

St.James' West End
Prayer in the style of the Taizé Community 5th July 2020

Welcome to our time of prayer, singing and silence. Please feel free to sit quietly and listen or to join in as you feel most comfortable. We will be following a pattern based on the worship of the Taizé Community, one of whose aims has always been to make Christian worship as simple and uncluttered as possible. Please join in the words in bold.



The call to worship: the Bells of Taize

Opening words: Lord, gather all our thoughts, fill our hearts with your love. In you we find light in the deepest night. In you we find patience and help in time of need. Though we often do not understand, we will trust you, who holds us by the hand.

Chant : Come, let us bow down
(words from Ps 95: 6-8 adapted by and music by Eric Wyse)

**Come, let us bow down, come and bend the knee,
kneel before the Lord our Maker;
hearken to His voice, harden not your hearts, for He is our God.**

Father we come to you to say sorry for our sins:
**For the times we turn away from you; Father forgive.
For the times we behave without thought of others; Father forgive.
For often failing in what we do, think and say; Father forgive.
For giving into temptations; Father forgive.
Merciful Lord, grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins,
time for amendment of life and bless our new beginnings. Amen.**

A short time of silence.

Taizé chant : Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines

**Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus, Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.**

During this chant if you have a candle and a cross (and it is safe to do so) you are invited to light the candle and place it near the cross.



Jesus said: 'I am the light of the World: whoever comes to me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

Let us join together in saying words from Psalm 121:-

**I lift up my eyes to the hills:
where is my help to come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made both heaven and earth.**

**He will not let you stumble or fall,
your guardian will not sleep.
No, as the guardian of his people,
he never falls asleep.**

**The Lord is your guardian and your shade,
he stays close at hand;
the sun will not strike by day,
nor the moon by night.**

**The Lord will keep you from harm
he watches over your life;
the Lord watches over you as you come and go,
both now and for evermore.**

Taizé chant: Jubilate Deo

**Jubilate Deo, omnis terra.
Servite Domino in laetitia.
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia,
Alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia!**

(Rejoice in God, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness)

A reading from St John's Gospel, Chapter 15, Verses 9-12

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said all these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God.**

Silence and love

Christ says: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). We need silence in order to welcome these words and put them into practice. When we are agitated and restless, we have so many arguments and reasons not to forgive and not to love too easily. But when we "have calmed and quieted our soul", these reasons turn out to be quite insignificant. Maybe we sometimes avoid silence, preferring whatever noise, words or distraction, because inner peace is a risky thing: it makes us empty and poor, disintegrates bitterness and leads us to the gift of ourselves. Silent and poor, our hearts are overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, filled with an unconditional love. Silence is a humble yet secure path to loving.

Five minute silence

Taizé Chant: Laudate Dominum (sing praises)

**Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum,
omnes gentes, alleluia.**

**Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum,
omnes gentes, alleluia.**

**Sing praise and bless the Lord, sing praise and bless the Lord,
peoples, nations, alleluia.**

**Sing praise and bless the Lord, sing praise and bless the Lord,
peoples, nations, alleluia.**

Our prayers tonight come from the Taize community:

God of compassion, through your Holy Spirit you sustain the universe and also every human being. In the face of evil and suffering you keep our hope alive. Praise be to you for the joys that you place in us and which makes of us your people.

Lord in you we trust **we look to you for help.**

God of peace, we entrust to you all those who see no future, whose hope fails them. We would like to keep watch for those who can do so no longer. Yes, by our prayer too we prepare the way for your coming.

Lord in you we trust **we look to you for help.**

Praise be to you Christ Jesus, you draw us out of loneliness by enabling us to live in that mystery of communion which your church is. Through your eucharist and through your gospel, day after day, you are our bread of life.

Lord in you we trust **we look to you for help.**

Christ Jesus, sometimes we think we don't have enough in order to go forward in our lives, but you send us the Holy Spirit who awakens in us a vitality and who sets us free to love always more and more those you entrust to us.

Lord in you we trust **we look to you for help.**

As we look towards you, the Christ, the trusting of faith can be born in us again and again. The gift of your joy helps us to rediscover the courage to hope with our roots in God's own faithfulness towards us.

Lord in you we trust **we look to you for help.**

*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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen*

Taizé Chant : Let us praise your name

**Let us praise your name, God our Saviour, alleluia, alleluia!
Let us praise your name, God our Saviour, alleluia, alleluia!
Praise and bless your Name, God our Saviour,
Praise and bless your Name, alleluia!**

Final prayer

Christ Jesus, by your Spirit you come and kindle a burning light in us.

We know well that it is not we who create this source of light, but you the Risen Lord. To all of us, you give the one thing that matters and which is hidden from our own eye: a peaceful trust in God and also poverty in spirit, so that with a great thirst for the realities of God, we may take the risk of letting you accompany us, O Christ, and of accompanying, in our turn, those whom you entrust to us. Amen.

(Prayer by Brother Roger)

We join together in saying The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

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