

TAIZÉ:

Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

January 7, 2026 • 7:00 pm

EPIPHANY



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

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

CLM35 The Kingdom Of God

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly

Spir - it. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your - king - dom. The

(Last time ♪)

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CLM23 Jesus, Redeemer

Canon

1

2

Je - su, re - dem - ptor om - ni - um, tu — lu - men et splen - dor
 Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world, light and splen - dor of God the

Pa - tris, ti - bi sit glo - ri - a, ti - bi Je - su sit glo - ri - a.
 Fa - ther, glo - ry and praise to you, all — glo - ry and praise to you.

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Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 1

Soprano ad lib.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor

Al - le - lu - ia.

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Bring justice to the peoples, O Beloved,
And your mercy to all generations!
May the people be known for mercy,
Rendering justice to the poor!
Let their spirits soar as the eagle,
Let joy abide in every heart!
May we heed the cry of the poor —
The young and the old,
Helping to free all those in need,
Awakening the souls of oppressors!

ALLELUIA

May we know oneness with you
As long as the sun endures,
As long as the stars shine,
Throughout all generations!
May we acknowledge you
In the rain falling on the fields,
Like showers that water the earth!
In our day may justice flourish,
And peace abound,
Throughout all the nations!

ALLELUIA

May every heart open
To your love from sea to sea,
From the River of Life out to the universe!
May fears that paralyze the people
Rise up from the depths into your Light!

ALLELUIA

Long may you live in our hearts,
May praises be sung to you!
May our prayers rise up before you
And blessings of love be freely rendered!
May we be ever grateful
For the grain of the fields,
For the fruits of the vine
To be shared with all;
And may the people blossom
Forth in the cities,
Diverse like flowers in the meadow!
May your Name live on forever,
Your Love endure as long as the sun!

ALLELUIA

May the people bless themselves
In knowing you,
And all nations call you blessed!
Blessed be the Beloved,
The One who dwells in open hearts,
Who guides us along the way.
Blessed be you,
Who comes in the Name of Love;
May your glory fill the earth!
Amen and Amen!

ALLELUIA

The Word for Meditation: Matthew 2:1-4, 7-15 *(Inclusive Bible)*

After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too.” After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route. After the astrologers had left, the angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, “Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him.” Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they left that night for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what God had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I have called my Own.”

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



Breath Prayer

*(to assist you in
the quiet stillness)*

Inhale — Guide my
dreaming ...

Exhale — Show me
the path of
freedom ...

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

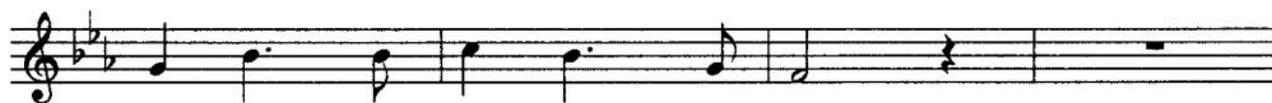
Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms.

— *Saint Augustine of Hippo*

* Jesus, The Light of the World



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.
2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.
3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.
4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,
Join the tri - umph of the skies.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the



light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the



dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -



round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

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: G91 Lead Me, Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make thy way
plain be - fore my face.

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The image shows a musical score for the song 'Lead Me, Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make thy way' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment line starts with a bass clef and the same key signature and time signature. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'plain be - fore my face.' The piano accompaniment line continues with the same key signature and time signature.

God of the starry skies, God of the dirt-beaten path, we give thanks for the many ways you make yourself known. We give thanks for the invitation to bring our joys and sorrows, our hopes and our hearts, to you in prayer.

LEAD ME, LORD

God of Magi, you interrupt violence with visions and dreams. You expose the plans of the powerful that would only serve to protect their own interests. We pray for the courage, like the Magi, to stand against corruption of authoritarian leaders and their empires and for one another.

LEAD ME, LORD

Ever-present Friend, you accompany your people as they seek safety. You promise that none of us are ever outside your care. Mary, Joseph and Jesus, please journey with all who flee harm and danger and send your compassionate presence to all who would receive them.

LEAD ME, LORD

Incarnate One, may each of us value our own bodies, and each other's, as holy sites, deserving of dignity and honor. May all our bodies receive the tending and care they need. May we live out the promise of sanctuary for all who seek it.

LEAD ME, LORD

Come again to us this Epiphany, God. May we learn from our storied ancestors how to look for you, how to trust you, how to follow you toward a faith-filled life.

LEAD ME, LORD

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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

NB15 Lord, Jesus Christ

Je — sus your light is shi — ning with - in us. Let not my
Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, ne lais - se

doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me. Je — sus your light is
pas mes té - nè - bres me par - ler. Jé - sus le Christ, lu -

shi — ning with - in us. Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.
mière in - té - rieu - re, don - ne - moi d'ac - cueil - lir ton a - mour.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are in English and French. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final two lines and ends with a double bar line.

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* Behold The Star

Refrain

Be-hold the star! Be-hold the star up yon-der!

Be-hold the star! It is the star of Beth - le - hem.

2. Verses

1. There was no room found in the inn,
 2. The wise men came from the East
 3. A song broke forth up - on the night.

Last time

Beth - le - hem. (ooh)

Last time

For him who was born
 To wor - ship him, the
 ‡ Peace on earth, good -

It is the star of Beth - le - hem. (ooh)

free from sin. Oh,
 "Prince of Peace."
 will to men.

It is the star of Beth - le - hem.

Responsive Charge: A Call to Advocacy

Leader: Through the work of Christ in the world and on the cross, we see empire, fear, violence, and cruelty replaced with courage, wisdom, protection, and the will to dream of so much more.

People: **May we go forth from this place and be God's hands and feet, offering courageous defiance against those who would seek to oppress.**

Leader: May our eyes see what is beautiful before us.

People: **May our ears hear God's voice. May our mouths share the good news with others.**

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: **Amen.**

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

TONIGHT!

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).

PRAY ALWAYS IN ALL WAYS



ELPC Spiritual Pathways

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? 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, silence, written fixed-hour prayer and prayer as simple awareness in life. It will be playful, inspiring, interactive with lots of time to practice together.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

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

Register online at
[https://tinyurl.com/
PrayAlwaysClasses2026](https://tinyurl.com/PrayAlwaysClasses2026)

WEEKEND RETREAT

*Fri, Jan 23 at 6 pm to Sun, Jan 25 at 11 am
at Villa Maria Retreat Center*

Register online by Jan 11 at
[https://tinyurl.com/
PrayAlwaysRetreat2026](https://tinyurl.com/PrayAlwaysRetreat2026)