# CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE

# INSPIRED BY THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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)

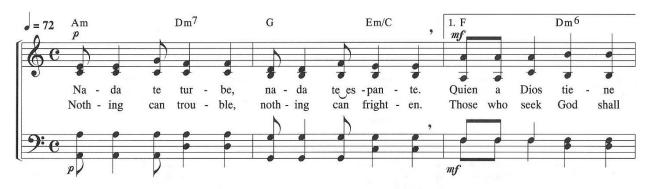
We begin by centering ourselves in silent prayer.

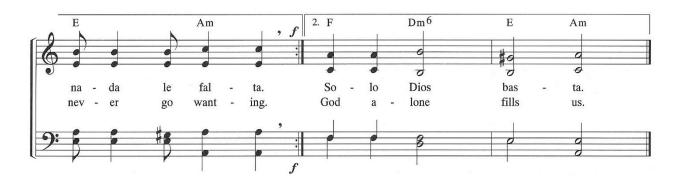
#### **OPENING WORDS**

The joy of the Lord, the very Word of God as one of us, be with you all.

And also with you.

In the beginning the Word already was, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word became human flesh, and lived among us, full of grace and truth. Hallelujah!





#### **PRAYER**

Out of the silence at the beginning of time you spoke the Word of life.
Out of the world's primeval darkness you flooded the universe with light.
In the quiet of this place in the dark of the night we wait and watch.

In the stillness of our souls and from their fathomless depths the senses of our hearts are awake to you. For fresh soundings of life for new showings of light we search in the silence of our spirit, O God, **Amen.** 

# Psalm 137



R.

<sup>1</sup>By the rivers of Babylon — there we sat down

and we wept when we remembered Zion.

<sup>2</sup>And so we hung úp our harps, there upon the willows.

<sup>3</sup>For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors ásked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

<sup>4</sup>How could we sing God's song in a foreign land?

 $^5$ If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!  $\mathcal R$ 

<sup>6</sup>Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

<sup>7</sup>Remember, O God, against the Edomites the day of Jeruśalem's fall, how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down to its foundations!"

O city of Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us!

<sup>9</sup>Happy shall they be who take your little ones

and dash them against the rock!  $\mathcal{R}$ 

#### READING

Remember my affliction and my wanderings the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers is and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. Holy Word: **Thanks be to God.** 

-Lamentations 3: 19-26



#### **SILENCE**

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

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

For the night and its light, **Thanks be to you, O God.** 

For stars that emerge out of evening skies and the white moon's radiance,

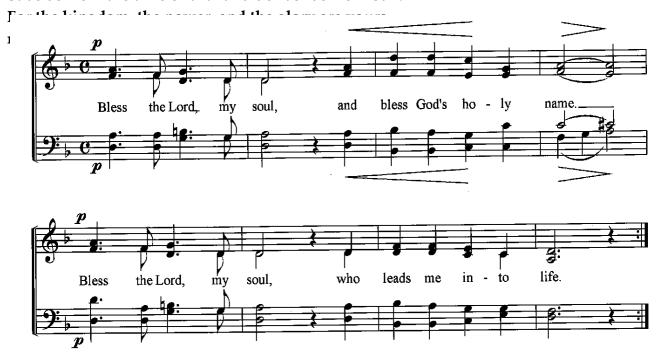
Thanks be to you, O God.

For the earth's unfolding of colour and the bright sheen of creatures from ocean depths, **Thanks be to you, O God.** 

In the darkness of the world and in the night of our soul let us be looking with longing for light let us be looking in hope. **Amen.** 

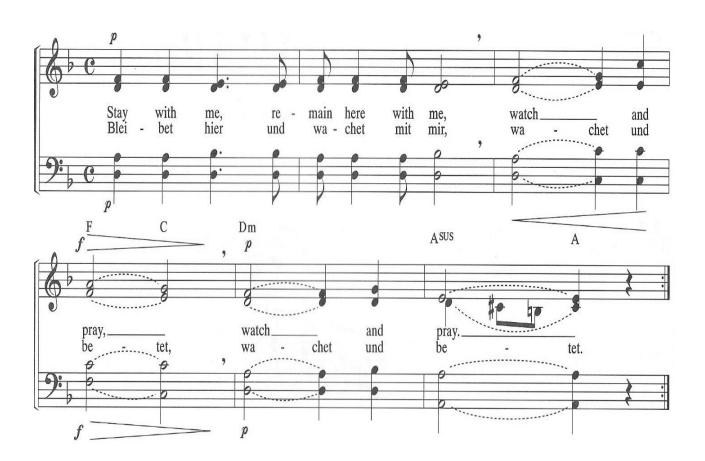
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



## **CLOSING PRAYER**

May the grace of the night's stillness be ours may the grace of the moon's guidance be ours may the grace of heaven's vastness be ours to renew our souls in sleep to enlighten our dreams in the night to open our spirit to eternity until the angels of light awaken us until the morning angels awaken us. Amen.



Our next Prayer Service will be on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 5:00 PM here in the Chapel.

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Psalm 137 Antiphon: by Jonathan McNair, 1994 from The New Century Hymnal.

**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.

