

IN THE SPIRIT OF TAIZÉ

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé Community is a meditative form of common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ we sing uncomplicated, repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity. A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect and that gradually penetrates the whole being.

Silence is observed by all prior to the service for prayer and reflection.



GATHERING SONGS

Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Ostinato Refrain

Musical score for 'Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today, and Forever'. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, B-flat major, and 4/4 time. It features an ostinato pattern of eighth-note chords (G, B-flat, D) followed by a half note (E). The lyrics 'Je - sus Christ,' are repeated twice. The bottom staff is in bass clef, B-flat major, and 4/4 time. It features an ostinato pattern of quarter notes (D, G, B-flat, E) followed by a half note (B-flat). The lyrics 'yes-ter-day, to - day and for ev - er.' are repeated. The music concludes with a repeat sign and a colon at the end of the second line.

Text: Suzanne Toolan, SM, b.1927
Tune: Suzanne Toolan, SM, b.1927
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Psallite Deo/Sing to God

Ostinato Refrain

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, common time, and has a key signature of one flat. It features an ostinato pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "Psal - li - te De - o, psal - li - te!" and "This is the day the Lord has made!" are written below the staff, with a bracket underlining "Psal - li - te". The bottom staff is in bass clef, common time, and has a key signature of one flat. It also features an ostinato pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "Al - le-lu-ia, al - le - lu - ia!" and "Al - le-lu-ia, al - le - lu - ia!" are written below the staff, with a bracket underlining "Al - le-lu-ia". Both staves include a circled "hum" instruction and a circled "8" indicating an eighth note value.

Text: Psalm 98; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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O God, Keep Me Safe

Ostinato Refrain:

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, common time, and has a key signature of one flat. It features an ostinato pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "O God, keep me safe, for I trust in you. The path-way to life you" are written below the staff. The bottom staff is in bass clef, common time, and has a key signature of one flat. It features an ostinato pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "teach me. With you is peace and joy in all full-ness." are written below the staff. Both staves include a circled "hum" instruction and a circled "8" indicating an eighth note value.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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ALLELUIA AND PSALM (*Stand*)

Verses are sung by the cantor and are sustained by all humming, with each verse followed by a sung Alleluia, forming a kind of “pillar of fire” at the heart of the prayer.

Alleluia 11/Psalm 139

Text: Taizé Community

Tune: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

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READING (*Sit*)

HEBREWS 12:1-3

“The exchange with God becomes real for us in prayer: by his Holy Spirit, God comes to dwell within us. By his word and by the sacraments, Christ gives himself to us. In return, we can surrender everything to him.”

Letter from Cochabamba

Brother Alois, Prior

SONG AFTER THE READING

Following the reading there is a song, somewhat prolonged, which leads to an extended time of shared silence.

Our Darkness

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and 3/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef and 3/4 time, also with a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are as follows:

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
French: La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de-vant toi: la
Spanish: La ti - nie - bla ya no_{es} ti - nie - bla an-te ti, la

deep - est night is clear as the day light.
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè re.
no - che co - mo el dí - a i - lu - mi na.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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SILENCE

When we try to express communion with God in words, we rapidly reach the end of our capacities, which is why silence is so essential in discovering the heart of prayer. Remaining in silence in God's presence, open to the Spirit, is already prayer. (5-7 minutes)

INTERCESSIONS (*Stand*)

A prayer composed of short petitions, sustained by humming, with each petition followed by a response sung by all, can form a kind of "pillar of fire" at the heart of the prayer. Praying for others widens our prayer to the dimensions of the entire human family; we entrust to God the joys and the hopes, the sorrows and the sufferings of all people, particularly those who are forgotten.

Kyrie 7

The musical score consists of two staves of music in common time, with a key signature of three flats. The top staff is for the soprano voice, and the bottom staff is for the bassoon. The lyrics are as follows:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -
le i - son. (hum) _____

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
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LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER

MEDITATIVE SONGS (*Sit*)

Take, O Take Me as I Am

Ostinato Refrain:

Take, O Take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Tune: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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Beati Voi Poveri / How Blessed the Poor in Heart

Be - a - ti voi po - ve - ri, per - ché
How bless - ed the poor in heart, for

vos - tro è il re - gno di Di - o.
theirs is the king - dom of heav - en.

Text: Taizé Community

Tune: Taizé Community

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Bless the Lord

Ostinato Refrain

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.
Spanish: *Ten - go sed de ti, oh fuen - te del a - mor.*
Portuguese: *Ben - diz o Se-nhor, lou - va_o seu San - to no - me.*

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.
Ten - go sed de ti: *tu a - mor es li - ber - tad.*
Ben - diz o Se-nhor, *que à vi - da nos con - duz.*

Text: Psalm 103

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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Jesus, Your Spirit in Us

Ostinato Refrain

Je - sus, your Spir-it in us is a well-spring of life ev - er - last-ing.
Swedish: *Kris-tus, din An - de i oss är en käl - la med por-lan-de vat-ten.*
Spanish: *Cris-to, tu Es - pí - ri-tu en mí es la fuen - te con a - gua de vi - da.*

Text: Psalm 63:1–4, 7–8; John 7:37–39; Taizé Community

Tune: Taizé Community

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As we gathered in silence, so too do we depart in silence.

**Our next *Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé* will be
October 14, 2022 at 7:30PM.**

Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé at St. John the Baptist: stjb.net/Worship/TaizePrayer
Learn more about the community of Taizé: www.taize.fr/en

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