

# TAIZÉ:

*Prayerful Song &  
Quiet Meditation*



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025 • 7:00 PM**



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

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.

**NO TAIZE SERVICE OR CATHEDRAL YOGA ON:  
Wednesdays, Dec 24 (next week) and Dec 31.**

**Prelude by the Taizé Musicians**

**Welcome and Opening Centering by Rev. BJ Woodworth**

## 28 Come And Fill

♩ = 66

D Bm D A

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus,  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Em C Em A D

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

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## G107 The Will Of Your Love

OSTINATO REFRAIN/ESTRIBILLO: All/Todos

The will of your love, the will of your love be  
Tu vo - lun - tad, tu com - pa - sión

done on earth as it is in heav - en.  
se - a en la tie - rra co - mo en el cie - lo.

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CCLI #689547

**Psalm 86** (selected verses; from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

**Sung Response: \* Alleluia (Veni Emmanuel)**

(VENI EMMANUEL) Stephen Pishner



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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Give ear to my cry, O Comforter,  
And answer me,  
For I am sorely in need of you.  
Awaken new life in me,  
As I yearn to do your will;  
Dispel the ignorance of my ways,  
As I put my trust in you.  
You are the Beloved;  
Be gracious to me, Heart of my Heart,  
For with you would I walk all day.  
My soul is uplifted,  
As I abandon myself into your hands.

**ALLELUIA**

For you are kind and forgiving,  
Abounding in steadfast Love  
To all who call upon you.  
Give ear to my prayer, Compassionate One;  
Listen to my heartfelt plea.  
In the time of trouble,  
I dare to call upon you,  
For you hear the cry of those in need.

**ALLELUIA**

No one is like you, O Mighty One,  
All of creation belongs to you.  
All the nations are under  
Your authority and one day,  
They will acknowledge and reverence you.

They will give praise to your Sacred Name.  
For you are great;  
We are awed by the wonders of your world,  
You alone are the Most High.

**ALLELUIA**

O Beloved, numerous fears rise up within me;  
Like an army they seek to overwhelm me,  
And they would keep me in darkness.  
Yet you are merciful and gracious,  
Ready to forgive and ever abounding  
In steadfast Love and faithfulness.

**ALLELUIA**

Be present to me and receive my prayer;  
Imbue me with strength,  
And help me to release each fear.  
Pour forth your Light into my soul,  
That all that is hidden in darkness  
May come forth into awareness.  
For you, O Beloved,  
Are my Redeemer and my Comforter.

**ALLELUIA**

Who is this Compassionate One?  
The Beloved, Heart of your heart,  
Life of your life,  
This is the Compassionate One! .

**ALLELUIA**

## The Word for Meditation: Luke 1:57-80 *(Inclusive Bible)*

When the time came for Elizabeth to deliver, she gave birth to a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard that God had been merciful to her, they shared her joy. When all had assembled for the circumcision on the eighth day, they intended to name the baby after his father Zechariah. But his mother spoke up, “No, he is to be called John.” They pointed out to her, “But no one in your family has this name.” Then they made signs to the father to find out what he wanted the child to be named. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” They were all astonished. Immediately Zechariah’s mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. Their neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea, people were talking about these events. All who heard the news stored it in their hearts and said, “What will this child turn out to be?” For God’s hand was with him.

Zechariah, John’s father, was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: “Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel—for you have visited and redeemed your people. You have raised up a mighty savior for us of the house of David, as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones, the prophets of ancient times: salvation from our enemies and from the hands of all our foes. You have shown mercy to our ancestors by remembering the holy Covenant you made with them, the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham, granting that we, delivered from the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear, in holiness and justice, in your presence all our days. And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you’ll go before our God to prepare the way for the Promised One, giving the people the knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Such is the tender mercy of our God, who from on high will bring the Rising Sun to visit us, to give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

In the meantime, the child grew up and became strong in spirit. He lived out in the desert until the day he appeared openly in Israel.

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



### **Breath Prayer**

*(to assist you in  
the quiet stillness)*

*Inhale* — Gratitude be  
my guide ...

*Exhale* — Love be my  
breath ...

**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.

## Affirmation of Love

Leader: Please join me in affirming God's gift of bold and liberating love.

**Right-side:** We believe in the power of love, a love that not only comforts but liberates. A love constructed with care, compassion, and courage, providing shelter and safety for all God's children.

*Left side: We believe in love's guardrails of grace and mercy. Love does not demand or wait for perfection, but scoops us up in arms of unconditional care, where we are, as we are.*

**Right side:** We believe, with gratitude, in a legacy of love, a long thread of memory recalling who we are and whose we are, stitching us into its tapestry of belonging. We believe love is not earned. Love is not control. Love is care and connection.

*Left side: We believe love holds no secrets. Love does not shame. Love speaks up. Love makes space. Because God's love doesn't give up on us, we will not give up on ourselves or each other.*

**Right side:** We will remember and bless. We will fix what is broken. We will look for the dawn of God's love in and around us.



## NB14 Lord God, You Love Us

Lord God, you love us, source of com - pas - sion.  
Toi, tu nous ai - mes, sour - ce de vie.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord God, You Love Us". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The word "pas" in "compassion" is circled with a dashed line in the original image.

## Intercessory Prayers

*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: NB45 Come, Lord, Light of Our Hearts

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment line in the middle, and a bass line at the bottom. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ve - ni lu - men cor - di - um! Come, Lord, light - of our hearts!" and "San - cte Spi - ri - tus! light - of our hearts!". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

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God of liberation, your love reaches beyond all boundaries of prejudice and fear. Your tenderness is offered not only to the powerful or deserving, but to all people, according to your infinite compassion. Teach us to love widely and boldly, honoring the dignity of all and trusting your promise that the way of love is the way of life.

### COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

God, in whom we live and move and have our being, your love is the heart of this season. Here we tell the story of Love-Made-Flesh, of presence come near, of sacred solidarity. Your incarnation reminds us: to love means to show up, with and for each other, with and for this holy, hurting world.

### COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

Your love is the heart of this community. Here we remember and celebrate your faithfulness, leading and liberating your people, granting visions, empowering voices. We remember those who have been hurt by abusive power and exploitative systems, and we lament and repent of cruelties committed in your name.

### COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

Your love is the heart of our world. You choose connection with us all. Wherever there is hurt, you feel it. Wherever there is harm, you suffer it. Wherever there is delight, you dance in it. Teach us to be so connected that we might know the transformative power of covenantal love.

### COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS

## 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

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that for these, and for us, your care is constant, and your heart is always open... God, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer!**



## 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 hearing 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.**

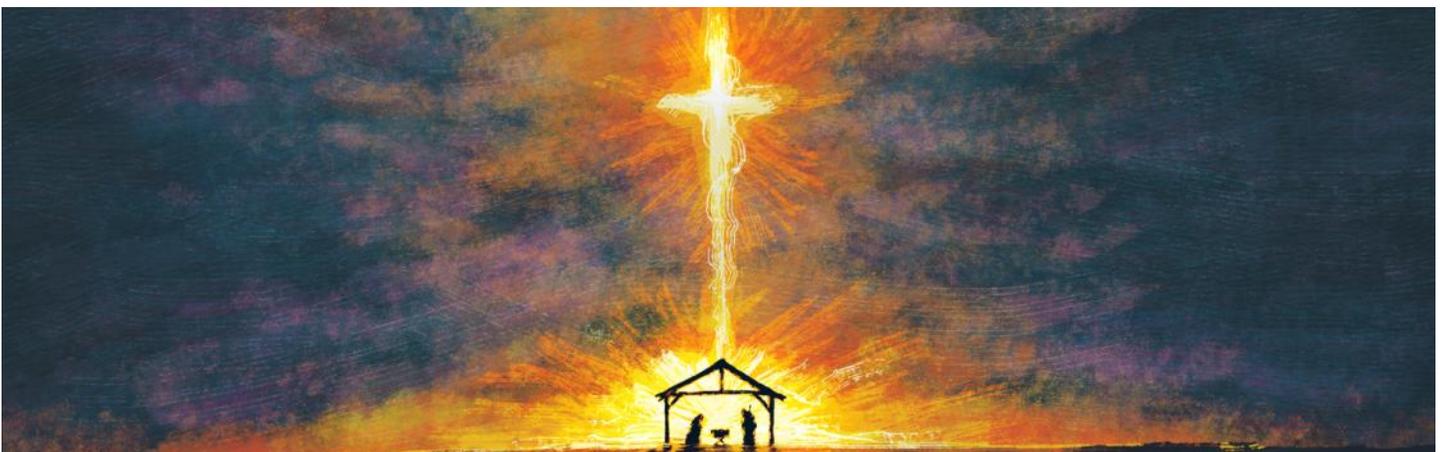


*Our olive oil is from the Palestinian village of Bil'in. Sent to us by Iyad Burnat, a nonviolent, international peacemaker. Bil'in has had 60% of its land stolen by Israel and now houses an illegal settlement for 100,000 European and American Jewish people.*

## NB9 Christ Of Compassion

O Je - su - Chri - ste  
Christ of com - pas - sion, O in te con - fi - do.  
Lord God, I trust you.

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\* When God Is A Child

*Unison*

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
 2. Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth,  
 3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,  
 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.  
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.  
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.  
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985  
 MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987

MOON BEAMS  
 Irr. w. refrain

\* **Soon And Very Soon**

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

## Responsive Charge: A Call to Advocacy

Leader: To embody love is more than sentiment.

People: **It is choosing, every day, to see the worth and good in ourselves, others, and this world.**

Leader: So go forth from this place modeling merciful love, and remember God is love.

People: **Though it may be difficult to understand, we see what it means modeled in Jesus.**

Leader: May blessings flow from our mouths as we seek to be love in this world.

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*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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

## Chapel Market Needs Winter Coats and Toiletry Items

The Chapel Market is stocking up on winter clothes for our neighbors in need. From now until Thanksgiving, please consider donating clean, new or gently-used winter coats for toddlers to adults. They also need full-sized toiletry items. Leave donations in the Highland lobby.

## Christmas Pageant – Dec 21

Join us for a special re-telling of the Christmas story on Sunday, Dec 21 as part of the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Following the pageant, all are invited to enjoy a hot chocolate reception in the Fellowship Room!

Kids are needed to help tell the story as actors, sheep, stars, narrators, musicians, and set designers! Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net). There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 20 at 9:30 am.

## Pray Always in All Ways: ELPC Spiritual Pathways Weekly Gatherings

*Wednesdays, Jan 21, 28, Feb 4 and 11  
at ELPC from 5:30-7pm*

and

## Weekend Retreat

*Friday, Jan 23 at 6 pm to Sunday, Jan 25 at 11 am  
at Villa Maria Retreat Center*

Have you ever wondered what prayer is or if you even believe in prayer? Have you ever longed to pray more but struggled to know how? Whether you feel like a novice or practiced expert, we all need to practice prayer. There is no right or wrong way to pray, nor is there no one starting point or a finish line. There is only the continual showing up to practice prayer and allowing our deepest longings for God, others and the world to emerge. Together we will talk about our struggles and hopes with prayer and explore a wide variety of prayer forms, including body prayer, prayer beads, icons, silent, written fixed-hour prayer and prayer as simple awareness in life. It will be playful, inspiring and interactive with lots of time to practice together.

**WEEKLY GATHERINGS: Register online at**  
<https://tinyurl.com/PrayAlwaysClasses2026>

**WEEKEND RETREAT: Register online by Jan 11 at**  
<https://tinyurl.com/PrayAlwaysRetreat2026>



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5 PM FRIENDS & FAMILY SERVICE

Both services will be held in the Sanctuary,  
feature the celebration of the  
Lord's Supper and candle lighting.

## Blue Christmas Service

Friday, Dec 19  
7 pm

This service will  
include candlelight,  
chants, thoughtful  
readings and  
meditative silence,  
and a time for  
comfort and hope.

# *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:

<b>Address:</b>	Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France
<b>To contact Taizé:</b>	community@taize.fr
<b>To visit Taizé:</b>	meetings@taize.fr
<b>List of useful info:</b>	info@taize.fr
<b>Web site:</b>	www.taize.fr
<b>Telephone:</b>	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.)*

<b>ELPC Web site:</b>	www.CathedralofHope.org
<b>E-mail:</b>	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).

