

GATHER IN SILENCE

Be reconciled all you who enter here: parent, child, husband, wife, partner, believers, non-believers, fellow Christians and all God's people.

Before you enter the Chapel pick up a copy of the order of worship and a Taizé songbook at the welcome table. As you enter notice the votive candles available to you on the table to your right. Feel free to light a candle and place it anywhere on the altar.

You may light a candle in honor or in memory of a loved one, as a tangible sign of God's presence, as a symbol of your love of Christ, as a prayer for someone who needs it, as a request for forgiveness. Light a candle for whatever reason suits your spiritual needs this day.

After you have placed your candle on the altar, you may sit in a pew or on the floor near the altar. Worship begins with singing.

Feel free to sing the songs even if you don't know the music. Each song will be repeated several times so that all may learn the melodies quickly and easily.

You may sing the melody or any of the harmonies printed in the songbook. Sing the music with a gentle voice and soft spirit. Blend your voice with the people around you. Sing with humility in order to make room for the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Follow the order of worship as printed in the center of this tract, on both sides. Remember: at no time during the service should anyone pray out loud, talk, whisper or offer personal intercessions. Only assigned communicants will read aloud the scriptures and readings during worship.

Taizé Worship

Williamsburg United Methodist Church
March 25, 2012 — 7:00 PM — Chapel

GATHER IN SILENCE

MUSIC

Sing Praise and Bless the Lord—35
In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful—47

Hebrews 5:7-8

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission ... he learned obedience through what he suffered.

silence

Land of Peace

For it is one thing to see the land of peace from a wooded ridge ... and another to tread the road that leads to it.

-St. Augustine-

MUSIC

Give Peace—44

Bottomless Encouragement

The sensation of silence cannot be helped: A loud and evident God would be a bully, an insecure tyrant, an all-crushing datum instead of, as He is, a bottomless encouragement to our faltering and frightened being.

-John Updike-

silence

The Image of God

If we choose to save ourselves, to withdraw from the impulses to help, to rescue, to touch, then we are denying the image of God in us.

-Donald and Robbie Joy-

MUSIC

Holy Spirit, Come to Us—41

THE GREAT SILENCE

This period of silence will be about 10 minutes.

MUSIC

O Lord, Hear My Prayer—20

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

We will continue to sing "O Lord Hear My Prayer" after each of the following prayers.

Eternal God, you hope and work for a world where all shall be included in the feast of life, and that in Christ we see how costly it is to bring that world about.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Eternal God, your strategy for a new world is to put the poorest first, and that nothing is more important for your people than to bring the poor good news.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

"Caught in the anonymous rhythms of schedules and time-tables men and women of today are implicitly thirsting for an essential reality, for an inner life. Nothing is more conducive to a communion with the living God than a meditative common prayer with, as its high point, singing that never ends -- that continues in the silence of one's heart when one is alone again. When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols, when it is not smothered by too many words, then prayer with others, far from exuding monotony and boredom, awakens us to heaven's joy on earth."

THE VALUE OF SILENCE

"When we try to express communion with God in words, we rapidly reach the end of our capacities. But, in the depths of our being, Christ is praying far more than we imagine. Compared to that hidden prayer of Christ in us, our explicit praying dwindles to almost nothing. This is why silence is so essential in discovering the heart of prayer. Although God never stops trying to communicate with us, God never wants to impose anything on us. Often God's voice comes in a whisper or in a breath of silence.

Remaining in silence in God's presence, open to the Spirit, is already prayer. It is not a matter of trying to obtain inner silence by following a method that creates an emptiness within. The important thing is to have a childlike attitude of trust by which we allow Christ to pray within us silently. Then, one day we will discover that the depths of our being are inhabited by a Presence."

--Brother Roger, founder of the Ecumenical Community in Taizé, France.

Each week we will follow this same worship pattern except with new prayers, scriptures and readings. However, we will sing many of the same songs and learn a few new ones as we progress through Lent.

During the weeks ahead we may be joined by various instrumentalists. These musicians will add simple elaborations to the songs we sing. However, they are not considered soloists. Like you, they are humble participants in worship.

The selected scriptures come from the Hebrew Testament, the Gospel, and the Epistle. Other readings are specific to Lent, quoted from issues of "The Upper Room" and "An African Prayer Book." Tonight's intercessory prayers are taken from the Christian Aid Affirmation through the Iona Community.

"Our faith begins and ends in worship. Yet, so often our worship can be submerged in a welter of instruction, edification, and moral exhortation. In many churches there is little opportunity for corporate, quiet, spiritual reflection, and focusing on God who speaks to us in the silence of our hearts."

--Brother Roger, founder
Taizé Community

Reading scripture is a way of going to "the inexhaustible well-spring by which God gives himself to thirsting human beings"

--Origen, 3rd century A.D.

The Bible is a "letter from God to creatures" that enables them "to discover God's heart in God's words"

--Gregory the Great
6th century A. D.

Taizé music might be most familiar to United Methodists through its songs; five are in the 1989 UM hymnal and ten additional songs are in "The Faith We Sing" United Methodist hymnal supplement.

Eternal God, we see that rich and poor alike can be generous, wise, and creative because all are made in your image.

All are made poorer when they are left out.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Eternal God, we confess that we use our strength to protect ourselves and order the world to benefit the rich and not the poor. None of us can be trusted with too much power over others.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Eternal God, loving our neighbors means working for justice, so that all have a say in what happens to them.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Eternal God, you made the good earth to sustain and delight us; we are called to take care of it and enjoy it.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Eternal God, you are at work beyond the churches as well as within them, making common cause with all who want the poor included.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Eternal God, we long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All present may say the following prayer together:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

MUSIC

Live in Charity—49

CLOSING PRAYER

All present may say the following closing prayer together:

How can we pray to thee, thou holy and hidden God,
whose ways are not our ways, who reigns in awful mystery
beyond the realm of space and time?
Yet, how can we not pray to thee, Heavenly Father,
who knowest what it is to be a man because thou hast
walked among us as a man, breaking the bread of our affliction
and drinking deep of the cup of our despair?
How can we not pray to thee when it is thy very
Spirit alive within us that moves our lips in prayer?

-Frederick Buechner-

**You may leave in silence or stay
to continue your dialogue with Christ.**

*Please return the Taizé songbooks to the welcome table.
Feel free to take this Taizé order of worship with you
and use these prayers for comfort throughout the week.*

Although we do not offer "pure" Taizé worship which includes many languages sung and spoken, we have assembled many of the most familiar Taizé songs and prayers that best represent the Taizé community. These songs and prayers are those used in many Roman Catholic and Protestant churches throughout the U.S., including and especially many United Methodist Churches.

As we explore this deeply spiritual form of worship, God's people may discover that silence can be integral to worship, just as sermons, choirs, corporate prayers and creeds are integral to traditional forms of worship. It is in the beauty and simplicity of Taizé music and its prayers for peace and reconciliation that we can more easily allow silence to play a vital role in our spiritual lives. Silence allows God to reveal the mystery of the Holy Spirit through Christ.

LEAVE IN SILENCE

Be reconciled all you who leave from this place: parent, child, husband, wife, partner, believers, non-believers, fellow Christians and all God's people.

As you leave the Chapel in silence, carry with you the prayers that you prayed, and let them echo in your heart in the days and weeks to come. When you return home, feel free to sing the songs you learned in this service. You may sing these out loud or you may sing them in the silence of your own heart.

During the week ahead, for the sake of your soul, make time for periods of silence so that you may discover what God may be saying to you. Return next week to experience more of the simplicity, beauty, and calm spiritual silence of Taizé worship.