

Tuesday Evening Series  
Series #12: Prayers for Living  
Session #1: Taizé  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018

### **Brief History of the Taizé Community**

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic community in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, a Reformed Protestant. Guidelines for the community's life are contained in *The Rule of Taizé* written by Brother Roger and first published in French in 1954.

The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage, with a focus on youth. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation. The community's church, the Church of Reconciliation, was inaugurated on 6 August 1962. It was designed by a Taizé member and architect, Brother Denis. Young Germans from Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, created for reconciliation after World War II, assumed the work of building it. Owing to the founder's commitment, since its inception the community has evolved into an important site for Catholic–Lutheran ecumenism. A Catholic, Brother Alois, succeeded as prior after his predecessor's death in 2005.

### **What do they do?**

“Our vocation as community has committed us to live solely from our work, accepting neither donations nor bequests nor gifts—nothing, absolutely nothing. The boldness involved in not ensuring any capital for ourselves, without fear of possible poverty, is a source of incalculable strength.”

*The sources of Taizé*, p.65

They also make pottery ([https://www.taize.fr/en\\_article5029.html](https://www.taize.fr/en_article5029.html)) and publish numerous inspirational books and recordings ([https://www.taize.fr/en\\_article957.html?territ=2&category=1&lang=en](https://www.taize.fr/en_article957.html?territ=2&category=1&lang=en))

### **Music and Worship**

The community, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They have sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included chants and icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated and sometimes also sung in canon. Earlier Taizé community music was conceived and composed by Jacques Berthier. Later Joseph Gelineau became a major contributor to the music.

## **Meditative Prayer in the Taizé style**

### **Song of Praise – “Laudate omnes gentes”**

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of music includes a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The lyrics for the first system are: "Lau - da - te om-nes gen-tes, lau-da - te Do-mi-num. Lau-". The second system of music continues the melody and lyrics: "da - te om-nes gen-tes, lau-da - te Do-mi-num. Lau -". The score ends with a double bar line.

Lau - da - te om-nes gen-tes, lau-da - te Do-mi-num. Lau-

da - te om-nes gen-tes, lau-da - te Do-mi-num. Lau -

### **Psalm – from Psalm 25**

My God, I trust you, let me not be disappointed;  
do not let my enemies triumph.  
Those who hope in you shall not be disappointed,  
but only those who wantonly break faith.

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

In you I hope all the day long  
because of your goodness, O Lord.  
Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me.

The Lord is good and upright,  
showing the path to those who stray,  
guiding the humble in the right path,  
and teaching the way to the poor.

## Reading - Mark 3:19b-35

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Then Jesus went home; and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Here ends the reading.


## Song – “Magnificat)



Ma-gni-fi-cat, ma-gni-fi-cat, ma-gni-fi-cat a-ni-ma me-a Do-mi-num.



Ma-gni-fi-cat, ma-gni-fi-cat, ma-gni-fi-cat a-ni-ma me - a!

 **Sing out my soul.** Sing out my soul. Sing out and glo-ri-fy the Lord who sets us free. Sing out my soul. Sing out my soul. Sing out and glo-ri-fy the Lord God!

**SILENCE – 5 minutes**

## Intercessions

O Christ, you offer us healing; may we live by your life.

O Christ, you renew our hope; may we live by your life.

O Christ, you sat at table with sinners; may we live by your life.

O Christ, you raised up your friend Lazarus; may we live by your life.

O Christ, you forgave Peter when he repudiated you and you called him to follow you; may we live by your life.

O Christ, in you our resurrection has already begun; may we live by your life.

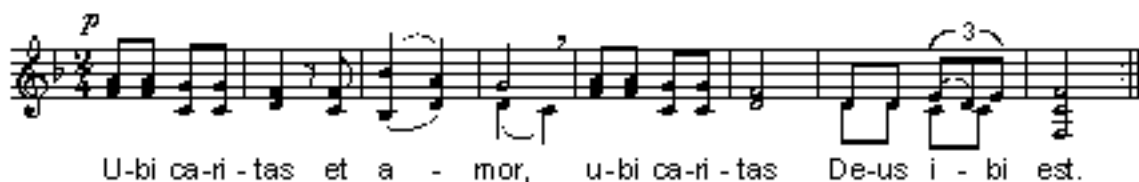


## The Lord's Prayer

### Concluding Prayers

Christ of compassion, through your Gospel we discover that measuring what we are or what we are not leads nowhere. What matters is the humble trusting of faith. By it we are led to glimpse the innocence of God and to understand that “all God can do is give his love.”

Bless us, Christ Jesus; you come to clothe us in compassion as in a garment.





### Resources

“Taizé Community,” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiz%C3%A9\\_Community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiz%C3%A9_Community)

*Taizé Community*, <https://www.taize.fr/en>

Songs written by J. Berthier ([https://www.taize.fr/en\\_article10308.html](https://www.taize.fr/en_article10308.html))