



# TAIZÉ:

Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

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

**March 25, 2026 • 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**

## CLM23 Jesus, Redeemer

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.

*div.*

OneLicense.net #A-700877

## CLM12 I Will Sing To The Lord

Can - ta - rei ao Se - nhor, en - quan - to vi - ver; lou - va -  
 I will sing to the Lord my whole life — long; I will

rei o meu Deus en - quan - to e - xis - tir. Ne - le en - con - tro a mi - nha a - le -  
 wor - ship my God as long as I live. For the Lord brings joy to his

gri - a. Ne - le en - con - tro a mi - nha a - le - gri - a. Can - ta -  
 peo - ple. For the Lord brings joy to his peo - ple. I will

*( Last time )*

OneLicense.net #A-700877

**Psalm 118:19-29** (selected verses from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

**Sung Response: \* God Is So Good**

Refrain

God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, oh, so good to us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for 'God is so good, God is so good,'. The second staff continues with 'God is so good, oh, so good to us.' and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Refrain text and music: Spiritual; adapt. by Carey Landry. Music and verses text: Carey Landry, © 1982, OCP. All rights reserved.

OneLicense.net #A-700877

Yes, you opened to me the gates  
Of truth and justice  
That I might enter through them.  
Praise be to You, O Merciful One!  
**GOD IS SO GOOD**

This is the Door to Life;  
Those who know Love shall enter through it.  
I give thanks to you, O Beloved,  
Who answer our prayers  
And invite us to new Life.  
The stone which the builders rejected  
Has become the foundation of our lives.  
**GOD IS SO GOOD**

This, O Eternal Listener, is your Work;  
It is marvelous in our eyes.  
This is the day which you have made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!  
**GOD IS SO GOOD**

Remain ever by our side, O Friend!  
We welcome you into our hearts  
As Loving Companion Presence!  
Blessed are all who enter through your gates!  
Blessed are all who dwell in the house of Love!  
**GOD IS SO GOOD**

For you lead the Way,  
You forgive our misguided ways;  
And you bring Light into darkness,  
Come, all you who will,  
Partake of the Great Banquet!  
**GOD IS SO GOOD**

You are my Beloved,  
And I will give thanks to you;  
You are my Beloved,  
Greatly will I praise you!  
We give thanks to you, O Blessed One,  
For you are kind;  
Your steadfast Love endures forever!  
**GOD IS SO GOOD**

## The Word for Meditation: Mark 11:1-11 *(Inclusive Bible)*

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’”

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What do you mean by untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

### Silence for Lectio and Visio Divina

*(lasting about 5-7 minutes)*

*Breathe deeply as you hear the scripture, imagine placing yourself in this scene of the scripture reading, and gaze upon the painting, **Palm Sunday Was a Protest**. What parts of the image draw your attention the most? As you scan the image, notice the contrast between vibrant colors and black and white.*

*What does this contrast convey to you? Get quiet and still, letting God pray in you or offering your own silent prayer*



**Words from the artist**  
**Rev. Nicolette Faison**

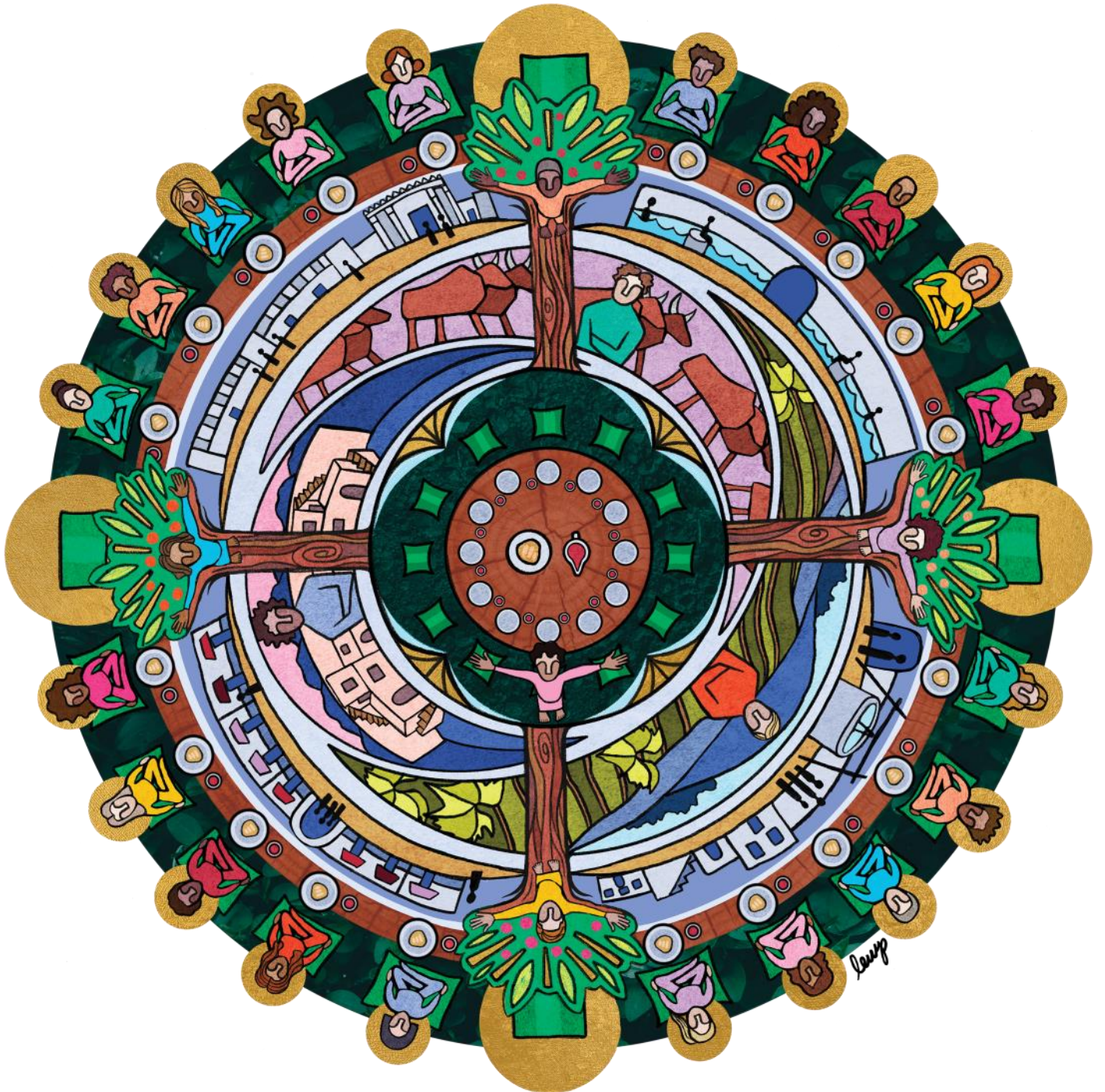
# CLM31 I Delight And Rejoice

0

Que j'e - xul - te et ju - bi - le en ton a - mour!  
I de - light and re - joice in your love!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and joyful, with a range of an octave. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal line. The lyrics are written in French and English.

OneLicense.net #A-700877



## 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: \* **Lead Me, Lord**

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

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Lead Me, Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The music is written in a key with three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody.

OneLicense.net #A-700877

God of the peaceful parade, God of the humble entry, God of the people and the song, we come to you tonight with the prayers of our hearts. We come to you today because we know that you are a God who listens, walks with us and acts in the world, and for that, we are grateful.

### **LEAD ME, LORD**

Holy One, like Jesus, we want to act upon our beliefs. We want to allow the good news of the gospel to move through us, gather people together and move toward something good, but we admit we are often unsure of what to do, the steps to take and the road before us. So, we pray for guidance.

### **LEAD ME, LORD**

Give us strength, we pray! Give us the strength to live like the crowds that day in Jerusalem. Where they held palm branches, may we hold a hand out to our neighbor. May we hold open the door for each other. May we hold onto hope.

### **LEAD ME, LORD**

Give us vision, we pray. Give us vision to see like the crowds that day. Where they cried "Hosanna," may we cry out for justice with a resounding joy. Where they laid down their coats, may we lay down our resources, our energy, our creativity, and our time, so that we can build your promised day here.

### **LEAD ME, LORD**

May these prayers, and the earnestness in our hearts, move us closer to you. So that we may not simply talk about our faith but also act on it, and may these prayers be the first step towards embodying the good news.

### **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

With the anticipation of the cries of "Hosanna!" on our tongues, we join our voices together to sing the words your Son taught us to pray...



## 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.*

## NB6 Dona Nobis Pacem

Do - na no - bis pa - cem cor - di - um. Do - na no - bis pa - cem. —

— Do - na no - bis pa - cem cor - di - um. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

## \* Near The Cross

F Bb/F F C7 Dm Bb F F/C C

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre - cious foun - tain,  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

F Bb/F F C7 Dm Bb F/C C C7 F

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

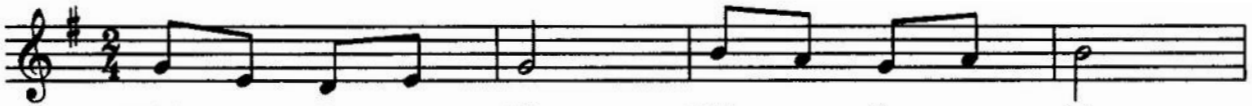
*Refrain*  
 F Bb F Bb/F F F/C C

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

F Gm/F F A7/E Dm Bb F/C C C7 F

till my rap - tured soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

\* Ride On, Jesus, Ride



Ride on, Je - sus, ride. Ride on, Je - sus, ride.



Ride on, Je - sus, con-que-ri-ng King, Ride on, Je - sus ride.



- |         |                     |                                |                    |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. King | Je - sus            | rides on a milk white horse.   | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 2. My   | Je - sus            | lift - ed his throne a - bove. | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 3. The  | chil - dren         | of Je - ru - sa - lem,         | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 4. 7    | "Bless - ings       | on the Ho - ly One!"           | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 5. 7    | Ride so             | hum - ble, ride so true,       | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 6. 7    | Ride to             | set your peo - ple free,       | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 7. 7    | Ride o - be - dient | un - to death,                 | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 8. 7    | Ride a - gain       | in the hearts of us,           | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| 9. 7    | Now                 | be - yond all time and space,  | Ride on, Je - sus, |



- |       |     |               |             |                  |                    |
|-------|-----|---------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ride. | The | riv - er      | Jor - dan   | he did cross.    |                    |
| ride. | 7   | See his       | mer - cy    | and his love.    |                    |
| ride, | 7   | strewed their | branch - es | on his way.      |                    |
| ride. | 7   | "Bless - ings | on the      | Sav - ing One!"  |                    |
| ride. | 7   | Ride to       | bring the   | world to you,    | Ride on, Je - sus, |
| ride. | 7   | Ride the      | road to     | Cal - va - ry,   |                    |
| ride. | 7   | Ride to       | break the   | chains of death, |                    |
| ride. | 7   | Ride a - gain | in the      | hands of us,     |                    |
| ride. | 7   | Now           | in          | ev - 'ry         | land and race,     |



ride. Ride on, Je - sus, con-que-ri-ng King. Ride on, Je - sus ride.

## Closing Unison Blessing

Leader: As we prepare for the Palm Sunday Processional, let us declare our intentions:

People: **We will follow the One riding on a donkey and lay down our treasures!**  
**We will sing and worship and pay close attention.**  
**We will let this good news inspire us to act.**

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>

## Artist Statement

Rev. Nicolette Faison

*Palm Sunday Was a Protest* contains detail emphasizing the hectic energy that is found in movements. Each segment is meant to capture the eye, but the central subjects are in black and white, contrasting the brilliant color palette.

The order of colors is intentionally a rainbow as a nod to the Queer community. The piece contains a sunrise behind the iconic Palm Sunday donkey, which is an ode to the Sunrise Movement (*a movement for young people committed to stopping climate change*).

Accompanying the donkey are crowds of people with fists raised in the air, a common sight at any protest. The phrase, “No Justice, No Peace” sits around a “power to the people fist” symbolizing resistance. This symbol was first utilized by labor and liberation movements in the early 1900s. I personally associate the fist with the Black Power movement of the 1960s. Along the bottom of the piece, the grassroots of the image, are palms, a nod to the biblical story.

*Palm Sunday Was a Protest* is an ode to modern movements. This piece visually aligns how Palm Sunday is talked about with the active work happening today. Resist fascism. Resist occupation. Do justice.



# 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

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S HEARTBEAT

*Retreat:* **April 24-26**  
at the Villa Maria Retreat Center

*Classes:* **Wednesdays, April 29, May 6, 13, 20**  
from 5:30- 7 pm at ELPC

*Register*  
*online:* <http://tiny.cc/gods-heartbeat>  
(by April 12)

Our gatherings will be based on Phillip Newell's *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: Celtic Daily Prayer*, inviting participants into the rich stream of Celtic spirituality through ways of listening for God. We will explore different movements of listening — for goodness, within creation, for God in all things, with imagination, and in action. We will pair a reflection on a chapter with a contemplative practice such as reimagining the Jesus Prayer, walking attentively in creation, gathering the graces, engaging the imagination, and embracing a “chaos of uncalculating love.”

Framed by liturgy from the *Celtic Book of Daily Prayer*, our time together will continually return to the themes of our belovedness, discovering God in creation, the sacred role of mystery and imagination, and the wide, inclusive nature of God's love.

Our facilitator, Rev. Jeff Eddings, currently serves as the Spiritual Formation and Coaching Associate for the 1001 New Worshiping Communities Initiative in the PC(USA). He oversees a network of 100 coaches and pastored Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community in Pittsburgh from 2004 to 2019. The Ignatian motto of ‘finding God in all things’ is one he seeks to live by.

**WHILE THERE WILL BE NO TAIZÉ NEXT WEDNESDAY DURING  
HOLY WEEK WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT OUR OTHER SERVICES:**

**\*\* NO TAIZE SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 \*\***

*Thursday, April 2– MAUNDY THURSDAY*

7 pm in the sanctuary with Communion

*Friday, April 3– GOOD FRIDAY*

Noon in the chapel

7 pm in the sanctuary

*Saturday, April 4– EASTER VIGIL*

7 pm begins in narthex

*Sunday, April 5– EASTER SUNDAY*

8:45 am in the chapel with Communion

11 am in the sanctuary with Communion



# 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).