

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

SONG "Come and Fill Our Hearts" #466

OPENING RESPONSES

Leader: The scripture says, "For God alone my soul waits in silence."

**All: Our souls are thirsty; come Holy Spirit and fill us with Your peace.**

Leader: The scripture also says, "Be still and know that I am God."

**All: Come Holy Spirit, meet us here in the quiet of this place.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 67

*The Word of the Lord;*

**Thanks be to God!**

SONG "Live in Charity"

#205

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 14:23-29

*The Word of the Lord;*

**Thanks be to God!**

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND REFLECTION

PRAYER STATIONS

*There are several prayer stations set up throughout the sanctuary. These stations are elements of the order of worship. Instructions and guidance are at each prayer station. You are invited explore all of the stations or linger at one or two. The prayer stations include:*

- *Breath Prayers for Centering\**
- *Confession and Assurance on today's news*
- *Lectio Divina for contemplation\**
- *Connected Prayers for the World*
- *Offering Prayers of yourself*
- *Prayers especially for children*

*\* You may do these prayer practices from your pew. There is guidance at the end of the bulletin. You will know it is time to*

*return to your pew when you hear the song "O Lord Hear My Prayer." #471*

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

RESPONSE SONG: "O LORD HEAR MY PRAYER" #471

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

SONG "Eat This Bread"

#527

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST AS WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE FOR GIVING, SONG AND BLESSING

SONG "The Lord is My Light"

#842

UNISON COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

**All: Be bold in the claiming of the gospel for the whole creation. Be brave in the living up of the life of God in every place. Be firm in carrying the holy name of Jesus Christ into the palaces of world power. Be gentle in the understanding of ourselves and one another. And may the songs of the Creator sung with love in all the earth, the tenderness of Christ Jesus cover the wounds of the people and the truth in the Holy Spirit rise free in every age. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

*Go forth from the chapel in silence to love and serve the Lord!*

## ABOUT TAIZÉ

Taizé is a place hidden away in the hills of Burgundy, France. It is an ecumenical community of brothers whose worship (or prayer) is at the heart of their life. The Taizé community was founded in 1940 by a Protestant lay person with the vision of reconciliation for the people of Europe. This community now numbers one hundred Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox brothers from around the world who live in poverty, celibacy and community and host visitors (young people in particular) to enter into the worship and work of the community.

Worship at the Taizé community happens thrice daily and is called "Taizé prayer." Taizé prayer has two essential elements: song and silence. The Taizé songs are a form of sung prayer. The songs are short chants (usually words from scripture) that are repeated over and over giving them a meditative quality. Using just a few words, the songs 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. The silence is a time of listening, a time to leave things before God, a time to be before God, to have one's soul open for God. Sometimes it is in the silence that we feel a freedom with God and this is an important element to prayer.

Taizé is not a movement meant to start new Taizé congregations. It is instead a way to be open to God in contemplative prayer and is meant to help the Christian grow deeper in relationship with God in the worshipper's very own faith community.

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

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*"...to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God"*

*Micah 6:8*

## TAIZÉ

### WORSHIP SERVICE

FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 1, 2016 (8:45 WORSHIP)



The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

1313 New York Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20005

# *Spiritual Practices for Stationary Prayer Stations*

## **Breath Prayer for Centering**

**“Pray without ceasing.”** - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

In Hebrew, the words for breath and spirit are the same—*ruach*. A breath prayer, when used over a period of time, can help us to experience and feel the Spirit within us. It is a short prayer that can be said or thought in a breath.

**Breathing in, you come to God; Breathing out, you speak your need.**

Here is a way to develop your own breath prayer:

Come to God. Address God in a way that claims God as your God, that calls to your Lord and Savior, perhaps Almighty God or Precious Lord or God of Grace.

Then, imagine Jesus standing in front of you, asking you, "What do you want me to do for you?" Think of where your soul is and of its need at this moment. Perhaps it is forgiveness or strength or hope or healing that you are seeking. Name and ask God for what you need.

Some possible breath prayers might be ...

- *Precious Lord, give me hope Mighty God, give me strength. God of Grace, help me heal. God of Mercy, help me forgive. Holy Spirit, fill me.*
- *Be still / know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)*
- *Do not fear / for I have redeemed you (Isaiah 43:1a)*
- *You lead me / beside the still waters / (Psalm 23:2b-3a)*

## **Lectio Divina for Contemplation**

*Lectio divina* is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures. It is a way of immersing oneself in a passage of Scripture and listening for God's voice.

Place yourself in a comfortable position and allow yourself to become silent. Many find it helpful to focus for a few moments on their breathing; others have a beloved "prayer word" or "prayer phrase" they gently recite. Allow yourself to enjoy silence for a few moments.

Select a passage of Scripture (you may select from today's readings Psalm 67 or John 14:23-29) and read it through, slowly, at least three times. Internalize and imagine being in the scene. If the passage is a narrative, notice which character in the story you most identify with.

Often a word or phrase will draw your attention or resonate in some way. Take the word or phrase into yourself. Memorize it and slowly repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with whatever your spirit brings to the moment: concerns, memories, ideas. Do not be afraid of distractions. Memories or thoughts are simply parts of yourself that, when they rise up during lectio divina, are asking to be given to God along with the rest of your inner self. Allow this inner pondering, this rumination, to invite you into dialogue with God.