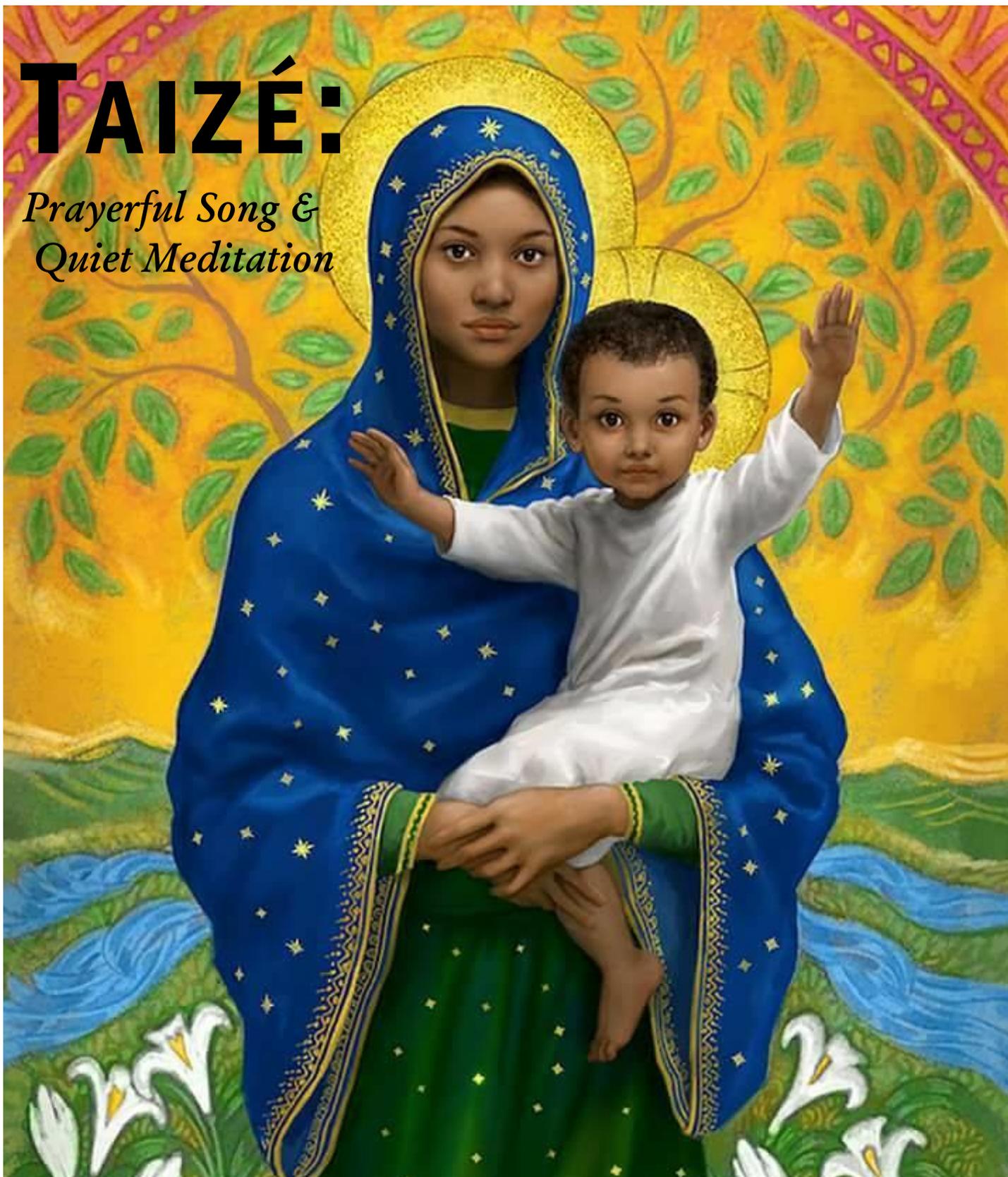


# TAIZÉ:

*Prayerful Song &  
Quiet Meditation*



December 10, 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.

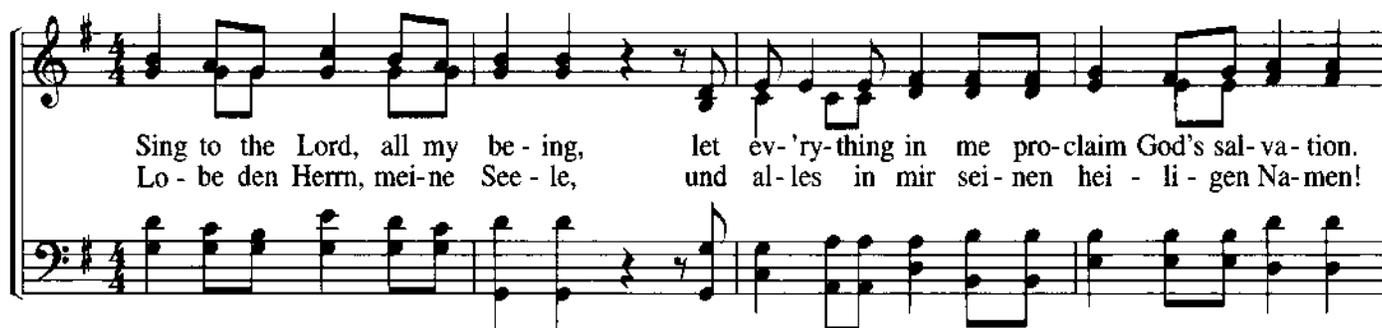
- Hold a prayer stone, palm cross or prayer beads.
- Allow the simple repeated refrains to be sung over you and join in as you are able.
- Come forward to the table to doodle or color a mandala.
- Sit on a prayer cushion or chair at the front to be closer to the icons and artwork.
- Light a candle in 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.

**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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## CLM25 Jesus, Your Spirit



Kris - tus, din An - de i oss är en käl - la med por - lan - de va - ten.  
Je - sus, your Spir - it in us is a well - spring of life ev - er - last - ing.

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**Psalm 63** (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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O Love, you are my Beloved,  
And I long for you,  
My soul thirsts for you;  
All that is within me thirsts,  
As in a dry and barren land with no water.

**ALLELUIA**

So I have called out to you in my heart,  
Sensing your power and glory.  
Because your wondrous Love is Life in me,  
My lips will praise you.  
I would radiate your Love as long as I live,  
Becoming a blessing to others  
In gratitude to you.

**ALLELUIA**

My soul feasts as with  
A magnificent banquet,  
And my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
When I ponder on your kindness,  
And meditate on you throughout the night.

**ALLELUIA**

For you have been my salvation,  
And in the shadows of your wings  
I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you,  
Your love upholds me.

**ALLELUIA**

The fears that seem to separate me from you  
Shall be transformed and disappear;  
As they are faced, each fear is diminished;  
They shall be gone  
As in a dream when I awaken.

**ALLELUIA**

And my soul shall rejoice in the Beloved.  
All who open their hearts to Love  
Will live in peace and joy!

**ALLELUIA**

## The Word for Meditation: Luke 1:39-55 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!"



Mary said:

"My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy — the promise you made to our ancestors—to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever."

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



### Breath Prayer

*(to assist you in the quiet stillness)*

*Inhale* — I claim joy ...

*Exhale* — I am filled ...

**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 Joy

Leader: Please join me in affirming God's gift of life-giving and justice-seeking joy.

Right-side: We believe "joy is the justice we give ourselves." Because God's joy dwells with the humble and is rooted in justice, we find its warmth and light shine brightest through shared witness and sacred disruption.

Left side: *We believe joy grows through blessing others and fostering authentic relationships. We believe joy is more than a feeling or the things we possess. Joy is our faith made visible and something we share by choosing connection.*

Right side: We believe joy is truth and truth-telling. We believe joy is active resistance, Spirit-filled solidarity, and the bringing of God's dream.

Left side: *We believe true joy is not the opposite of heartache but lives right within the swirl of our grief and hardest emotions.*

Right side: We celebrate the depth of God's joy and how I can hold our pain. When we are filled with this kind of joy, we celebrate what God is birthing now, even amid a world where so much appears to be ending.

Left side: *We believe joy is freedom and healing, redemption and return. We believe joy comes from knowing God is close, even when life is hard. God's joy shows up not just in breathtaking beauty but in moments we hurt so much we can't breathe.*

Right side: We choose justice. We choose love. We choose each other. We choose joy.

## G106 My Soul Proclaims

OSTINATO REFRAIN: All



My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O my God. My



spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.

## 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 the song 'Come, Lord, Light of Our Hearts'. It is written in 4/4 time and features three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment line in the middle, and a bass line at the bottom. 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 dynamic markings.

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God of surprises, you interrupt our world with joy and hope beyond our wildest dreams. When we feel forgotten or despair, bless us with your holy joy. When our world feels barren, bless us with the gift of possibility. We pray as people of deep faith, entrusting ourselves and our world to the holy unknown, brought to birth in Jesus, our light and life.

### **COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS**

Holy One, we add our voices to the chorus of generations, in celebration of your nearness. We give thanks that you are as close as kin, revealed to us in every door thrown open, every weary soul embraced, every heavy load lightened.

### **COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS**

Help us prepare room for you, Loving God, in every heart, in all the world. Where sins and sorrows grow, where injustices pile high, when all our energy seems to be taken by struggle, remind us that joy, too, is an act of resistance—born of truth-telling, sustained by community. Grant us strength to labor and to laugh alongside each other.

### **COME, LORD, LIGHT OF OUR HEARTS**

As your Beloved One comes to make blessings flow, may we, too, open our hearts and our hands: freely sharing welcome and compassion, gladly receiving wisdom and care, building together a world where all those brought low are lifted up, where all those who hunger are filled with good things, where all our voices together proclaim the wonders of your 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.*

## NB8 In God Alone

In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace— and joy.  
Mon â-me se re-po-sé en paix sur Dieu seul: de lui vient mon— sa - lut.

On - ly in God my soul can find its rest,— find its rest — and peace. In  
Oui, sur Dieu seul mon â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - sé en paix. Mon

*Last time*

## 24 Magnificat (Chorale)

F Dm C F Am B $\flat$  F C Dm B $\flat$  C F *fine*

Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num.  
Sing out, my soul, my heart re - joic - es in the Lord!

*Free* Am ESUS E A Dm *Free* B $\flat$  CSUS C F D.S.

(Solo verses)

(hum) Ma - gni - fi - cat. Sing out, my soul! (hum) Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - Sing out, my soul! Sing

For the solo verses, use the words of the Magnificat (page 11)

- E.g. All: Magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Solo: My soul sings praises to the Lord.  
All: Magnificat.  
Solo: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
All: Magnificat. Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

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## 45 Sing Out, My Soul

Canon  
♩ = 96

(A) G C D7 G (B)

Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num.  
Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord who sets us free.

(C) (D)

Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!  
Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God!

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## Responsive Charge: A Call to Advocacy

Leader: There is joy in centering the voices of those typically unheard.

People: **So, we go forth from this place with ears to hear, and believe the cries of women, immigrants, elders, and all who are vulnerable and silenced.**

Leader: May we be strengthened not just to hear and believe, but to act, for there is no greater joy than ensuring that all God's children need not cry out any longer.

People: **Go out into the world embracing the will to dream, and may joy wash over us all, bringing renewed strength for the days ahead.**

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 .....	<i>flute</i>	Alyssa Creasy .....	<i>pianist</i>
James Avant .....	<i>vocalist</i>	Jennifer Gorske.....	<i>music director/ vocalist</i>
David Bennett.....	<i>cello</i>	Chris Markwell.....	<i>vocalist</i>
		Gerard Rohlf .....	<i>guitar</i>

# 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.

## Support the Holiday Giving Tree

The Deacons' annual *Giving Tree* ministry is an opportunity to assist families this Christmas season and provide children with gifts! Sign up at [tiny.cc/elpc-giving-tree](http://tiny.cc/elpc-giving-tree) for specific gift requests and to make financial donations to assist with the purchase of retail gift cards. Gifts and donations should be dropped off by Sunday, Dec 7.

## LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – Dec 14

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Dec 14 when we will share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend ([Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x218).

## 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.

## 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>

