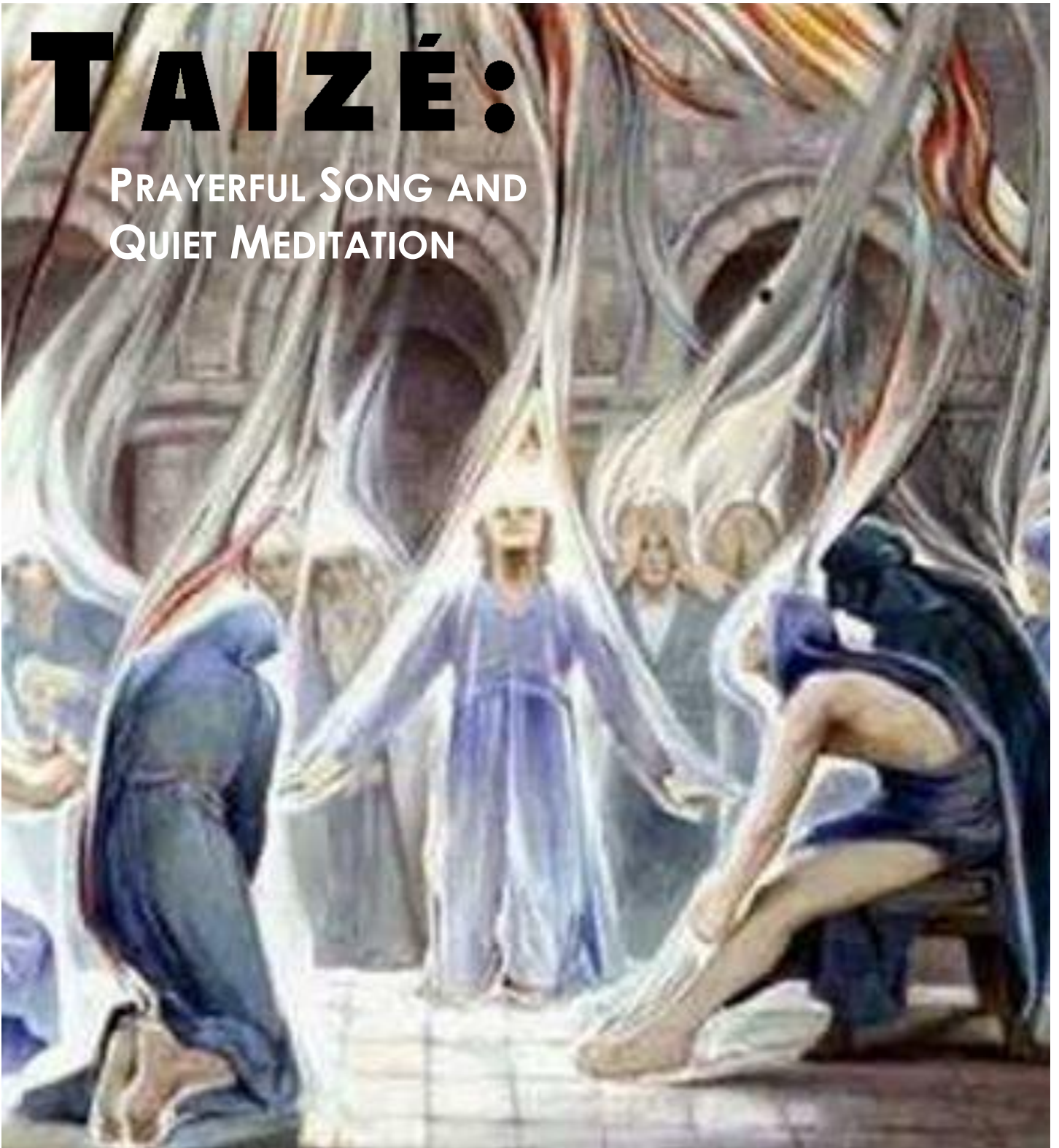


TAIZÉ:

PRAYERFUL SONG AND
QUIET MEDITATION



May 20, 2026 • 7:00 pm



**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

NB27 Veni Lumen

O ————— Ve - ni Cre - a - tor Spi - ri - tus.
Come Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er.

O ————— Ve - ni lu - men cor - di - um,
Come Cre - a - tor Spir - it! Come!

ve - ni lu - men cor - di - um.
Come and lead us with your light!

OneLicense.net #A-700877

34 Spirit of Christ Jesus

$\text{♩} = 58$ B \flat A Dm C F

Spi - ri - tus Je - su Chri - sti, Spi - ri - tus ca - ri - ta - tis, con -
Spir - it of Christ Je - sus, Spir - it of lov - ing kind - ness, con -

B \flat F C Dm Gm A F B \flat F C Dm A Dm

fir - met cor tu - um; con - fir - met cor tu - um.
firm your heart and keep it; con - firm your heart and keep it.

OneLicense.net #A-700877

Psalm 104:24-35 (selected verses from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB 37 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.

OneLicense.net #A-700877

O You, who know all hearts,
How manifold are your works!
In wisdom, You have created them all;
The earth is filled with your creatures.

ALLELUIA

We look to the seas, great and wide,
Which teem with life innumerable,
Helping to maintain the balance.
O, that we might receive your gifts,
Taking only what is needed
With grateful hearts.

ALLELUIA

All of creation looks to You,
To give them food in due season.
When we are in harmony with You,
The earth provides;
Yes, a bountiful harvest to be shared with all.

ALLELUIA

When we misuse what You have created for us,
We blame You for the famine
And destruction that ensues,
And feel alienated from You.
Even so, You continue
To send forth your Spirit,
And the earth, though not without turmoil,
Is renewed.

ALLELUIA

The glory of the Radiant One endures forever,
For the works of Love are sure.

You are ever-present to us,
Even as the earth trembles,
Even as the mountains
Spew forth ashes and smoke!

ALLELUIA

I will abandon myself into your hands
As long as I live;
I will sing praise to You
While I have breath.

ALLELUIA

May my meditations be pleasing to You,
For I rejoice and am glad in You.
May all who feel separate from You
Open their hearts to new Life!

ALLELUIA

Praise the Creator of the Universe!
Bless the Heart of my heart,
O my soul! Amen.

ALLELUIA

The Word/Meditation: Acts 2:1-12 *(The Inclusive Bible translation)*

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: “Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome—all Jews, or converts to Judaism—Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!”

All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, “What does this mean?”

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



Breath Prayer

Inhale — I won't forget myself ...


Exhale — I will listen for
myself ...

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

In mystery and all at once...an utterance went out to the multitude, people from every nation, as the sacred sound drew them toward one another. They heard themselves in the sound - not the language of their oppressors or people who believe themselves to be closer to the divine than others. They heard their own language and understood. What words were spoken remain as mysterious as the tongues that bore them. But together, even in the presence of doubt, people from all nations remembered their ancestors. Those who had an imagination for a miracle such as this. The image of God, a sacred multitude, gathered in the midst of a cosmic power shift.

— Cole Arthur Riley



NB24 Holy Spirit, Come To Us

p

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus, tu - i a - mo - ris i - gnem ac - cen - de.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

p

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus, ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

p

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

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 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.

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 bearing prayer concerns, anointing happens to the left in the columbarium.

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.



NB26 Veni Creator Spiritus

Ve - ni Cre - a - tor Spi - ri - tus.

OneLicense.net #A-700877

40 Holy Spirit, Loving Spirit

A Cm G Cm Fm G **B**

Ve - ni Cre - a - tor, ve - ni Cre - a - tor,
Ho - ly Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it,

C **D**

ve - ni Cre - a - tor Spi - ri - tus.
ho - ly, lov - ing Spir - it, come!

OneLicense.net #A-700877

G118 Friend

Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost, Comforter, Teacher
Paraclete, Mediator, Advocate, Reminder
Some call you Holy Spirit
And some say Holy Ghost,
But I long to call you Friend.

Holy Dove, Spirit of Love, Spirit of Truth, Leader
Holy One, Mighty One, Counselor, Revealer
Some call you Holy Spirit
And some say Holy Ghost,
But I long to call you Friend.

Public domain

Pentecost Blessing by Jan Richardson *(responsive)*

Leader: May the Divine rain down in strange syllables, yet with an ancient familiarity,

People: a knowing borne in the blood, the ear, the tongue, bringing the clarity

Leader: that comes not in stone or in steel, but in fire, in flame.

People: May there come one searing word: enough to bare us to the bone,

Leader: enough to set our heart ablaze,

People: enough to make us whole again.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

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

TAIZÉ MUSICIANS:

Charlie Anderson.....*flute*

James Avant.....*vocalist*

David Bennett.....*cello*

Alyssa Creasy.....*pianist*

Jennifer Gorske.....*music director/vocalist*

Chris Markwell.....*vocalist*

Gerard Rohlf.....*guitar*

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

Resumes on Monday, September 14 at 7:30 am.

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

Environmental Book Study – May 21

The next *Environmental Book Study* will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 7 pm on Zoom. The book selected for discussion is *The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years* by Sunil Amrith. As this book is longer than our other selections, we will read it over 2 sessions; the May 21 session will cover Part I – Seeds of Change (1200 – 1800). For more info and the zoom link, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

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



PENTECOST: CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

Join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and birth of the church!

- Wear festive red clothing to worship
- Join us for lunch and some family friendly and fun service projects.

RSVP to SaraH@coh.net

Youth Sunday – May 31

Youth Sunday will be celebrated during 11 am worship on Sunday, May 31. Youth who want to help plan or lead worship should reach out to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Church Tower Tour – May 31

Steve Evrard and Nate Stephens will guide a tour of the Tower on Sunday, May 31 after the 11 am service. Please pre-register at tiny.cc/towertour as this tour is limited to 20 participants. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes to join this tour.

FINAL CATHEDRAL CONCERTS OF THE SEASON!

THE ARSENAL DUO RETURNS TO ELPC

Organist Dr. Ed Moore

Pianist Dr. Nathan Carterette

Sunday, MAY 17 at 3 pm in ELPC Sanctuary



Featuring the premiere of a new organ/piano duet by Mary Beth Bennett and Gershwin's beloved *Rhapsody in Blue*.

NATHANIEL GUMBS, ORGANIST

co-sponsored with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh

Sunday, MAY 31 at 3 pm in ELPC Sanctuary

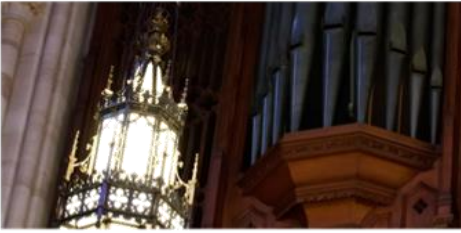
(rescheduled from April 12)



Dr. Gumbs, Director of Music at the Riverside Church in New York City, will be joined by soprano Olanna Miller for a concert in the ELPC Sanctuary.



ELPC members and friends should contact Dr. Ed Moore for complimentary tickets (EdM@coh.net).



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:

Address:	Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France
To contact Taizé:	community@taize.fr
To visit Taizé:	meetings@taize.fr
List of useful info:	info@taize.fr
Web site:	www.taize.fr
Telephone:	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.)*

ELPC Web site:	www.ELPC.church
E-mail:	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).