



taizé

Friendship

Wednesday, January 24th 2018

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Song: Come and fill (#28)



♩ = 66

D Bm , D A ,

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



Em C , Em A D ,

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

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Opening Prayer

You have blessed us, O God,
with the gift of friendship,
the bonding of persons
in a circle of love.
We thank you for such a blessing:
for friends who love us,
who share our sorrows,
who laugh with us in celebration,

who bear our pain,
who need us as we need them,
who weep as we weep,
who hold us when words fail,
and who give us the freedom
to be ourselves.

Bless our friends with health,
wholeness, life, and love.

Amen.

by Vienna Cobb Anderson, found at www.beliefnet.com/prayers/multifaith/gratitude/prayer-for-friendship.aspx#mEgm2WqWKA3R6FEs.99

Scripture Reading

John 15.8-17

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. 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 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. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

A Reading from Taizé

From the depths of the human condition a secret aspiration rises up. Caught up in the anonymous rhythms of schedules and timetables, men and women of today are implicitly thirsting for the one essential reality: an inner life, signs of the invisible.

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 and 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 a common prayer, far from exuding monotony and boredom, awakens us to heaven's joy on earth.

Brother Roger, in Songs & Prayers from Taizé

Dear God, who are the honoured guests in your tent?
Who may dwell in your presence upon your holy mountain?
Who may commune with those who are your heart's desire,
lovingly embraced in the union of friends?

**Those who lead uncorrupt lives,
and do the thing that is right,
who speak the truth from their hearts,
and have not slandered with their tongue.**

Those who have not betrayed their friends,
nor rained down abuse on their neighbours,
in whose eyes the shifty have no honour,
but hold in high esteem those who fear God.

**Those who give their word to their neighbour,
and do not go back on their promise,
who have not grown wealthy at the expense of the poor,
nor grown sleek with flattery and bribes.**

Those who recognize the outcast as the one whom they need,
who forgive to seventy times seven,
who depend on the mercy of God,
and live the highest law that is love.

**Those who are steadfast and kind,
who are resilient and patient and humble,
who know the cost of a morsel of justice,
a glimpse of compassion in times that are savage.**

Their roots are deep in the being of God,
their arms are spread wide in welcome embrace.
They are faithful, joyful, and blessed,
God's sisters and brothers and friends.

from Jim Cotter, Psalms for a Pilgrim People

Silent Contemplation (10 minutes)

Reflection

We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness.
We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that
you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All
are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated,
male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human
family, God's family.

Desmond Tutu

Song of Healing

Stay with me (#8)

♩ = 72

The musical score is written for piano in a 2/4 time signature. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a tempo marking of ♩ = 72 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The second system has dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. The score includes lyrics in English and German. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, Gm⁶, Dm, Gm⁶, Dm, C, F, C, Dm, A^{SUS}, and A.

Stay with me, re-main here with me, watch and
 Blei - bet me, hier und wa - chet mit mir, wa - chet und
 pray, be - tet, watch and pray, be - tet.
 wa - chet und und be - tet.

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Anointing and Laying on of Hands

Be with us, Holy Spirit;

Nothing can separate us from your love. Be with us as of old, fill us with your power, direct all our thoughts to your goodness. Be present, Holy Spirit; bring strength and healing and peace.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, gentle and merciful, creator of heaven and earth. Your Word brought light out of darkness, and daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth. Your anointed Son brought healing to those in weakness and distress. He broke the power of evil and set us free from sin and death that we might praise your name for ever. By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest on those who receive the laying on of hands and are anointed with this oil in your name: May they be made whole in body, mind and spirit, restored in your image and renewed in your love.

Brief silence

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Jesus says, "Come to me all you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are burdened by regrets and anxieties, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships or by doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions and injustices of our world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring him our brokenness.

*All who desire are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands and anointing.
As you return to your seat, you may wish to light a candle in prayer for a concern or thanksgiving.*

God our healer,
Keep us aware of your presence,
Support us with your power,
Comfort us with your protection,
Give us strength
And establish us in your presence.

Song of Trust

Live in charity (#49)

Chords for the first system: F, C, Dm, Bb, D, G, C, ,

Chords for the second system: F, C, Dm, Gm, C, F

Lyrics for the first system:
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

Lyrics for the second system:
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

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Litany: O Lord, hear my prayer (#20)

♩ = 72

Em C⁶ D G C Am⁶ B

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - answer me. O
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The

Em C⁶ D G⁶ Am B Em *fine*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The

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God of grace, evening is here and the heavens have grown dark: receive our prayers

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

God of grace, look upon us with compassion: receive our prayers

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

God of grace, you take upon yourself our burdens: fill us with your peace

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

God of grace, your love is all we need: welcome us and all those you have entrusted to us

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

God of grace, we thank you for our friends and families, and all those who support us in trouble: kindle our friendships

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

God of grace, we give thanks for the times we have been able to support friends and family In times of trouble or need: kindle our friendships

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

God of grace, in silence we are led to you: sustain us always

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

God of grace, kindle a new brightness in our night: may your light shine on us

O Lord, hear my prayer.....

Meditation on the Lord's Prayer

Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed,
your reign spread among us, your will be done well,
at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven.
Give us the bread we need for today.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Let us not fail in the time of our testing.
Spare us from trials too sharp to endure.
Free us from the grip of all evil powers.
For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now
and eternity, world without end.
Amen and amen.

Brief silence

Closing Prayer

In following you, O Christ,
we choose to love and not to harden our hearts,
even when the incomprehensible happens.
As we remain in your presence with perseverance,
day after day, and pray with simplicity of heart,
you come and make us into people who are friends,
a leaven of confident trust by the way we live.
And all that your Gospel calls us to,
all that you ask of us, you give. Amen.

Closing Song: Holy Spirit, loving Spirit (#40)

(A) Cm G Cm Fm G **(B)** G

ve - ni Cre - a - tor, ve - ni Cre - a - tor,
Ho - ly Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it,

(C) Cm G Cm Fm G **(D)** G

ve - ni Cre - a - tor Spi - ri - tus.
ho - ly, lov - ing Spir - it, come!



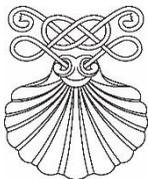
Our next Taizé service will be on Wednesday, February 28th

Taizé is a small town in the Burgundy region of France. The Taizé community was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger. It began as a hostel for Jewish refugees.

Today, there are some 90 brothers from various Christian denominations and from over 20 countries who live in community. The community holds three prayer gatherings daily. Their prayer includes chanting of short musical refrains that are now used in churches around the world and the daily prayer services which include many different languages. The manner of prayer that is the model of our evening worship today originates from this ecumenical monastic community in Taizé. We chant our joys and praises, we sing our aspirations and petitions, we give thanks.

On August 16th, 2005, while Brother Roger was taking part in an evening service attended by 2,500 people, he was murdered. Let us give thanks for his life and his legacy of music and silence, and let us pray that he be among the saints in God's eternal presence.

The Taizé community and its rich traditions continue to thrive and we join our silence, our prayers, our song, with those around the world who make pause this day to remember holiness.



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