



PRAYER SERVICE

in the manner of the Taizé Community

Tuesday, March 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 key signature is one flat (B-flat major), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system includes the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system includes the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano part features chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. There are also some decorative flourishes above and below the piano part.

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.

CHRIST JESUS

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Christ Jesus". It features a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (D major), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "O Chri-ste Do-mi-ne Je-su, O Chri-ste Do-mi-ne Je-su! O Christ Je-sus, Lord and Sav-ior! Christ Je-sus, Lord and Sav-ior! Christ". The piano part includes triplets and other rhythmic patterns. There are also some decorative flourishes above and below the piano part.

Cantors' text: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where you give me repose. Near restful waters you lead me to revive my drooping spirit. You guide me a long the right path; you are true to your name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil I fear. You are there with your rod and staff; with these you give me comfort. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

OPENING SENTENCES

One: From where will our help come?

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: Who is our keeper?

All: The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.

One: How long will God protect us?

**All: God will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forever.**

GIVE TO US YOUR PEACE

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in common time (C). The tempo is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: "Do - na no - bis pa - cem Do - mi - ne. Give to us your peace, O Je - sus Christ." The melody is simple and homophonic, with the piano accompaniment providing a steady harmonic support.

Cantors' text: I will hear what the Lord has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for God's people and friends, and those who turn to God in their hearts. Christ is our peace, making us one. In his own person he destroyed hostility. He came and preached the good news of peace.

A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

PSALM 19

(Left side of Sanctuary facing the chancel)

**The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

(Right side of Sanctuary facing the chancel)

**There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

(Left side)

**The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.**

(Right side)

**The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

A READING FROM JOHN 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

SILENCE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

One: God our helper, we thank you for keeping our lives always in your care and protection, and pray for any and all who are in harm's way...

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: For those walking in the midst of danger...

For those who are treading a slippery path...

For those exhausted and seeking relief...

For those who face a mountain of worry or debt or any other obstacles...

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Be guardian and Guide, we pray, setting all our feet

on your paths of righteousness and peace.

We pray for those who are struggling with a new challenge or call...

With a major transition in life or livelihood...

With their faith and understanding...

With grief, ancient or new...

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Keep in your tender care and mercy, O God, those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit...

Those weighed down by depression or pain...

Those recuperating from surgery or accident...

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Protect not only us and those we love, but also the whole wide world you so love.

In places of war, bring peace...

In places beset by natural disaster, bring calm and restoration...

Where there is unrest and injustice, make justice our aim.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights, so that we may see hope beyond hope,

Life beyond death, and you, lifted up before us.

In the name of Christ, who gave himself for our sake, we pray.

All: Amen.

OUR 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. It consists of two systems of music. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal line starts with the lyrics: "Noth-ing can trou - ble, noth-ing can frigh - ten. Those who seek God shall". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line. The second system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The vocal line continues with: "nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line. The score includes dynamic markings (*p*, *mf*, *f*) and first/second endings.

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.

CLOSING BLESSING

- One: *The peace of God go with you this night, reigning within you.*
 All: **God's peace will make a difference in our lives, in all our relationships.**
 One: *Walk in confident friendship with Christ, who suffers and rejoices with you.*
 All: **Christ's presence will transform and strengthen us,
 wherever our journeys take us this week.**
 One: *Live by the Spirit, acknowledging God's rule in your hearts and in your actions.*
 All: **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. Both staves begin with a piano (*pp*) dynamic marking. The vocal line features a melody of eighth notes, with a final phrase held over a bar line. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple bass line of eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. / Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.'

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, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via YouTube and Facebook.

Musicians: Vocalists: Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, David Magumba, Benton DeGroot; Piano, Paul Haebig; Oboe, Yuki Harding; Cello, Stefan Koch; Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts

Songs from Taizé, © 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé (France), administered by GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted from *Songs and Prayers from Taizé*, OneLicense.net #A-720542

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.



1432 Washtenaw Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734 • 662 • 4466
www.firstpresbyterian.org