

Taizé Prayer Advent - 2019

Sydenham Damerel Church

Taizé prayers

As you enter, you are encouraged to keep silent, to reflect and prepare for worship. Please feel free to enter fully into the prayer. Worship is quiet and reflective, deeply peaceful and joyful, including four-part harmony chants in different languages, silences, prayers, and readings.

In terms of the singing, you are encouraged to listen to the tune, to follow the music provided, and to join in singing the harmonies if that is your preference. It encourages us to pray in the mind with the heart, and to wait in contemplation. It is beautiful in its simplicity and depth. It helps us find quiet space in our heads and our hearts as we journey through the year.

Please stay as long as you like, once the service has ended. You are also encouraged to leave in silence, taking your candle with you.

Introduction to Taizé:

Taizé is a tiny village hidden away in the hills of Burgundy, France, not far from the ruins of the old monastery of Cluny. Since 1940 it has been the home of an ecumenical community of brothers whose common prayer, three times a day, is at the centre of their life. The focus of their ministry is reconciliation with Christ and in the world, as they seek through their common life and worship to enable people to find ways of reaching beyond the barriers that divide, by being more open to God and one another. There are over one hundred brothers, some of them scattered around the world in small groups, working amongst the poor on different continents. They work together with an Ignatian order of sisters in the next village of Ameugny, and today, Taizé is a place where many hundreds and thousands come to participate in their community way of life, have retreats, or in international meetings of prayer and reflection. Visitors are of all ages, and backgrounds and nationalities but it is particularly a place of welcome for young people. For more information about the Taizé community, visit www.taize.fr

Introduction to Advent:

By preparing us for Christmas, Advent prepares us to welcome Christ. In the life of the people of Israel, God prepared the coming of Christ. The prophets announced his coming; John the Baptist opened the way. Advent reminds us of the longing of God's poor: Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, Anna, Simeon...

Advent is also a time of waiting and longing for Christ's presence in us, and through us, the world. We are called to bear Christ, to live Christ for others. This longing is made up of simplicity, the spirit of childhood and joy.

You, O Lord are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; Leave us not, O Lord our God

Short Silence

Glory be to you, O God.

All Glory be to you.

Glory be to you, O Father.

All Glory be to you.

Glory be to you, O Son.

All Glory be to you.

Glory be to you, O Spirit.

All Glory be to you.



Holy Spirit, you place in us the hope of knowing a love. Enable us to be awake to how God works in our lives. Like a gentle breeze, sometimes hardly perceptible, your presence bears us forward.

All Amen

Psalm

O Lord, you once favored your land and revived the fortunes of Jacob, you forgave the guilt of your people and covered all their sins.

Will you not restore again our life that your people may rejoice in you? Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord has to say a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people and friends and those who turn to God in their hearts. Salvation is near for the God-fearing, and Glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march in the forefront and peace shall follow the way.

from Psalm 85



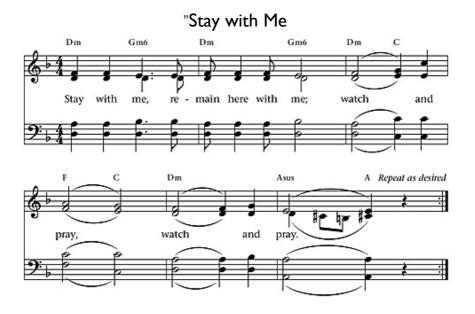
Reading Mark 1,1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight," John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the

forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to

him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he

will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Silence

(This will be about 5 minutes. Be comfortable in the quiet!)

O Wisdom, coming from the mouth of the Most High! You reign over all things from one end of the earth to the other; come and teach us the way of wisdom. We pray to you O Lord



O Lord, hear my prayer

O Lord and Head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai; come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

We pray to you O Lord

All O Lord hear my prayer...(sung)

O Morning Star, Splendour of Light eternal and bright Sun of justice; come and shine on all who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

We pray to you O Lord

All O Lord hear my prayer...(sung)

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires; Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one; come and save us. You formed us all from clay. We pray to you O Lord

All O Lord hear my prayer...(sung)

O Emmanuel, Hope of the nations and their Saviour; come and save us, Lord our God. We pray to you O Lord

All O Lord hear my prayer...(sung)

The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! We pray to you O Lord

All O Lord hear my prayer...(sung)

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

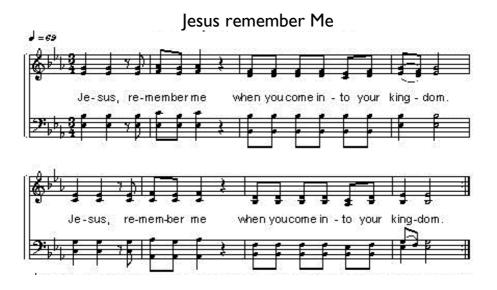


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Jesus, joy of our hearts, your Gospel assures us that the Kingdom of God is in our midst, and the gates of simplicity, and those of innocence, open within us.

Blessing

God the Father, who created you, God the Son who redeemed you, God the Spirit who sanctifies you, Bless and keep you, now and evermore Amen.



Please leave quietly during the last song or at the end, or feel free to wait in silence for a while