



Welcome to Taizé Prayer, a contemplative type of prayer where we seek to encounter the mystery of God through the beauty of simplicity. Tonight, you will hear scripture alongside litany, lament along with doxology. You are invited to sing along with the simple, repetitive songs that we will use in our common prayer. We will take extended moments to rest in contemplative silence. God often meets us in silence and touches us deeply, deepening our prayer. I am glad you are here.

All photos and information from the Taizé community's website: www.Taize.fr

TAIZÉ PRAYER

Whether this is your first encounter with Taizé or your hundredth, it is important to keep in mind three of the pillars of the prayer form. Each one is essential to enter fully into the service. Each one allows participants to rest in the presence of the Holy Spirit in prayer.



MEDITATION:

The Taizé community in France believes that their way of singing is "a kind of introduction to *lectio divina*." The silence and simplicity of the prayer allows people to fully enter into meditation, internalizing the beauty of the biblical words. This meditation can illuminate texts with an unexpected light.



Icons convey the spiritual message to our eyes that the Word addresses to our ears.



Prayer is contemplative and individual as well as communal.

SILENCE:

Often something we are uncomfortable with, Taizé uses silence to make us ready for a new meeting with God. In silence, God's word can reach the hidden corners of our hearts. In silence, we stop hiding before God, and the light of Christ can reach and heal and transform even what we are ashamed of.



A moment of silence is like a holy stop, a sabbatical rest, a truce of worries.



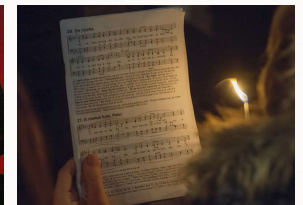
I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother. — Ps. 131

SIMPLICITY:

Simplicity allows for participants to enter into what Eastern Christians call the "prayer of the heart." It is a prayer that repeats until it takes little thought and flows straight from the soul. Repetition allows us to make the words our own and find the meaning beyond the words.



Prayer is reduced to a pure form with few additions to distract the soul.



Simplicity allows for the prayer of the heart.