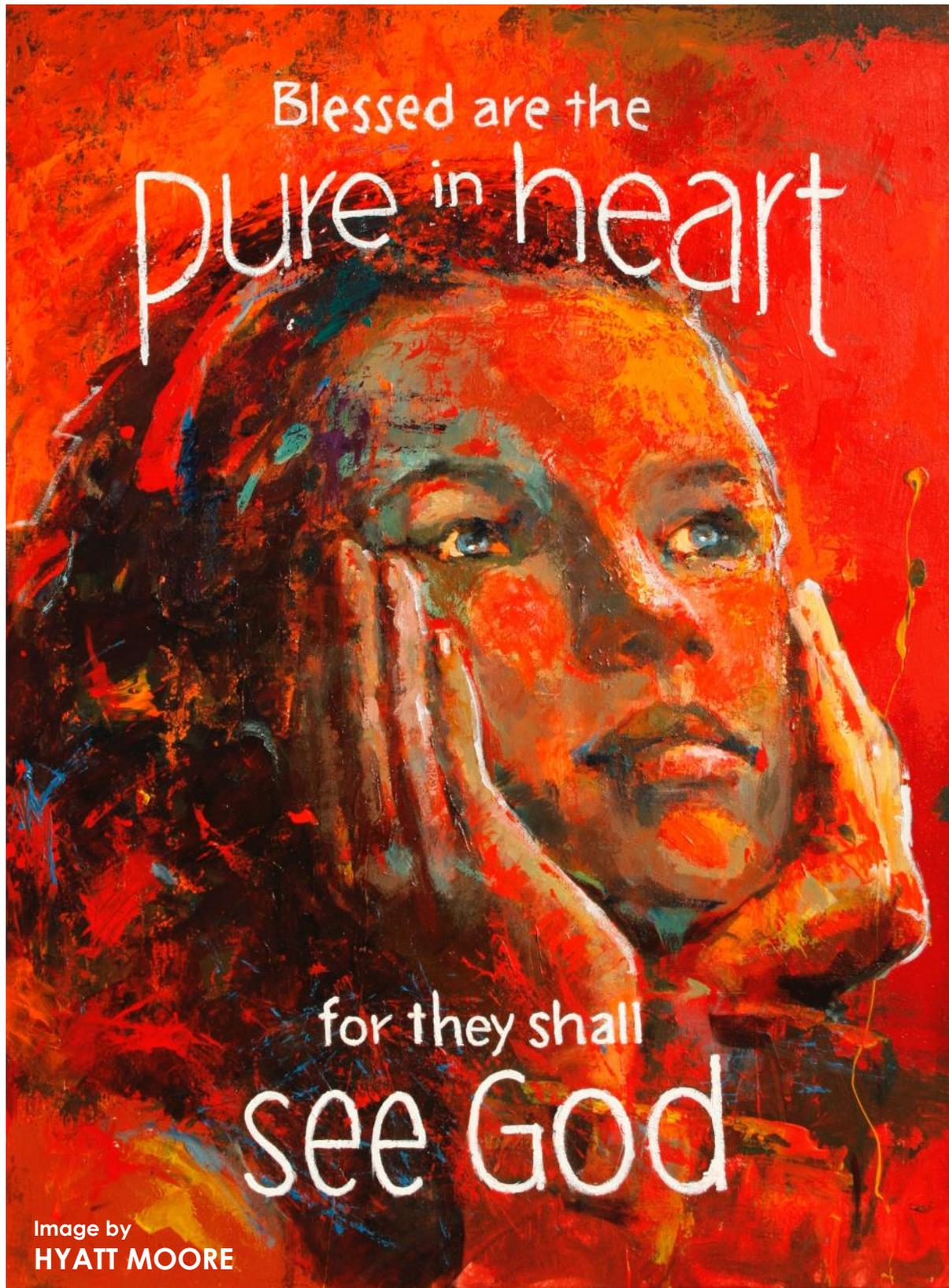


TAIZÉ: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

September 17, 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

G135 O So So

1. O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyŏng - hwa ũi -
 1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one

im-gŭm u - ri - ga han-mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
 bo - dy, come, O Lord Je - sus, re-con-cile your peo - ple.

2. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ,
 sa-rang ũi-im-gŭm
 u-ri-ga han-mom
 i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

2. Come now, O God of love,
 make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus,
 reconcile your people.

3. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ,
 cha-yu ũi-im-gŭm,
 u-ri-ga han-mom
 i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

3. Come now and set us free,
 O God, our Saviour.
 Come, O Lord Jesus,
 reconcile all nations.

4. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ,
 tong-il ũi-im-gŭm
 u-ri-ga han-mom
 i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

4. Come Hope of unity,
 make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus,
 reconcile all nations.

49 Live In Charity

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics underneath. The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: F, C, Dm, Bb, D, G, C, F, Gm, C, F. There are triplets in the second system.

OneLicense.net #A-700877

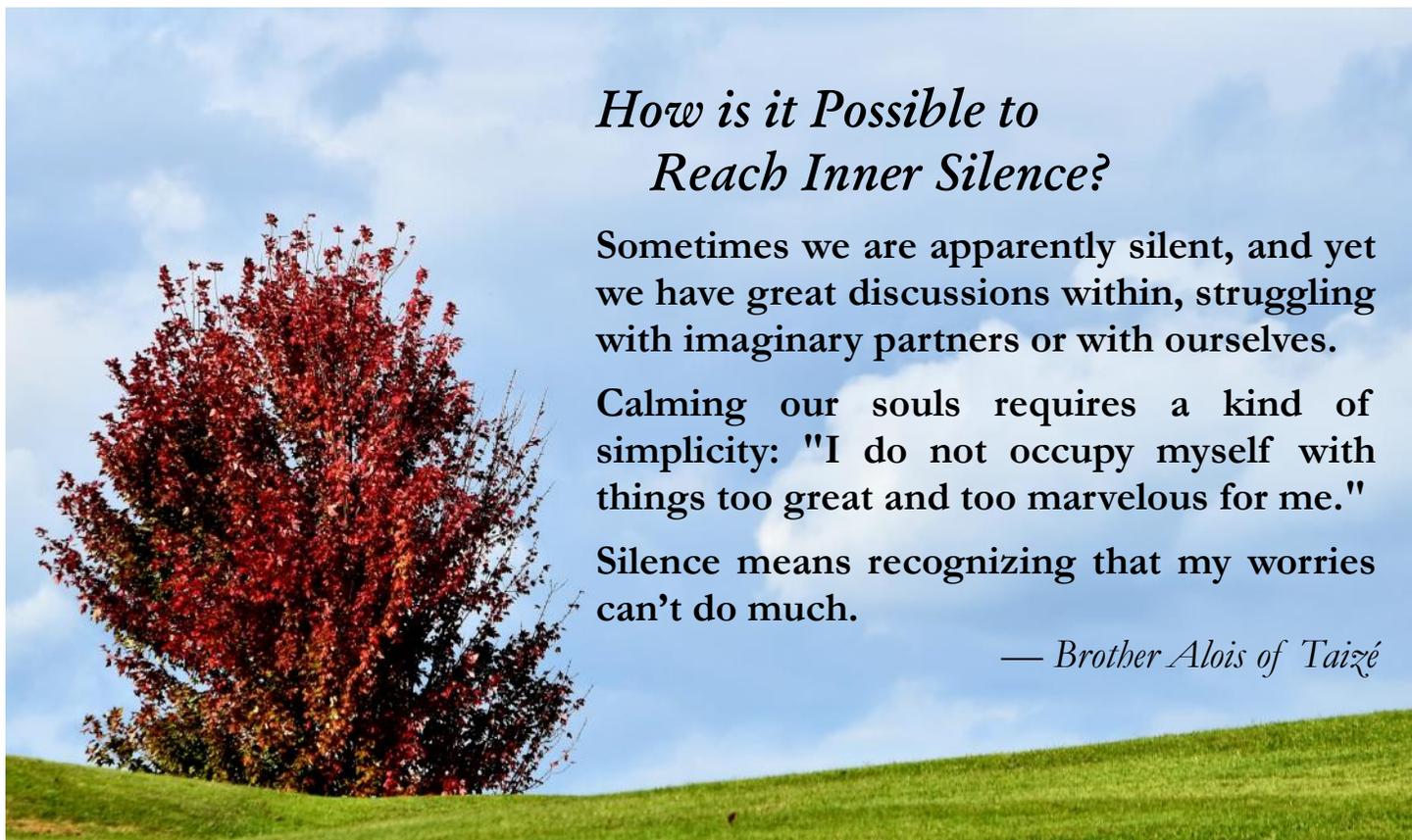
How is it Possible to Reach Inner Silence?

Sometimes we are apparently silent, and yet we have great discussions within, struggling with imaginary partners or with ourselves.

Calming our souls requires a kind of simplicity: "I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me."

Silence means recognizing that my worries can't do much.

— Brother Alois of Taizé



Psalm 36 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: CLM2 Alleluia 20

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

OneLicense.net #A-700877

Ignorance lives deep in the hearts
Of those who know not Love;
There is no reverence
For Truth before their eyes.
For they see themselves as powerful
And are too proud to see
How they deceive themselves and others.
They speak not with integrity
And act not with wisdom and love.
At night their thoughts turn to plotting,
Driving them to seek more power;
Fear becomes their constant companion.

ALLELUIA

Would that they knew
That your steadfast love,
O Holy One, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to all the world.
Your saving justice is like the mountains,
Firm and sure,
Your judgments are like the mighty deep;
Your love supports all of creation; yes,
Your Love Consciousness is everlasting.

ALLELUIA

How precious is your steadfast love,
O Companioning Presence.
We, your children, take refuge
In the shadow of your wings.
We feast on the abundance of the Earth;
You invite us to drink
From living streams of life.
For in you is the very source of life;
And in your Light do we see light.

ALLELUIA

May your steadfast love
Endure to those who know you,
Your saving grace to those
Who love truth and justice!
Protect us from the seeds of arrogance;
The weeds of greed drive away.
Open the hearts
Of those who live in darkness,
O Beloved, that they might rise up
And live in the Light of Oneness.

ALLELUIA

The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1, 43-48 *(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 have heard it said, “Love your neighbor — but hate your enemy.”

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. This will prove that you are children of God.

For God makes the sun rise on bad and good alike; God’s rain falls on the just and the unjust. If you love those who love you, what merit is there in that? Don’t tax collectors do as much? And if you greet only your sisters and brothers, what is so praiseworthy about that? Don’t Gentiles do as much?

Therefore be perfect, as Abba God in heaven is perfect.

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

We see the face of God daily, easily recognizable in a spectacular sunset or in a child's smile. And it also exists in less attractive presentations. Can we accept seeing God in the person of our "enemy"? If we can't, we are doomed to propagating lives of hatred and revenge. Only when we see the face of God in everyone and in all things will we be at peace within ourselves and, more importantly, enable peace to exist throughout the world.

— from "God's Image" by Ron Vernan

CLM30 Nothing Can Ever

Musical score for "Nothing Can Ever" in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Noth - ing can ev - er come be - tween us and the love of God, the love of God re - vealed to us in Christ Je - sus." The first system ends with a repeat sign. The second system ends with a repeat sign and the instruction "(Last time ♪)". The third system features a long note for the vocal line and a piano accompaniment line with a long note, both marked with a repeat sign.

Noth - ing can ev - er come be - tween us and the love of God, the

love of God re - vealed to us in Christ Je - sus. (Last time ♪)

O O

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 5



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

OneLicense.net #A-700877

God, thank you for your perfect love that indiscriminately showers kindness upon all of us. Thank you for your patient love, and bearing with us when we falter and fail at being your people. Help us to embody your radical accepting love.

KYRIE

Come to us, O Patient Love, and soften our hearts toward those that oppose and resist us and our view of life. We pray for and ask that you shower your love upon them, soften their hearts, open their minds, heal their wounds and may your love for them free them from fear.

KYRIE

We pray for people in this world's troubled places, where enemies stand against one another and for all who stand in harm's way, that your peace would prevail in human hearts and among people. We pray for Syria...Haiti...Ukraine...and Cameroon. We pray for Gaza...Afghanistan...Ethiopia...Yemen and all places where enmity between people causes war.

KYRIE

We pray for those of our own nation who are confronted by the "enemies" of poverty and desperation, anxiety, addiction, anger, injustice or illness; that our hearts might be turned toward them in compassion, that systems might be fashioned to work in their favor.

KYRIE

Grant to all, and especially to our leaders, mutual respect in words and deeds, restraint in the exercise of power, and the will for peace and justice, not just for some, but for all.

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.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a treble and bass staff for each system. The lyrics are placed between the staves. The first system contains three lines of lyrics. The second system contains two lines of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

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.

CLM31 | Delight And Rejoice

Que j'e - xul - te et ju - bi - le en ton a - mour!
I de - light and re - joice in your love!

OneLicense.net #A-700877



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

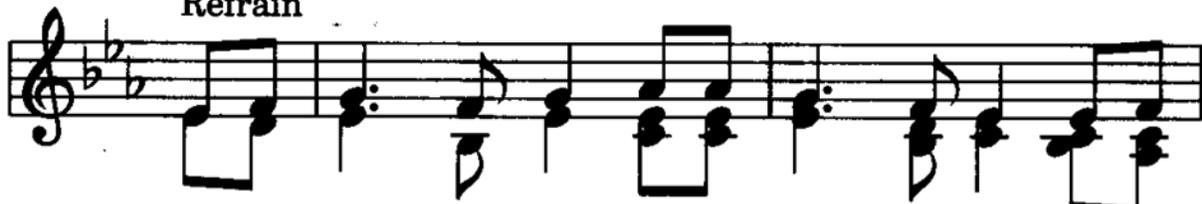
life in all its full-ness, and in your light we shall see true light.

OneLicense.net #A-700877



G134 Saranam

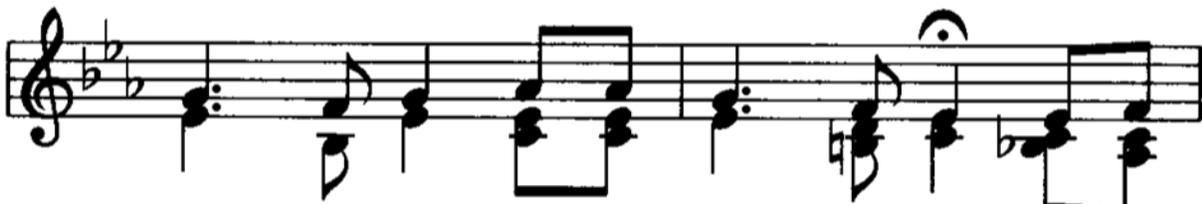
Refrain



Je-sus Sa - viour, Lord Lo to Thee I fly; Sa - ra -
Je-sus, Ret - ter, zu dir hin flie - he ich: Du bist



nam, Sa - ra - nam, Sa - ra - nam, Thou the
Schutz, du bist Hil - fe und Halt. Sei mir



Rock, my Re - fuge that's higher than I: Sa - ra -
Fels und Zu - flucht be - schüt - ze mich: Du bist

VERSES:



nam, Sa - ra - nam, Sa - ra - nam. In the midst of foes I
Schutz, du bist Hil - fe und Halt. Mit - ten in der Angst schrei

Lied zu Psalm 61 aus dem Punjab und Sri Lanka. Satz: Hartmut Bietz. 1: D. T. Niles, 2: Dieter Trautwein. © E.A.C.C. Hymnal 1972. © 2: Strube, München



cry to Thee. From the ends of earth where-ev - er
ich zu dir, wo das En - de droht und nichts mehr



I may be, My strength in help-less-ness, O
wei - ter - geht. Gib Ant - wort, wenn die Stim-me



an - swer me: Sa - ra - nam, Sa - ra - nam, Sa - ra - nam.
hilf - los fleht: Du bist Schutz, du bist Hil - fe und Halt.

2. In Thy tent give me a dwelling place, / And beneath Thy wings may I
find sheltering grace, / let fall on me the sunshine of Thy face: / Sara-
nam, Saranam, Saranam. / Jesus Saviour, Lord . . .

3. O that I my vows to Thee may pay, / And that by Thy faithfulness to
me each day: / May live, and on Thy love my burdens lay: / Saranam,
Saranam, Saranam. / Jesus Saviour, Lord . . .

4. Yesterday, today, for e'er the same, / Lo, the heritage of all who bear
His name / To ransom them from sin the Saviour came; / Saranam, Sa-
ranam, Saranam. / Jesus . . .

2. Laß dein Zelt mir Haus und Wohnung sein, / wo die Gnade deiner
Flügel mich bedeckt, / wo mich dein Antlitz gleich der Sonne weckt: /
Du bist Schutz, du bist Hilfe und Halt. / Jesus, Retter, . . .

3. Hilf, Gelübde, die ich gab, zu tun / und zu sehn, was deine Treue täg-
lich schenkt, / wie Liebe auch an meine Lasten denkt: Du bist Schutz,
du bist Hilfe und Halt. / Jesus, . . .

4. Gestern, heute und zu aller Zeit / soll, wer seinen Namen trägt, auch
Erbe sein, / daß Jesus kam von Sünden zu befrei'n: / Du bist Schutz,
du bist Hilfe und Halt. / Jesus, Retter, . . .

1 = englisch, 2 = deutsch

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).

Monthly Family Events — Sept 21

Families are invited to join the Children and Families Ministry Team following the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on the third Sunday of each month for a family friendly event! On Sunday, Sept 21, we will gather together for a picnic and games in the Play Yard on Balm Blvd. Contact Sara Hackett for info (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).





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).