

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE
INSPIRED BY THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016

BE RECONCILED ALL YOU WHO ENTER HERE

*Parents, children, partners, friends, enemies;
Believers and those who cannot believe;
Christians and their fellow Christians.*

(Variation of greeting posted outside the Church of Reconciliation, Taizé, France)

We begin by centering ourselves in silent prayer.

OPENING WORDS

"Call to me and I will answer," says the Lord,
**"and I will tell you great and hidden things
that you have not known."**

PRAYER

Within us, O God,
we find the fountain of your living waters
and endless fields of delight and goodness
prepared by you for our health and strength;
yet the wrongs of the world and of our lives
reach deep into our very hearts and close off for us
the ways that lead to your life-springs,
leaving parts of us in exile from you.
In your mercy, open again the paths
that you have established within us
which lead to your dwelling
so that once more we may find rest for our soul.
It is for a replenishing of strength,
a restoring of health that we pray,
in the firm belief that a healing of our spirits
is for the healing also of our families,
of our nations and world. **Amen.**

COME AND FILL OUR HEARTS

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Com-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!
Com-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no, al-le-lu-ia!

REFRAIN

My soul is at rest in God a-lone; my sal-va-tion comes from God.

PSALM

I trusted, even when I said:
"I am sorely afflicted,"
and when I said in my alarm:
"There is no one I can trust."

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the loving.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill
before all the people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

-from Psalm 116

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of the faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

READING

Jeremiah said: The word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." **Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, Thanks be to God.**

-Jeremiah 1,4-8

55 Da pacem cordium (canon) * *Da pacem Domine*

The musical score is written for two voices in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has two staves. The top staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major). It contains a melodic line with lyrics: "Da pa-cem cor-di - um. Da pa - cem cor - di - um. Da Da pa - cem". The bottom staff has a bass clef and contains a harmonic line with lyrics: "Da pa - cem". The second system also has two staves. The top staff continues the melody with lyrics: "Da pa - cem. Da Da pa - cem. Da". The bottom staff continues the harmony with lyrics: "Da pa - cem. Da". There are three numbered rehearsal marks: ① at the start of the first system, ② at the beginning of the second staff of the first system, and ③ at the beginning of the first staff of the second system.

(Donne la paix du cœur, donne la paix. / Dona la pace del cuore, dona la pace. / Give peace to our hearts. / Gib den Frieden des Herzens. Gib Frieden. / Da la paz del corazón. Da la paz. / Daj pokój serca. / Даруй мир сердцам нашим.)

BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL

The musical score is written for two voices in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has two staves. The top staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major). It contains a melodic line with lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The bottom staff has a bass clef and contains a harmonic line with lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system also has two staves. The top staff continues the melody with lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The bottom staff continues the harmony with lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes dynamic markings: *p* (piano) at the beginning of each system and *f* (forte) at the end of each system. There are also crescendo and decrescendo hairpins.

SILENCE

Remaining in silence in God's presence, open to the Holy Spirit, is already prayer.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

O God, who is in the midst of us and does not forsake us,
who has loved us from the beginning and will love us to the end,
we give thanks for the gifts of life that we have received:
for children born and nurtured by us,
for the health and strength of body and mind that have been ours,
and for the times when we have been saved suffering and from trouble.

And in offering thanks for the goodness that has come our way
and the new beginnings that have been given us out of ends and failures and disappointments,
we pray for those whose pains seem unceasing and whose wounds appear incurable:
for nations caught in conflicts that are multiplied and deepened with time and memory;
for women and men and children who suffer from torn and embittered relationships;
for those whose minds and souls are scarred by past rejection and cruelty.

For all who are in need and who cry out in the pain of struggle and labor,
but have no real hope for new life born from their sufferings;
we offer prayer, O God, in the hope that you will be their refuge
and ours in the time of trouble. **Amen.**

Lord, teach us to pray together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re - joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near." The score includes triplets in the Soprano and Alto parts. The piece concludes with a final chord in the Tenor and Bass parts.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us never forget who we are,
from whom we have come,
and to whom we are called.
And on the journey of return
let us seek truth together and act justly,
being alert to the cause of the poor
and defending the rights of those in need.
In all of this, O God, set us free
from clinging insecurely to things and people and places,
so that the liberty we proclaim for all
may be the liberty we know in our hearts. **Amen.**

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness 678 in Your Sight

La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre devant toi

Capo 2: (E) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (E)
F# Bm A D G F#

The musical score is written for guitar with a capo at the 2nd fret. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The first system covers the first line of the song, and the second system covers the second line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

(Am) (G) (C) (Dm6) (Esus) (E)
Bm A D Em6 F#sus F#

deep - est night is clear as the day - light.
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè - re.

Wait for the Lord

(Psalm 27)

Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

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About Taizé: Taizé is a tiny village hidden away in the hills of Burgundy, in the eastern part of France, not far from the town of Cluny. Since 1940, it has been the home of an ecumenical community of brothers whose prayer, three times each day, is at the center of their life. Today, Taizé is a place to which visitors of all ages and backgrounds come on pilgrimage, to participate in international meetings of prayer and reflection.

Taizé's vocation is to strive for communion among all. From its beginning, the community has worked for reconciliation among Christians split apart into different denominations. But the brothers do not view reconciliation among Christians as the end in itself; it concerns all humanity, since it makes the Church a place of communion for all.

Singing is one of the most essential elements of Taizé worship. Short chants, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words, they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly.