

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE
INSPIRED BY THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

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

In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said: "Let there be light."

And there was light.

In the beginning, when it was very quiet, the Word was with God.

And the Word was God.

When the time was right, God sent the Son.

He came among us and was one of us.

PRAYER

Creator God,

We desire to draw closer to you, O God.

We desire to hear your voice above the chatter of the world,
to know your ways and to walk in them.

Spirit of Life,

we feel you move through us,
guiding us on our journey,
inspiring us to share your love with others.

Jesus, our Brother and Friend,

we desire to walk in your ways
and to love one another as you have first loved us.

Triune God, we desire to relate to you and to each other more fully,
so that we might draw into the depths of your love,
first glimpsed at creation,
when your voice called us
and the earth forth out of darkness into your light.

Continue to call us, guide us
and lead us into this world and beyond. **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

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

-Isaiah 40:27-31

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

BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Bless the Lord, My Soul". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system of music has the lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the lyrics "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a piano (p) dynamic marking at the beginning of each system.

SILENCE

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and has opened our eyes:

We give you thanks.

For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation:
to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, and the heart that sings:

We give you thanks.

For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept
beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion:

We give you thanks.

For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve;

We give you thanks.

O God, we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love. Awaken us to the love that Christ offers, and draw us into your presence. **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 simple and hymn-like, featuring a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. There are three measures of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first measure ends with a repeat sign. The second measure includes a triplet of eighth notes. The third measure ends 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

God of life, God of hope, God of all:
Lift us on your love like eagle's wings.
Sustain us, guide us, heal us.
Then send us forth into the world
That we may love as you love. **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 on the 2nd fret. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody starts on F#4, moves to G4, then F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, and ends on E3. The bass staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The bass line starts on F#2, moves to G2, then F#2, E2, D2, C#2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, and ends on E1. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody starts on F#4, moves to G4, then F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, and ends on E3. The bass staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The bass line starts on F#2, moves to G2, then F#2, E2, D2, C#2, B1, A1, G1, F#1, and ends on E1.

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 15, 2017 at 5:00 PM here in the Chapel and we will welcome Beau Hartman as our guest musician.

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Psalms 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.