

TAIZÉ:

Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

April 15, 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

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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NB10 In The Lord

$\text{♩} = 69$ Dm C F B \flat C Dm C F C B \flat A ³

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re - joice! Look to God, do not be a -
El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se - nyor el me - u cant. Ell m'hæ-stat la sal - va - ci -

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

fraid; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near. In the
ó. En ell con - fi - o, i no tinc por. En ell con - fi - o, i no tinc por. El Se -

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Psalm 116 (selected verses from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 17



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Receive my love, O Beloved,
You who hear my voice and my supplication.
You incline your ear to me,
And I call upon you
With trust both day and night.

ALLELUIA

When the snares of fear encompass me,
When the pangs of loneliness envelop me,
I suffer distress and anguish.
Then I call upon you, my rock:
You come to my aid,
Your strength upholds me.

ALLELUIA

Gracious are you, just and true:
Heart of all hearts,
You are merciful and forgiving.
You preserve the simple;
When I am humbled, you lift me up.
Return, O my soul, to your rest;
For you, O Loving Friend,
Bestow grace upon grace, a balm for my soul.

ALLELUIA

You raise me up to new life; you dry my tears,
And guide my feet on straight paths.
Now, I walk hand in hand with Love
In the land of the awakened ones.
I keep my faith, even in times of great turmoil;
I invite others to awaken
To the joy of your presence.

ALLELUIA

What shall I render to you
For all your goodness to me?
I will drink the chalice of Love and praise you,
Who have done wondrous things;
I will bear witness to you, O Bread of Life.

ALLELUIA

O Beloved, consider me your friend;
I long to co-create with you.
For you have loosed the bonds of fear in me.
I will offer to you the gift of gratitude
And acknowledge
Your loving presence with joy.
I will bear witness to you, O Giver of Life.

ALLELUIA

The Word for Meditation: Luke 24:13-35 *(Inclusive Bible)*

That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus—which was about seven miles from Jerusalem—discussing all that had happened as they went. While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?” They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened these past few days?” Jesus said to them, “What things?”

They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people—how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today—the third day since these things happened—some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn and didn’t find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn’t find Jesus.”

Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?”

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening—the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them.

After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight. They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?”

They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, “Christ has risen! It’s true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Quiet Meditation and Reflection

(lasting approximately 5-7 minutes)



Breath Prayer

Inhale — Open my eyes...

Exhale — that I might see
you ...

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

Days pass and the years vanish and we walk sightless among miracles. O Holy One, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing. Let there be moments when your presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk... And we will exclaim in wonder, *“How filled with awe is this place and we did not know it.”*

— Rachel Naomi Remen in *“My Grandfather’s Blessings”*

NB17 Our Eyes Are Turned

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are:

O - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num Je - sum,
Our eyes are turned to the Lord Je - sus Christ.

o - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num nos - trum.
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our 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: NB42 Kyrie 18



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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We pray for the church throughout the world, that as we celebrate the great fifty days of Easter, you may renew our faith and strengthen our witness of peace, justice, and love in the world.

KYRIE

We pray for the governments of the world and its leaders, that they may resist the corruption of sin, have humble and compassionate hearts, fight injustice, and serve the common good.

KYRIE

We pray for our planet Earth, that all people may be good stewards of its resources and share its abundance. We pray for the sick and those in distress, that they may find healing for their pain and be restored to fullness of life.

KYRIE

We pray for the poor and the stranger, that they may receive a place of refuge and hope, and that all people may offer the hospitality the disciples offered to Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

KYRIE

We pray for our neighbors that we may live together in peace and share in our resources. We pray for our enemies that they may receive good things and that we, your servants, do not return evil for evil.

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.



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 a steady rhythm. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicating different verses. The score concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

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.



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.

G65 Thank You, Lord

1. Thank you, Lord, Thank you, Lord, Thank you,
2. Been so good, Been so good, Been so
3. Been my friend, Been my friend, Been my,

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble staff contains three measures of chords, with the second measure circled. The bass staff contains three measures of single notes.

Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.
good, I just want to thank you, Lord.
Friend, I just want to thank you, Lord.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff features a melodic line with eighth notes and a final chord. The bass staff continues with eighth notes and a final chord.

Text: Traditional

Tune: Traditional; Harm. by J. Jefferson Cleveland, b. 1937, and Verolga Nix, b. 1933, from *Songs of Zion* © 1981 by Abingdon CCLI #689547

- 4. Been my Light ...
- 5. Been my Peace ...
- 6. Been my Joy ...
- 7. Been my Life ...

23 In The Lord Rejoicing

$\text{♩} = 120$

Ju - bi - la - te De - o, ju - bi - la - te De - o, al - le - lu - ia!
In the Lord re - joic - ing! Christ is ris - en from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Easter Blessing (in unison)

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ, our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

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

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>

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).

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

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

Shaping Our Future

Strategic Planning Gathering – April 19

You are invited to join us for our first *Shaping Our Future Gathering* on Sunday, April 19 from 12:15-1:30 pm in the Social Hall. This will be a meaningful opportunity for us to come together as a community to listen deeply to one another and to God. Through guided conversations, we will reflect on our shared story, name what matters most in this season, and begin imagining the future God is calling us toward. Everyone's voice matters. Whether you've been here for decades or just recently arrived, your perspective and experience is an essential part of this journey as we help shape the next chapter of ELPC.

Lunch and childcare will be provided. ZOOM is an option as well for those joining online. Contact Jen King for Zoom link (JenK@coh.net).

Background: In February, ELPC's Session voted to begin a strategic visioning process with guidance from Michelle Snyder from the Center for Healthy Churches. Michelle previously worked with ELPC in 2023, facilitating the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) which aided the Pastoral Nominating Committee's work in calling Pastor Michael as Senior Pastor. The strategic visioning process is the next stage of our work together that will aid us in developing a three-year strategic plan.

Family Bowling – April 19

Families are invited to join us for pizza and bowling in ELPC's original 1930s Duck Pin Bowling Alley, located on the ground floor during the *Shaping Our Future gathering*. We will have staff chaperoning kids whose grownups attend. See Sara Hackett to participate (SaraH@coh.net).

Tween Mini Golf – April 26

4th through 6th graders will help create the course and then play mini golf around the church on Sunday, April 26 from 12:30-2 pm. Bonus points if you get a hole in one in the bell tower. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Listening for God's Heartbeat:

Classes: April 29, May 6, 13 20

We will offer weekly classes at ELPC on Wednesdays, April 29, May 6, 13, 20 from 5:30-6:30 pm (light dinner at 6:30 pm), drawing upon John Philip Newell's book *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: Celtic Daily Prayer*. We will explore the rich stream of Celtic spirituality to help us practice listening for God in our lives. More info is available on our website (ELPC.church). Sign up for the weekly classes at:

<https://tinyurl.com/gods-heartbeat-classes>