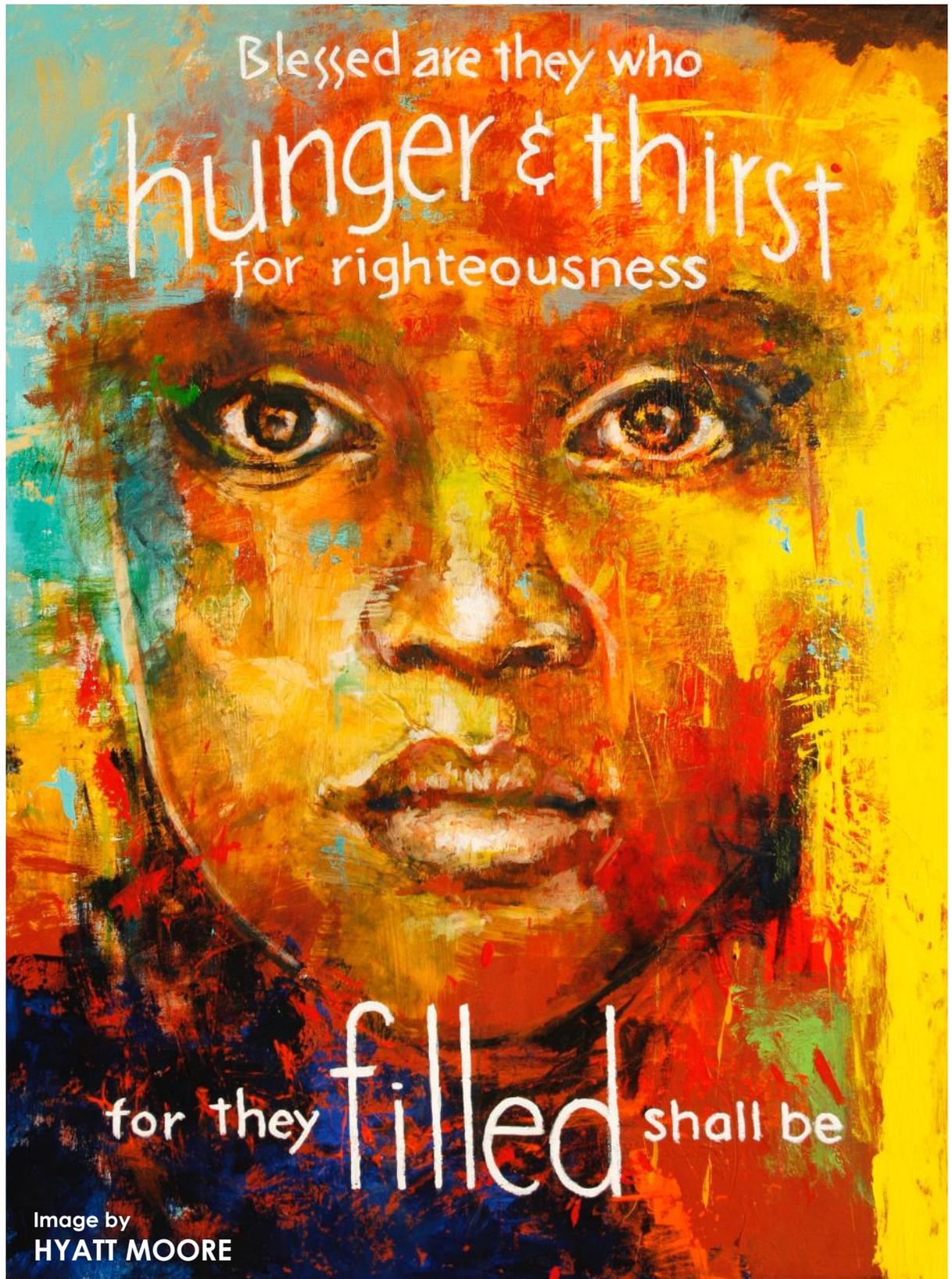


TAIZÉ: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

September 24, 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

NB10 In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-
 El Se-nyor és la me-va for-ça, el Se-nyor el me-u cant. Ell m'ha es-tat la sal-va-ci-

fraid. Lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near. In the
 ó. En ell con-fi-o i no tinc por. En ell con-fi-o i no tinc por. El Se-

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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

zeigst 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. Be -
 peace and joy in all full - ness. O

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Psalm 18 (selected verses; from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 8



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Those who love truth will see your light;
Those who walk in justice will see your mercy;
Those who live with integrity
Will see you in all they meet.

ALLELUIA

But those whose path is crooked,
Who walk on the low road,
Will live in the shadows of fear.
The humble are always close to you,
The haughty too distracted to see,
Will one day fall.

ALLELUIA

Yes, you are the Light of my life;
You shine through my darkness.
Yes, with you I can do all things:
And my spirit soars like an eagle.

ALLELUIA

Your ways lead to wholeness,
O Loving Presence;
Your word in me is life;
How tenderly you live in my heart!
For who is our creator, but the source of Love!
And who is life, except the Divine Presence!

ALLELUIA



The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1, 6:1-4 *(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:

Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven.

When you do acts of charity, for example, don't have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they've already received their reward in full.

But when you do acts of charity, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deeds must be done in secret, and your Abba God — who sees all that is done in secret — will repay you.

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



Breath Prayer

(to assist you in the quiet stillness)

Inhale — All seeing One ...

Exhale — I hide myself in
Thee ...

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

How gently and lovingly
You wake in my heart,
where in secret You dwell alone;
and in your sweet breathing,
filled with good and glory
how tenderly You dwell in my heart
with love.

— from *“The Living Flame of Love”* by St. John of the Cross

CLM33 O Lord, You Hold And Protect Me

Sei - gneur, tu gar - des mon â - me; Ô Dieu, tu con - nais mon
O Lord, you hold and pro - tect me; you know all my heart's de -

cœur. Con - dui - moi sur le che - min d'é - ter - ni - té, con - dui -
sire. Guide my steps a - long the ev - er - last - ing way, guide my

moi sur le che - min d'é - ter - ni - té. Sei -
steps a - long the ev - er - last - ing way. O

(^) Last time

(^) Last time

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The score includes French and English lyrics, with a final section marked '(^) Last time'.

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: CLM32 Look To God And Be Filled

Qui re - gar - de vers Dieu res - plen - di - ra, sur son vi -
Look to God and be filled with ra - diant joy. Lift up your

sa - ge, plus d'a - mer - tu - me, sur son vi - sa - ge, plus d'a - mer - tu - me.
heads for God hears our prayer, - lift up your heads for God hears our prayer. -

(Last time ☺)

(Last time ☺)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics in French and English. The score includes a repeat sign and a 'Last time' instruction with a smiley face icon.

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All seeing One, let us hide ourselves in You. As we serve, give and love, may we be content to be hidden in humility knowing that you see all and are already pleased with us.

LOOK TO GOD AND BE FILLED

We pray for those who are under siege from war... or illness... or any adversity... give them faith and hope for the future you are preparing for them.

LOOK TO GOD AND BE FILLED

We pray for those who live in fear of terror in the night... or destruction in the day... be with them in their trouble and satisfy them with a long life.

LOOK TO GOD AND BE FILLED

We pray for those who are hungry or oppressed... those in prison... or burdened by heavy labor... for the orphan, the widow and the immigrant... give them food and freedom, justice and joy, watch over them and show them your welcome.

LOOK TO GOD AND BE FILLED

Merciful God, who sees all of us in secret, we offer you our secret prayers in the confidence that you alone have the grace to receive us and the power to deliver us.

LOOK TO GOD AND BE FILLED

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.

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.



Photo by
KELLY STANFILL

* **Come Bring Your Burdens To God**

Woza Nomthwalo Wakho

Solo:

Come, bring your bur-dens, oh,

Come, bring your bur-dens to God, come, bring your
 Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa-kho, wo - za nom -

come, bring your bur - dens, oh, come, bring your bur-dens,

bur - dens to God, come, bring your bur - dens to God for
 thwa - lo wa-kho, wo - za nom-thwa - lo wa-kho U -

To repeat *Last time*

Je-sus will nev-er say no.

Je-sus will nev-er say no. Come, bring your no.
 ye-s's-ka - so - za - thi hayi. Wo - za nom - hayi.

African phonetics:

Woh-zah nohm-thwah-loh wah-khoh, U-yehs skah-soh-zah-thee hahyee

Text: South African; tr. by Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick, © 2008, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
 Tune: South African melody; arr. by Welile Sigabi, © 2008, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

*** Take, O Take Me As I Am**

Take, O take me as I am; Sum-mon out what I shall
Tó - ma - me tal co-mo soy; llá - ma-me a lo que se -

be; Set your seal up-on my heart And live in me.
ré; pon tu se-llo so-bre mí y vi-ve en mí.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949; tr. by Ronald F. Krisman, b.1946
 Tune: TAKE ME AS I AM, 7 7 7 4; John L. Bell, b.1949
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* **Mayenziwe / Your Will Be Done**

Not too quickly

Ma - ye - (Ma - ye) nzi - we 'nta - ndo y - kho. Ma -
Your will (Your will) be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - (Ma - ye) nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -
will (Your will) be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be

we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Closing Blessing *(in unison)*

If you heard any word from God tonight, put it into practice so you may be like the wise sage, who built a house upon rock. 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 (*Matt. 7:24-25*). 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).

Cathedral Concerts Series Kicks Off 15th Season — Oct 12

The *Cathedral Concerts* season begins in October with two exciting performances. For more information on each concert, please visit tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts. On Sunday, Oct 12 at 3 pm, Windfluence, a Pittsburgh-based professional woodwind quintet, will join organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore for a dazzling performance featuring the *Concerto for Organ and Wind Quintet* by Daniel Pinkham.

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).