

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE
INSPIRED BY THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.

We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.

God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.

We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth.

Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER

Healing God,
when dismay
is our daily companion,
you come to touch us
with your healing hope.
When grief falls on us
like a wall of bricks,
you rebuild our joy
with your comfort and love.

When we are heart-sick
over the brokenness of our lives,
your compassion races
to bring your gentle balm.
When our joy is gone
and we are distressed
by the world's cruelty,
you bathe us in the tears
flowing from God's broken heart.
Come, fill us with your joy again. Amen.

PSALM

Response *Antiphon: Jane Marshall, 1994*

Am Em7 Am Em7 Am

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying
down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.

Response

You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Response

My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths
of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written
in your book
before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand-
when I awake, I am still with you.

Response

READING

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! -Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word: **Thanks be to God.**

BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a piano (p) dynamic and the lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The piano accompaniment also starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." and the piano accompaniment. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and harmonic support.

SILENCE

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

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Almighty, all-merciful God, lover of justice and giver of peace, hear our prayer:
For your people Israel, for the church of Jesus Christ, and for all who seek your face.
To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For leaders and elders, that they will abide by your commandments.
To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For the earth that you have made, trembling for redemption and re-creation.
To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For those who are tormented by demons of illness, addiction, and grief.
To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

Let our lives and our world be transfigured by your glory and be transformed by your love;
in the name of Jesus Christ, your chosen one, our Lord.

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.
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 two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the bass part 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 a triplet of eighth notes in the soprano part on the word "do" and another triplet of eighth notes in the bass part on the word "near" in the final phrase. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Go now, to serve Christ and follow him.
Let your old life fall like a grain of wheat into the earth
so that you may bear much fruit
as you allow God to reshape your heart
and live in obedience to the law written within you.

And may God center you in truth and steady your spirit.
May Christ renew your joy and strengthen your will.
And may the Spirit teach you God's hidden wisdom
and fill you with songs of rejoicing.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness 678 in Your Sight

La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre devant toi

Capo 2: (E) F# (Am) Bm (G) A (C) D (F) G (E) 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 first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff, and the lyrics are written below the bass staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 6/8.

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

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

Our next Prayer Service will be on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 7:00 PM here in the Chapel.

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Psalm 139 Antiphon: by Jane Marshal, 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.