TAIZÉ PRAYER AT ST. BARNABAS

Praying together in Word and Song



Begin the work of peace in yourself, so that once you are at peace yourself, you can bring peace to others. - St. Ambrose of Milan

Whoever you are and whatever journey you took to arrive at this place tonight, you are welcome. As we gather to worship and pray, you are invited to pray for peace and healing for yourself, for those you love, and for the world.

The worship tradition in this service began many years ago in the ecumenical French monastic community called *Taizé*. It is a quiet service of meditation, reflection, music and prayer.

Gathering in the presence of Christ we sing simple uncomplicated songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become manifest through the beauty of simplicity.

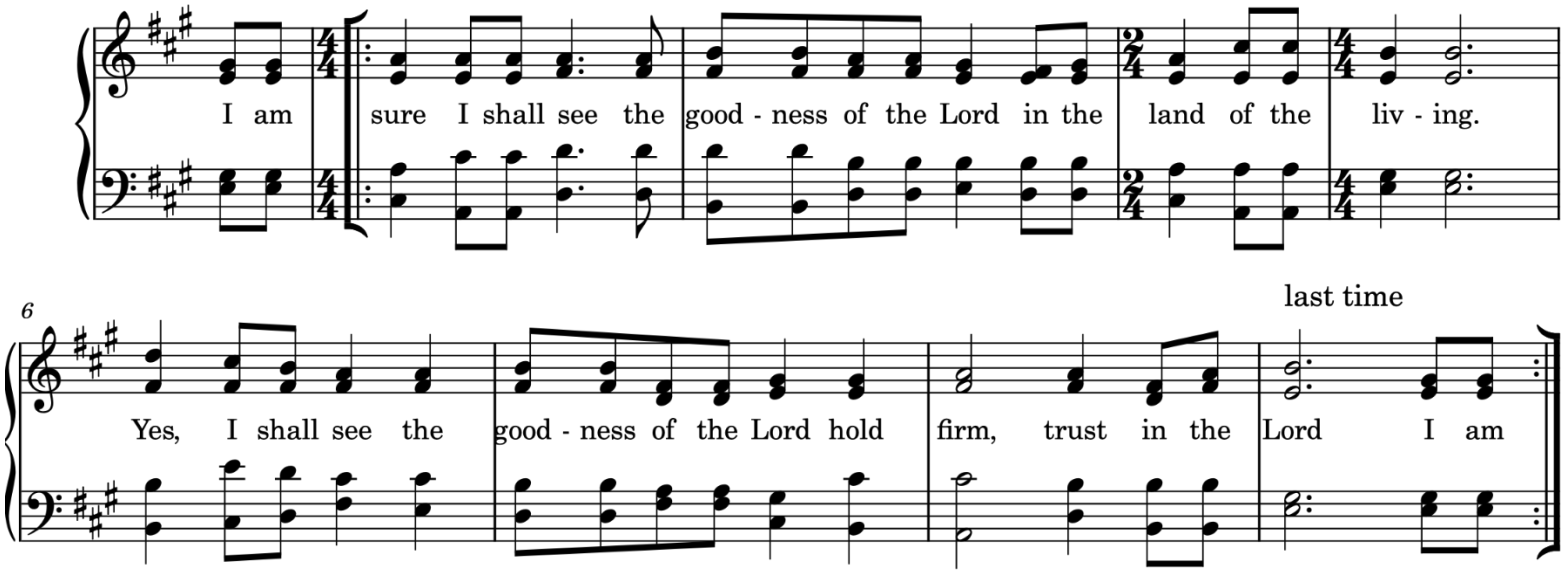
The liturgy is primarily for worship, but it is also meant to quiet the soul. The quietness does not happen all at once, but gradually during the worship. Then we may be still and at peace in the presence of God.

Taizé at St. Barnabas is held on the third Friday of the month at 7:30 PM.

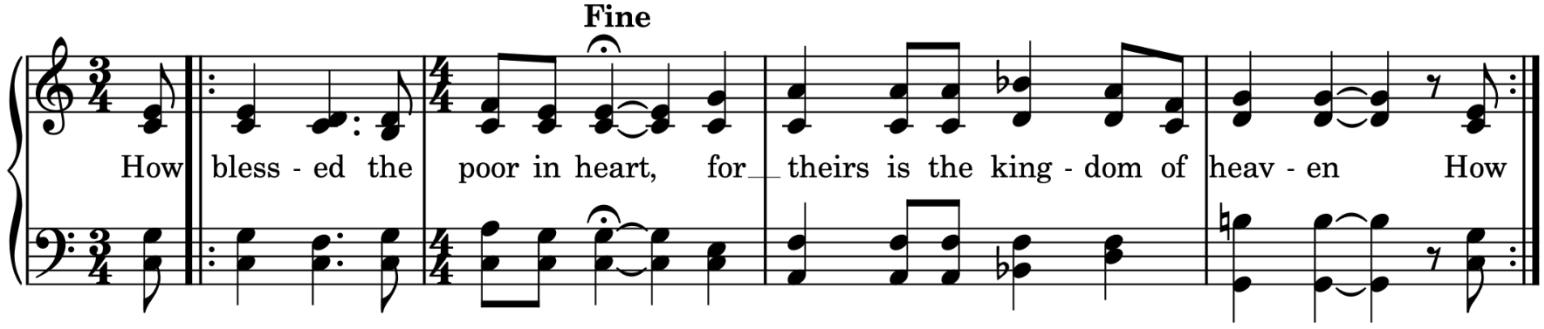
Silence is kept by all prior to the service to allow time for prayer and reflection.
As we gather at the end of the week, we invite you to take the time to lay aside your cares and concerns and come into the loving presence of God.

WELCOME AND OPENING VERSE

I AM SURE I SHALL SEE



BEATI VOI POVERI



LORD JESUS CHRIST



Text: Psalm 139; Taizé Community Music: Jacques Berthier
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ALLELUIA & PSALM

Please stand.

After the light is passed and your candles are lit, the chant is sung and then repeated after each of the psalm verses. Together we raise our candles during each repetition of the refrain. 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.



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SCRIPTURE

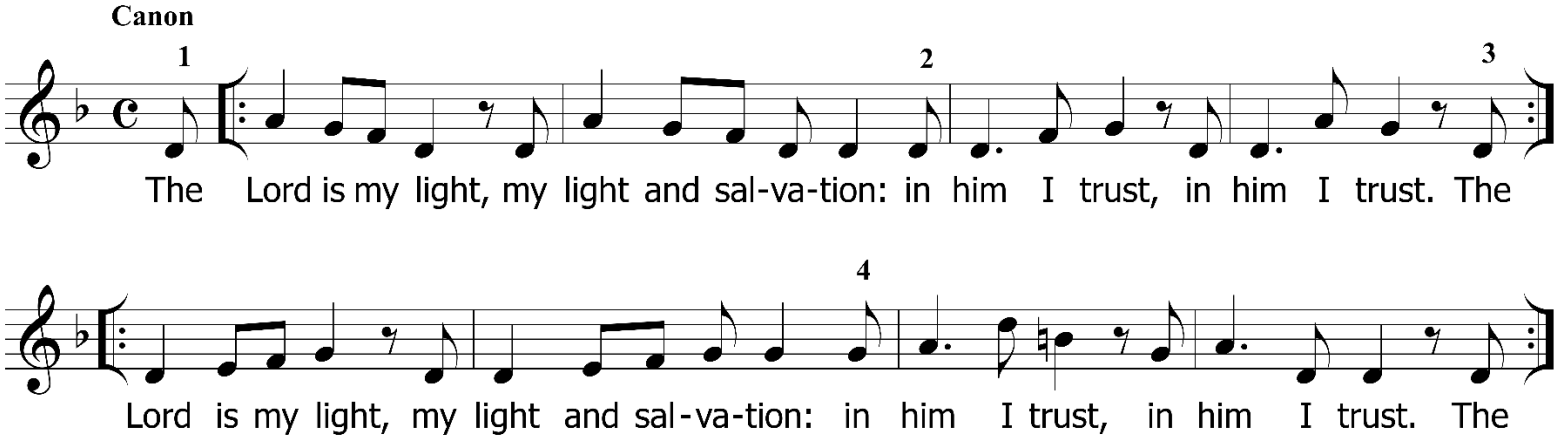
Please be seated.

Just as the words to the Taizé songs are written in many languages, when possible we read scripture in English and in other languages. We do this to join with the communities around the world that gather for worship and prayer.

REFLECTION

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

Following the readings there is a song, somewhat prolonged, which leads to silence. During this song, all are invited to come forward and place their candles in one of the clay pots. Please remove the paper disks and place them in the baskets.



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SILENCE

A period of silence to listen to the voice of God deep within is essential in discovering the heart of prayer. ***This period of silence will last for about ten minutes.*** *If you are new to contemplative prayer, you may want to look at the thoughts on page 7 of this booklet. Our time of silence will end by returning briefly to the previous song.*

KYRIE ELEISON (LORD HAVE MERCY)

Please stand. *We pray for peace. We pray for those who are near and those who are far away. We also pray for the local community, for those without freedom to gather and worship, for the Church, and for the whole human family.*



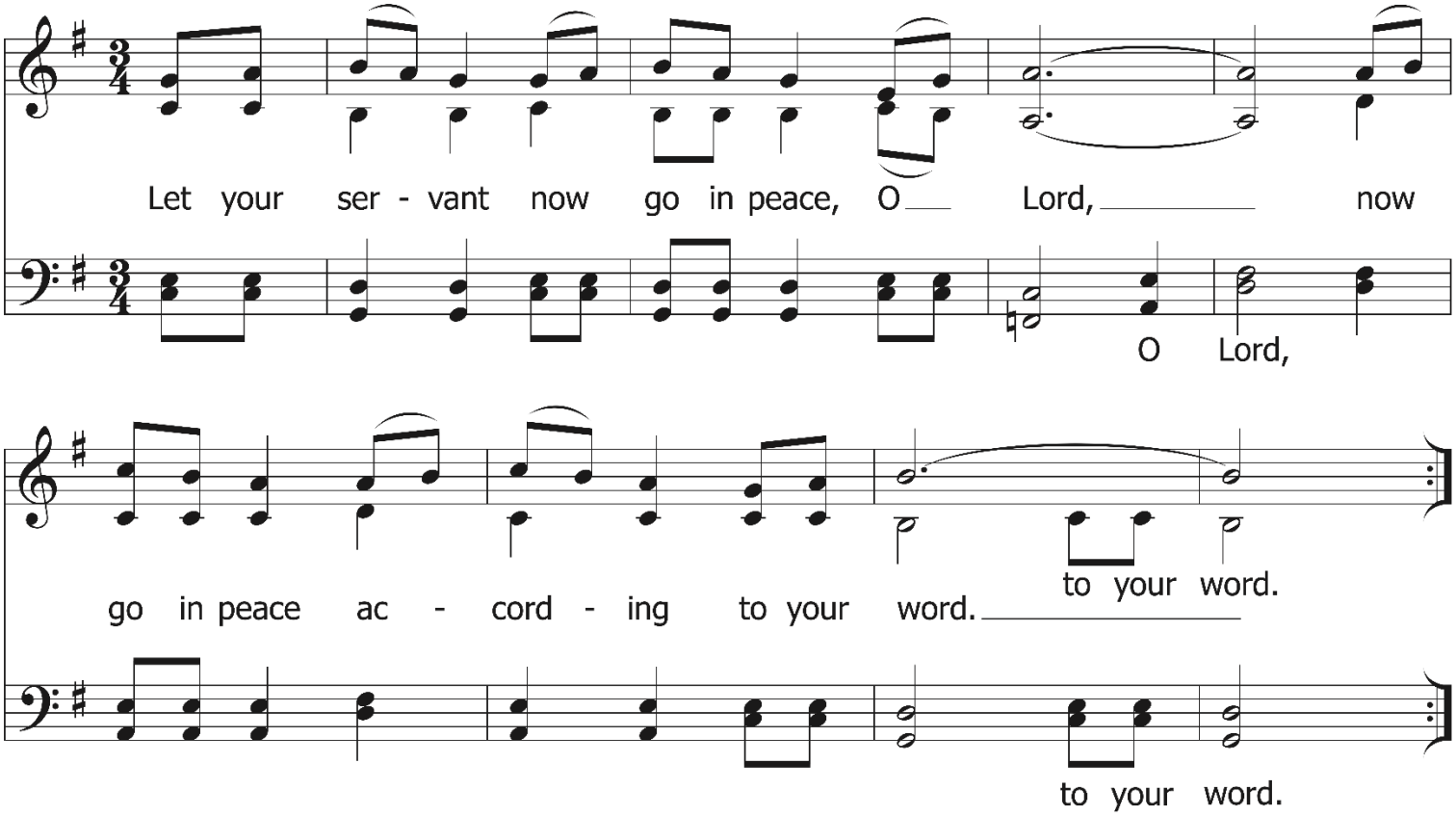
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THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

LET YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE

Please be seated.



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RESOURCES

CONTEMPLATIVE OR MEDITATIVE PRAYER

If we take as our guide the oldest prayer book, the biblical Psalms, we note two main forms of prayer. One is a lament and cry for help. The other is thanksgiving and praise to God. On a more hidden level, there is a third kind of prayer, without demands or explicit expression of praise. In Psalm 131 for instance, there is nothing but quietness and confidence: "I have calmed and quieted my soul … hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore." -*from the Taizé web site*

Silence can be difficult when we are accustomed to filling every moment of our day connected to media or consumed with busy schedules. It is challenging to sit quietly and not dwell on our worries, concerns, or to-do lists. Contemplative prayer provides a space for laying aside the thoughts that pre-occupy us and learning to rest in God. As an anchor to keep your thoughts centered, it can be helpful to choose a line from scripture to focus on, or a simple word, image, or intention such as peace, gratitude or forgiveness. Then when you notice your thoughts wondering, you can gently bring your attention back to your original focus.

BOOKS

God is Love Alone Thoughts on the essentials themes which lie at the heart of Taizé – trust, simplicity, joy. 2004. GIA Publications, Chicago
Peace in the Heart of All Things A brief meditation for each day of the year on peace of heart, joy, simplicity, and mercy. 2004. GIA Publications, Chicago
Seeds of Trust – Reflecting on the Bible in silence and song Sixty short biblical meditations by brothers of Taizé, 2005. GIA Publications, Chicago

MUSIC

There are many recordings of music from Taizé. For more information on the Taizé community go to http://www.taize.fr/en

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Sign up for monthly reminders for Taizé Prayer Services that occur in the Chicagoland Area. To be added to the group, send an e-mail to David Lincoln at dalincoln@comcast.net

About St. Barnabas

Welcome to St. Barnabas!

We are a community that blends ancient mysteries with a very modern faith. As a community, we are committed to participating in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. We are focused on Christ and believe that the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ changed everything, everywhere, for always. We are centered in prayer and worship and seek to immerse ourselves in the life of God. Join us as we seek to bring the mercy of Jesus to the world.

We invite you to worship with us.

Our Sunday services are at 9:30 AM, online and in person.



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

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Parish web site: http://www.saint-barnabas.net
Diocesan web site: http://episcopalchicago.org

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