

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 834 854 376 Password: GPBC • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA

October 24, 2021 • 10:30 AM

A Prayer Service in the manner of the Taizé Community

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

As this is intended to be a service of contemplative prayer, we ask that *as you gather in the space before the service begins, that you do so in silence or quiet conversation*. As you prepare for worship, you are invited to light a candle and set an intention for the service. At the appointed time, we will chime the trinity as a signal for everyone to take their seats. No instructions will be given during the service; each element of the service will follow immediately upon the one before.

The lyrics of the sung prayers are listed and musical notation may be found in the Taizé song book, hymnal, or song sheet insert. The service includes two marked periods of silence, one brief and one extended. The extended silence will last for about 7 minutes, which may seem like a long time if you are not used to it. You are welcome to use this silence as you see fit, whether in thought, prayer, meditation, reading, or nothing at all. The service will conclude with brief announcements and the passing of the peace, after which you are welcome to remain and fellowship with one another.

GATHERING & LIGHTING CANDLES

As you enter the space for worship, you are invited to light a candle and to set for yourself an intention for the service. It might be as simple as a desire to rest in God's presence. Whatever it is, may this service create the space for you to experience God in a (new and) profound way.

CHIMING THE TRINITY

Please take your seats.

SONG INSERT

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

As we sing our opening song, you are invited to come forward and light any candles which remain unlit.

**Lyrics: Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia.**

HYMN #34

“Glory to God”

Lyrics: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

TAIZÉ SONGS #3

“Bless the Lord”

**Lyrics: Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

OPENING SENTENCES

One: With our lips and with our hearts:

All: we bless God in every moment of our lives.

One: With our ears and with our hearts:

All: we will hear the cries of our sisters and brothers, in every painful moment, in every broken place.

One: With every gift and with our hearts:

All: we will serve God and all of God's children, with every moment of our lives.

SONG INSERT

“Alleluia”

Lyrics: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-9

BRIEF SILENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP NEWS

Mark is away four Sundays, during which we will have a few guest worship leaders along with some different liturgical traditions to experience. Next Sunday is a joint worship service with CHUMC and the Rev. Tripp Hudgins will be our guest preacher. Tripp is a preacher, teacher, musician, and general church nerd. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, and lives in Bellevue with his wife, son, two cats, and some hermit crabs. On November 7, we will observe All Saints Sunday and the Revs. Chris & Kim Crowley will lead us in worship.

SOPHIA FARMS OPEN DAY ON THE FARM

Sophia will hold an Open Day on the Farm on Saturday, November 6, from 10 am to 3 pm. All are invited to come out to the farm and see the CSA patch live and in person, take a self-guided tour, sample some Sophia produce and products, take a short hike to Stony Creek, and generally drink in the exquisite beauty of the farm. 15233 Gatewood Rd, Dinwiddie, VA.

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB ANNOUNCES...

...your next book to read! *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* by V. E. Schwab. All are welcome to join in the fun. Mark your calendars: our next meeting will be Sunday, Nov 14th at 4 pm. (Location TBA)

METRO RICHMOND AT PRAYER

Since March 2006, more than 470 churches in Metropolitan Richmond have joined in covenant to pray together weekly for the 1.2 million people who live in metro Richmond. GPBC has joined in this Covenant of Prayer, which began its fifteenth year on March 1, 2021. You can learn more and read the weekly prayers at www.metroprayrva.org.

During October, we pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in Metropolitan Richmond. For the week of October 24, we pray for emergency shelters, women's shelters, clinics, and feeding programs; for recreation programs, youth programs, juvenile counseling, and young people's shelters.

ABOUT TAIZÉ PRAYER (*adapted from elca.org*)

In the south of Burgundy, France is a small village called Taizé. This village is home to a monastic community devoted to prayer and reconciliation, founded in the 1940s by Brother Roger. The community is made up of brothers from all the continents and major denominations who gather together three times a day, seven days a week, throughout the year to pray (whether there are 7000 young people present or only twenty brothers).

While many people make pilgrimages to Taizé to experience the community and prayer life, most experience Taizé through the ways that community comes to us, namely by the characteristics it has contributed to Christian worship practices. While Taizé worship as practiced in the monastic community cannot be simply imitated, it can and has been adapted by many Christian communities in the United States.

REPETITIVE SUNG PRAYER

The characteristic of Taizé worship that is most familiar is the use of a kind of repetitive prayer set to simple musical lines. Repetition is not a new phenomenon nor unique to Taizé. The use of repetitive prayers is a long-attested reality in the history of Christian spirituality and liturgy (for example, in the Jesus Prayer and the Rosary). What is unique to the prayer of Taizé is the adaptation of the repetitive form to simple musical lines and core biblical texts that can be sung by a whole assembly of various nationalities, languages, and denominations. A diverse assembly is able to immerse itself in the simple but profound harmonies and let itself be carried by this sung prayer.

SILENCE

Another characteristic of Taizé worship is its generous use of silence. Those simply incorporating Taizé music into regular worship services may not experience this fully, but when planning an entire worship service in the style of Taizé, silence will be an important dimension. Like repetition, the use of silence in worship has a rich history that many modern Christians no longer experience. It is not necessary to fill every moment with words or music, and it can be meaningful to have time to pray silently in the presence of others, or simply to sit (or kneel) in the presence of God.