CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE

INSPIRED BY THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 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

We meet in the name of God, Creator of the universe, source of true humanity, mother and father of all.

Amen.

We meet in the name of Jesus, Word made flesh, savior of fallen humanity, lover of all.

Amen.

We meet in the name of the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, midwife of new humanity, inspirer of all.

Amen.

Come, then, eternal God be present here, befriend us here, renew us here.

COME AND FILL OUR HEARTS



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

PSALM

For God alone my soul in silence waits; from God comes my salvation.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken. **Refrain**

How long will you assail me to crush me, all of you together, as you would a leaning fence, a toppling wall?

They seek only to bring me down from my place of honor; lies are in their chief delight.

They bless with their lips, but in their hearts they curse. **Refrain**

For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

In God is my safety and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge. **Refrain**

Put your trust in God always, O, people; pour out your hearts before God, who is our refuge.

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

On the scales they are lighter than a breath, all of them together.

Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it. **Refrain**

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

READING

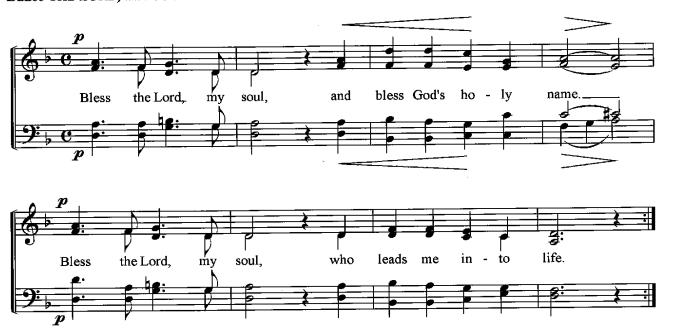
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

-*Hebrews* 12:1-3



(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



SILENCE

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

LITANY OF PRAISE

With the prophets and all who have prepared your coming, Lord, we bless you.

Glory to you, O Lord.

With Mary, our soul magnifies the Lord. Lord, we bless you.

Glory to you, O Lord.

With the apostles and evangelists, Lord, we give you thanks. Lord, we bless you.

Glory to you, O Lord.

With all the witnesses to the Gospel, Lord we worship you. Lord, we bless you.

Glory to you, O Lord.

With your entire Church, spread across the world, Lord, we sing your praises. Lord, we bless you.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

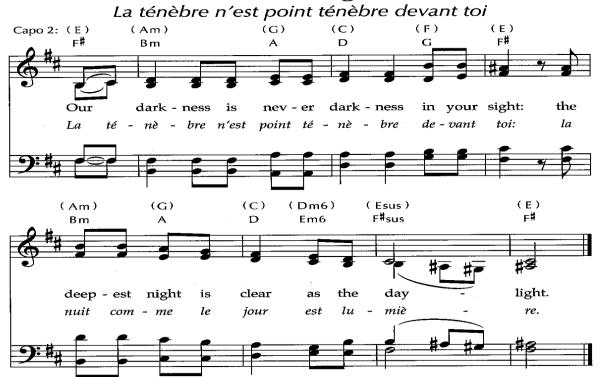


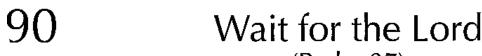
CLOSING PRAYER

Living God, we praise you for the multitudes of women, men, young people and children who, across the earth, are striving to be witnesses to peace, to trust and to reconciliation.

Amen.

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness 678 in Your Sight







Our next Prayer Service will be on Sunday, August 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM here in the front of the sanctuary.

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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.