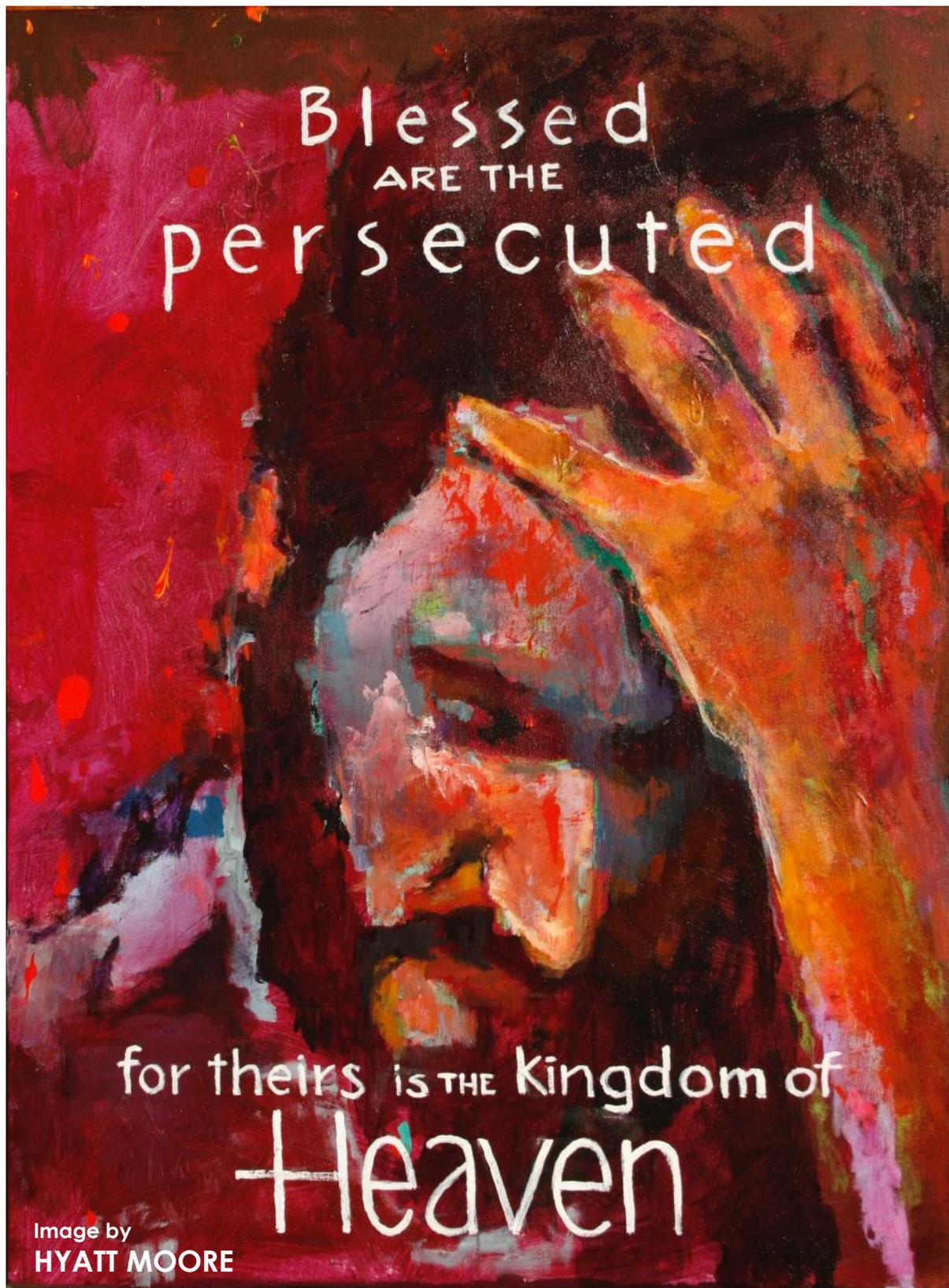


TAIZÉ: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

October 15, 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

10 Sing Praises To The Lord

♩ = 100

Cm G Cm Fm G

(A) (B) (C)

Can - ta - te Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ju - bi - la - te De - o.
Sing - prais - es to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Sing in joy and glad - ness.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the hymn 'Sing Praises To The Lord'. It features a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The score is divided into three sections labeled (A), (B), and (C). Section (A) has a chord progression of Cm, G, Cm. Section (B) has a chord progression of Fm, G. Section (C) has no specific chords listed above it. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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49 Live In Charity

F C Dm Bb D G C ,

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

F C Dm Gm C 3 F

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

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the hymn 'Live In Charity'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The first system has a chord progression of F, C, Dm, Bb, D, G, C. The second system has a chord progression of F, C, Dm, Gm, C, F. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final measure of the second system features a triplet of notes in the treble staff.

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Psalm 49 (selected verses; from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: 3 Alleluia 11

The musical score is for a three-part setting of the Alleluia. It is written in 3/4 time with a tempo marking of ♩ = 104. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! (hum)". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. A repeat sign (double bar line with dots) is placed before the first "Al - le - lu - ia". The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction "D.S." (Da Capo).

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Turning to you, O Guiding Spirit,
Is my strength and support,
A stronghold in times of trouble.
Yes, even the wise are not immune to fear;
Yet, unlike the ignorant,
The wise face their fears with resolve.
Not running away,
Nor projecting them onto others.

ALLELUIA

They trace them to the source,
Rooting them out
As weeds from a rose garden.
Thus, they do not trust
In the riches of the world,
But in the Treasure hidden within the heart.

ALLELUIA

Others are arrogant in their ignorance,
Proud of their own counsel.
Like sheep led to slaughter,
Their fears compel them
To walk in the darkness.

ALLELUIA

Guiding them onto unholy paths,
Into webs of intrigue,
Where despair and destruction
Make their home.
Yet does the Spirit of Truth abide within,
Veiled by bulwarks of pain.

ALLELUIA

Be not afraid to discover
The Treasure within,
To seek the gold hidden
In the garden of your heart,
For inasmuch as you root out each fear,
Will truth and peace and joy
Become your riches.

ALLELUIA

You will live in the realm of Love
Becoming a light,
A beneficial presence in the world.
Future generations will be blessed,
The bonds of ignorance broken forever.

ALLELUIA

O Spirit of Truth, you are our strength
And our guiding light.
Lead us, O Love, to the eternal Treasure,
The Heart of all hearts!

ALLELUIA

The Word for Meditation: Matthew 5:1, 6:19-23 *(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:

Don't store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal them. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well.

The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light inside you is darkness, how great that darkness will be!

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



Breath Prayer

(to assist you in the quiet stillness)

Inhale — Seeking the
Treasure within ...

Exhale — I open my heart
to follow ...

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

My greatest wealth is the deep
Stillness
in which I strive and grow
and win what the world cannot take
from me with fire or sword.

— Goethe

CLM7 O God, Keep Me Safe

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are in German and English. The first system includes a repeat sign at the beginning. The second system also includes a repeat sign. The third system includes a repeat sign and a fermata over the final note of the vocal line.

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, Freu - de in Fül - le. Be -
peace and joy in all full - ness. O

(♪) (♪ Last time)

(♪) (♪ 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: 4 Kyrie 1



Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. (hum) _____

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God of justice, in Jesus Christ you teach us to pray always and not to lose heart. And so we come to you in prayer this night.

KYRIE

We pray for your children who suffer under oppressive rulers and the greed of humanity that grabs and hoards wealth and resources... We pray for your church that is being torn asunder by mistrust, division and pride...

KYRIE

We pray for those who have no water and those whose water is too dirty to drink... We pray for those who go to bed hungry and wake each day wondering where their next meal will come from...

KYRIE

We pray for those who struggle to believe and those who are seeking a blessing, guidance and direction... We pray for those who are bound by anxiety or depression, loneliness or fear...

KYRIE

We pray for the sick and all who care for them and those who are in hospice and in that thin space between heaven and earth... We pray for all those whose burdens we carry in our hearts...

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

All these prayers we offer with thanksgiving, in the power of your own Spirit, for we know that you hear us when we pray and desire to make us whole. 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 vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score is enclosed in a large bracket on the left side.

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.

41 Veni Sancte Spiritus

♩ = 56

pp A

Bm⁷/A

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

pp

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CLM19 Peace I Leave You

Frie - den, Frie - den hin - ter - las - se ich euch. _____
 Peace I leave you, my — peace I — give. _____

Mei - nen Frie - den ge - be ich euch. Eu - er Herz ver - za - ge nicht.
 Let your hearts be free from — fear. My — peace I give to you.

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16 Glory To God

Canon
 ♩ = 80

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in — the high - est!

Glo - ri - a. glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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Closing Blessing *(in unison)*

Thank you for the wisdom of Jesus, the Christ, and the words of the Sermon on the Mount. May its radical truths stick with us and guide our lives, helping us to be the wise builders who build their lives on the rock and put them into practice.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen!

Postlude by the Taizé Musicians *(depart as you so desire)*

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).

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*



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.

The Rev. BJ Woodworth is Minister of Taizé Prayer here 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

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

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.

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. 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). Only shared/common bathroom accommodations are now available. For info, visit tiny.cc/giving-our-deaths-away. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

Connections Group Potluck – Oct 19

We invite you to celebrate the Connections 2025–26 season kick-off with an all-church potluck on Sunday, Oct 19 after the 11 am service in the Good Samaritan Room. Sign up using this link for planning purposes: <https://tinyurl.com/ConnectionsPotluckOct19>

Church Tour – Oct 19

Tom Morton will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel on Sunday, Oct 19. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service to participate.

Family Bowling – Oct 19

Families with children and teens are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Oct 19 for pizza and duckpin bowling. Contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Happy Hour – Oct 20

Our next *Young Adult Happy Hour* will be on Monday, Oct 20 from 6–7:30 pm at Michele and Henk Bossers' home in Wilkinsburg. Stop by for appetizers and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are available). Details and RSVPs via evite from Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Book Study Series – Begins Oct 29

Join Pastors BJ and Michael on Wednesdays from Oct 29 to Nov 19 from 5:30–7 pm for a four-week journey utilizing Marcus Borg's influential book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. Together*.

We'll explore Jesus as: *Spirit Person* (a man deeply connected to the sacred); *Teacher of Wisdom* (offering timeless guidance for life today); *Social Prophet* (challenging systems of injustice); *Movement Founder* (inspiring a community of transformation).

Each session will blend teaching, scripture, conversation, and spiritual practices, creating space not just to learn about Jesus, but to experience his presence anew.

We'll share dinner together at 6:30 pm, and you're invited to stay for our contemplative Taizé prayer service at 7 pm. To register, visit: tiny.cc/meeting-jesus-again