



North Decatur Presbyterian Church is called by God to be a community of faith and worship, dedicated to Christian education and nurture so that we may go into the world to serve, work for peace and justice and share God's love with all people.

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Taizé Prayer

Praying Together in Word and Song

August 25, 2020

A NOTE ABOUT WORSHIP IN THE TRADITION OF THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

"Singing is one of the most essential elements of 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. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly.

"To open the gates of trust in God, nothing can replace the beauty of human voices united in song. This beauty can give us a glimpse of "heaven's joy on earth," as Eastern Christians put it. And an inner life begins to blossom within us.

"These songs also sustain personal prayer. Through them, little by little, our being finds an inner unity in God. They can continue in the silence of our hearts when we are at work, speaking with others or resting. In this way prayer and daily life are united. They allow us to keep on praying even when we are unaware of it, in the silence of our hearts."

Source: Taize website: https://www.taize.fr/en_article338.html

OPENING SONG

Jacques Berthier

“Bless the Lord”

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

PSALM

Psalm 119

The Psalm antiphon is intoned and then repeated after each of the psalm verses. It is through the psalms, prayed by Jesus himself, that we join our hope to the hope experienced by God's people throughout the centuries.

Teach me your ways, O Lord. Teach me your ways.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 23:23-26

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. ²⁴ You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean

SONG

Jacques Berthier

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

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

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

SILENCE

"When we try to express communion with God in words, our minds quickly come up short. But, in the depths of our being, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is praying far more than we imagine.

"Although God never stops trying to communicate with us, this is never in order to impose. The voice of God is often heard only in a whisper, in a breath of silence. Remaining in silence in God's presence, open to the Holy Spirit, is already prayer.

"The road to contemplation is not one of achieving inner silence at all costs by following some technique that creates a kind of emptiness within. If, instead, with a childlike trust we let Christ pray silently within us, then one day we shall discover that the depths of our being are inhabited by a Presence."

Source: The Taize website: https://www.taize.fr/en_article337.html

PRAYERS

We pray for those who are near and for those who are far away. We also pray for the local community, for Christians who are compelled to be silent, for the Church, and for the whole human family.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father [Mother] in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

Jacques Berthier

“In the Lord”

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful; in the Lord I will re-
joice! Look to God; do not be a-fraid. Lift up your
voic-es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic-es; the Lord is near.

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