



PRAYER SERVICE

in the manner of the Taizé Community

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

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)

Holy Spirit, mystery of a presence, you say to each of us:

“Why be worried? One thing alone is necessary:

a heart attentive to understand that

God loves you and always forgives you.”

(Prayer by Brother Roger of Taizé)

STAY WITH ME

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch _____ and

pray, _____ watch _____ and pray.

Cantor's text: Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray, watch and pray! Watch and pray not to give way to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak. My heart is nearly broken with sorrow. Remain here with me, stay awake and pray. Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Father, if this cannot pass me by without my drinking it, your will be done.

BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn "Bless the Lord, My Soul". Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system contains the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system contains the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords, and the vocal line has a simple, hymn-like melody. Dynamics are marked with a piano (*p*) in both systems.

Cantor's text: It is God who forgives all your guilt, who heals ev'ry one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. God does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. As a Father has compassion on his children, the Lord has pity on those who fear him; for God knows of what we are made, God remembers that we are dust.

OPENING SENTENCES

One: Just and merciful God, you speak to us through the prophets,
challenging us to seek peace rooted in justice.

All: Help us to hear your urgent call.

One: Loving God, in Jesus you change our lives for good, challenging us to work for reconciliation.

All: Help us to see your way of truth and love.

One: God with us, your Holy Spirit moves us to action, challenging us to live the Good News.

All: Help us to respond wholeheartedly, to say, "Yes!" Amen.

A READING FROM PSALM 104:24-34, 35B

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works –
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!

A READING FROM JOHN 14:15-25

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’ Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.’

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Holy God, who hears our cries and pities our groans,
you are ever faithful.
We come to you with our petitions for ourselves and our community.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For the church and its leaders—
that they be of open mind and open heart—
that they might be the Christian leaders you have called them to be—
and that the church be an instrument of love, justice, and peace.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For our country and global community—
that all may be peaceful, fair, and respectful of all peoples
no matter the religion, color, gender, or kind of government.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For our local community—
students, faculty, staff, and administration in our schools and universities,
health care workers, and all who are ill.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*For those who are overlooked in our society—
the poor, the young, the old, the bereaved, and the oppressed—
help us to see them and to be with them.
Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.*

*Gracious and loving God,
We know that you hear us and are always with us,
And we thank you in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical)

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.

NOTHING CAN TROUBLE

The musical score is written for voice and piano in common time (C). It consists of two systems of music. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal line starts with a melodic phrase, followed by a comma and a first ending marked with a first ending bracket and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The second system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a repeat sign and a second ending marked with a second ending bracket and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues with a strong rhythmic accompaniment.

Noth-ing can trou - ble, noth-ing can frigh - ten. Those who seek God shall
Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es-pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne

nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.
na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May the God of peace inspire us,
may the God of justice empower us,
may the God of hope encourage us to live the Good News.

Go, in the power of the Spirit.
Go, and do not try to separate politics and prayer.
Go, not to escape, but to engage with God's world.
Go, to live hopefully, as people of resurrection.
Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, COME TO US

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy Spirit, Come to Us". It is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and features a melody of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple bass line of eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff: "Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. / Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus." The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Cantors' text: Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Come, Father of the poor, come, generous Spirit, come, light of our hearts. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Come from the four winds, O Spirit, come breath of God; disperse the shadows over us, renew and strengthen your people. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Father of the poor, come to our poverty. Shower upon us the seven gifts of your grace. Be the light of our lives. O come. Veni Sancte Spiritus. You are our only comforter, Peace of the soul. In the heat you shade us; in our labor you refresh us, and in trouble you are our strength. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Kindle in our hearts the flame of your love that in the darkness of the world it may glow and reach to all forever. Veni...

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please extend the peace of Christ with one another saying:

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Our next Taizé Prayer Service will be on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook. All are welcome!

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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 beginnings, 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 of humanity, since it makes the Church a place of communion for all.

Song is one of the most essential elements of Taizé worship. Short songs, 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. And these simple songs then enable us to keep on praying when we are alone, by day, by night, and sometimes in the silence of our hearts when we are at work.

Icons contribute to the beauty of worship. They are like windows open on the realities of the kingdom of God, making them present in our prayer on earth. Although icons are images, they are not simply illustrations or decorations. They are symbols of the incarnation, a presence which offers to the eyes the spiritual message that the Word addresses to the ears. By the faith it expresses, by its beauty and its depth, an icon can create a space of peace and sustain an expectant waiting. It invites us to welcome salvation even in the flesh and in creation.

Soli Deo Gloria: To God alone be the Glory.



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