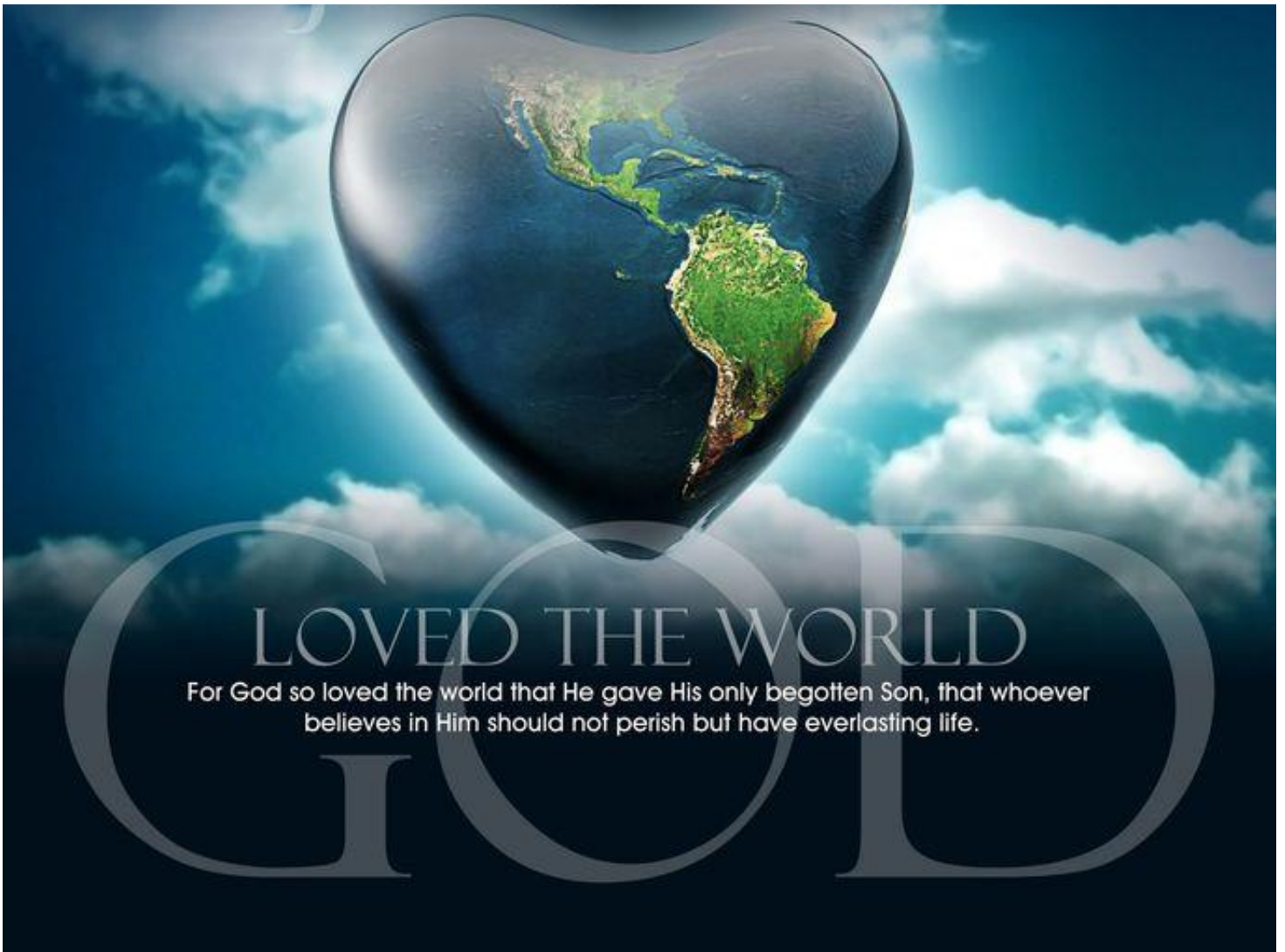


# TAIZÉ:

PRAYERFUL SONG AND  
QUIET MEDITATION



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

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

**APRIL 22, 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. John Titus**

## CLM22 The Heavens and the Earth Rejoice

In re - sur - rec - ti - o - ne tu - a, Chri - ste,  
The heav - ens and the earth re - joice, Lord Je - sus,  
cœ - li et ter - ra lae - ten - tur. In re - sur - rec - ti - o - ne  
raised from the dead, you are liv - ing. The heav - ens and the earth re -  
tu - a, Chri - ste, cœ - li et ter - ra lae - ten - tur. In  
joice, Lord Je - sus, raised from the dead, you are liv - ing. The

(Last time)

(Last time)

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## 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

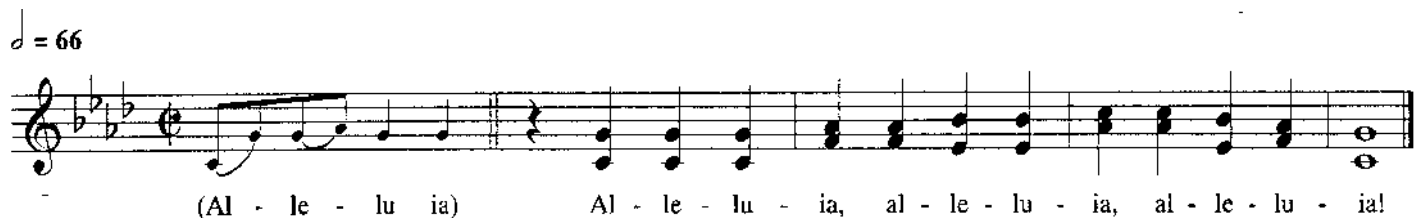
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**Psalm 148** (selected verses from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

**Sung Response: 1 Alleluia 4**



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Praise the Blessed One!  
Give praise from the heavens,  
And from all ends of the earth!  
Give praise, all you angels,  
Angels of earth and of heaven!  
Give praise, sun and moon,  
Give praise, all you shining stars!  
Give praise, all universes,  
The whole cosmos of Creation!

**ALLELUIA**

Praise the Blessed One!  
For through Love all was created  
And firmly fixed forever and ever;  
Yes, the pattern of creation was established.

**ALLELUIA**

Give praise to the Beloved,  
All the earth,  
All that swim in the deep,  
And all the winged ones in the air!  
Give praise, all mountains and hills,  
All trees and all minerals!  
Give praise, all four-legged  
And all that creep on the ground!

**ALLELUIA**

Leaders of the nations and all peoples,  
Young and old, give praise!  
Unite together in all your diversity,  
That peace and harmony  
Might flourish on earth!

**ALLELUIA**

For all are called to be friends,  
Companions to the true Friend,  
Giving their lives joyfully  
As co-creators and people of peace!  
Praises be to the Blessed One,  
The very Breath of our breath,  
The very Heart of our heart!

**ALLELUIA**



## The Word/Meditation: Job 12:7-10 and Psalm 19:1-3; 6-7 (*The Message Bible translation*)

But ask the animals what they think—let them teach you; let the birds tell you what’s going on. Put your ear to the earth—learn the basics. Listen—the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories. Isn’t it clear that they all know and agree that God is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand—every living soul, yes, every breathing creature? Isn’t this all just common sense, as common as the sense of taste? Do you think the elderly have a corner on wisdom, that you have to grow old before you understand life?

God’s glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon. Madame Day holds classes every morning, Professor Night lectures each evening. Their words aren’t heard, their voices aren’t recorded, but their silence fills the earth: unspoken truth is spoken everywhere. That’s how God’s Word vaults across the skies from sunrise to sunset, melting ice, scorching deserts, warming hearts to faith. The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together. The signposts of God are clear and point out the right road.

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

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### Breath Prayer

*Inhale* — I breathe...

*Exhale* — with all creatures ...


**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.

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## Words from Saints and Ancestors

Let us endeavor to apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature — even a caterpillar — I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature.

— Meister Eckhart (1260-1328), a German Catholic theologian, philosopher and mystic



## G83 Many And Great

LACQUIPARLE 9.6.9.9.6

Dakota hymn  
Joseph R. Renville, 1842  
Trans. R. Philip Frazier, 1953 (Sioux)

Native American melody (Dakota)  
Adapt. Joseph R. Renville, 1842  
Harm. J. R. Murray, 1877

1. Man - y and great, O God, are Thy things, Mak - er of  
earth and sky; Thy hands have set the heav-ens with stars,  
Thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at Thy  
word the wa - ters were formed; Deep seas o - bey Thy voice.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Many And Great". It consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "1. Man - y and great, O God, are Thy things, Mak - er of". The second staff continues: "earth and sky; Thy hands have set the heav-ens with stars,". The third staff continues: "Thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at Thy". The fourth staff concludes: "word the wa - ters were formed; Deep seas o - bey Thy voice." The music is written in a simple, clear style, suitable for a hymn book.

## Prayers of Intercession *(a Prayer for the Earth from Pope Francis)*

### Sung Response: 4 Kyrie Eleison 1

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. (hum) \_\_\_\_\_ D.C.

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All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

#### **KYRIE**

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

#### **KYRIE**

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

#### **KYRIE**

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

#### **KYRIE**

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.

#### **KYRIE**

The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love, and beauty. Praise be to you!

#### **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.*



## Closing Refrain

In hope for what we do not yet see, we join our spoken and wordless prayers with the groaning of the Spirit in us and all of creation... God, in your mercy... **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

## 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.

## 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.*

## CLM39 Praise Our God And Savior

Wy - sła - wiaj - cie Pa - na, O — Wy - sła - wiaj - cie Pa - na, O —  
Praise our God and Sav - ior, O — praise our God and Sav - ior, O —  
Viss - swah vyie - chay Pah - na O — Viss - swah vyie - chay Pah - na O —

Śpie - waj Pa - nu ca - ła zie - mio, al - le - lu - ja, al - le - lu - ja! Wy - sła -  
for — God's love en - dures for - ev - er, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise our  
Shpyae - vie Pah - noo tsa wah zhay - myo

(Last time ☺),

\* How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der  
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,  
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,  
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion

con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,  
 and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;  
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,  
 when I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur  
 that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,  
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,

thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played.  
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;  
 he bled and died to take a-way my sin;  
 and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

WORDS and MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953, based on a Swedish folk melody  
 and a poem by Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885

O STORE GUD  
 11 10.11 10 w. refrain

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to thee;

how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!



**\* Christ The Lord Is Risen!**

1. Christ	the	Lord	is	ris'n!	Christ	the	Lord	is	ris'n!
2. He	has	con -	quered	death.	He	has	con -	quered	death.
3. Sin	has	done	its	worst.	Sin	has	done	its	worst.
4. He	is	King	of	kings.	He	is	King	of	kings.
5. He	is	Lord	of	lords.	He	is	Lord	of	lords.
6. All	the	world	is	his.	All	the	world	is	his.
7. Come	and	wor -	ship	him.	Come	and	wor -	ship	him.
8. Christ	our	Lord	is	ris'n!	Christ	our	Lord	is	ris'n!
9. Hal -	le -	lu	-	jah!	Hal -	le -	lu	-	jah!

Je -	su.	Christ	the	Lord	is	ris'n!
Je -	su.	He	has	con -	quered	death.
Je -	su.	Sin	has	done	its	worst.
Je -	su.	He	is	King	of	kings.
Je -	su.	He	is	Lord	of	lords.
Je -	su.	All	the	world	is	his.
Je -	su.	Come	and	wor -	ship	him.
Je -	su.	Christ	our	Lord	is	ris'n!
Je -	su.	Hal -	le -	lu	-	jah!

Christ	the	Lord	is	ris'n!	Je -	su.
He	has	con -	quered	death.	Je -	su.
Sin	has	done	its	worst.	Je -	su.
He	is	King	of	kings.	Je -	su.
He	is	Lord	of	lords.	Je -	su.
All	the	world	is	his.	Je -	su.
Come	and	wor -	ship	him.	Je -	su.
Christ	our	Lord	is	ris'n!	Je -	su.
Hal -	le -	lu	-	jah!	Je -	su.

Text: Tom Colvin, b.1925  
 Tune: Garu, Ghanian folk song, arr. by Kevin R. Hackett  
 © 1969, Hope Publishing Company

**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

## 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).

## Join the Justice Committee – April 26

The Justice Committee invites you to an in-person meeting on Sunday, April 26 after the 11 am service in Room 213. We have 4 primary focus areas: immigration and integration, human safety and dignity, environmental stewardship, and full inclusion. Please join us to find out more about the work that the Justice Committee does and how you might participate. For more info, please contact Carol Chonoska (carolchonoska@gmail.com; 724.272.9722).

## 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>

## NO WORSHIP SERVICES ON MARATHON SUNDAY

Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon,  
ELPC is unable to offer worship services on  
Sunday, May 3.

## 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

## Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market needs:

- summer clothes
- diapers (sizes 5-7)
- full-sized toiletries items (soap, body wash, toothpaste, etc.)

Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market (on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am–Noon).

# 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.

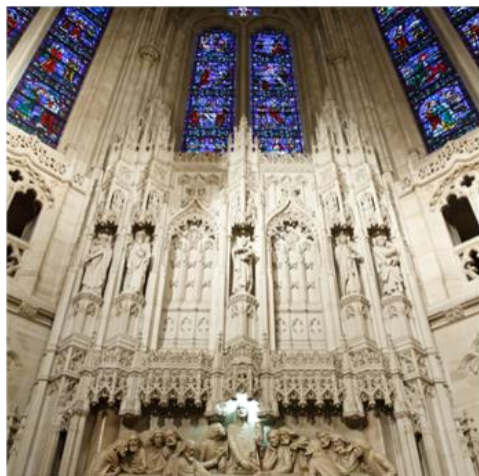
## ON SINGING

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).