



TAIZÉ PRAYER

Bible Introduction following the Service

Thursday, October 28, 7 pm

Since its founding in the 1940s, the monastic community of Taizé in France has become a place of pilgrimage for people the world over, seeking spiritual refreshment. Pilgrims are drawn by the spirit of joy, simplicity, and fellowship which permeates the community, as lived out through its unique style of worship: meditative communal prayer rich in complementary silence and song. The music of Taizé, with its distinctive, repetitive chants setting a simple prayer phrase or word of scripture, encourages a contemplative disposition that allows one to go deeper, beyond the mere surface level, into a profound encounter with God in the inner room of the heart.

Prelude

These Alone Are Enough (Schutte)

Welcome

Opening Prayer:

Blessed be those who are seeking God and his Christ. Blessed be the simple-hearted according to the Gospel.

Song:

Ostinato Refrain

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.
Last time

Silence

A moment of quiet prayer and recollection in God's presence.

Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said: The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." "No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!" But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you." Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Song:

Ostinato Refrain

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
Spanish: Ve - la - ré con - ti - go, Se - ñor, mien - tras yo
German: Blei - bet hier und wa - chet mit mir, wa - chet und

pray, watch and pray.
vi - va, mien - tras yo vi - va.
be - tet, wa - chet und be - tet.

Text: Matthew 26:36-42; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Silence

A moment of quiet prayer and recollection in God's presence.

Litany of Praise

Lord God, you do not look at appearances but at our heart; you are forgiveness.

–My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

Lord God, you renew in us peace of heart and a serene joy.

–My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

O Risen Christ, you are with us, even with those who are unaware of your presence.
–My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

O Risen Christ, you place in our hearts a longing for your Kingdom.
–My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

O Risen Christ, you call us to share the fruits of the earth and of our work.
–My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

Lord God, by your Christ the fullness of your life is offered to us.
–My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

Lord God, into your hands we place our entire life.
–My soul, give thanks to the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Song:

Chri - ste, lux mun - di, qui se - qui - tur te ha -
Christ, you are light for those who fol - low you. You

be - bit lu - men vi - tae, lu - men vi - tae.
come to bring to all the light of life.

Text: Taizé Community
Tune: Taizé Community
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Silence

A time of quiet prayer and recollection in God's presence.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus our peace, by the Holy Spirit you always come to us. And in the deepest part of our soul, there is the wonder of a presence. Our prayer may be quite poor, but you pray within us.

Song:

Your word, O Lord, is a light. My God, en - light - en my
C'est toi ma lam-pe, Sei-gneur. Mon Dieu é-clai-re ma té-

dark - ness. O Lord, my God, en - light - en my
nè - bre. Sei - gneur, mon Dieu, é - clai - re ma té -

dark-ness. O Lord, my God, en - light - en my dark-ness.
nè - bre. Sei - gneur, mon Dieu, é - clai - re ma té - nè - bre.

Text: Psalm 119:105; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Musicians: Christina Labriola, Sonya Harper Nyby, Kelsey Taylor, Julia Barber,
Bradley Christensen, Peter Warren.



Bible Introduction following the Service
Rev. Michael Perry

Matthew 25, 1-13: Keeping Alert to Welcome Christ

Jesus said: The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." "No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!" But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you." Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (Matthew 25:1-13)

Just before his arrest in the garden of Gethsemani, Jesus invites his disciples to "watch and pray." At that time his call is linked to the warning "so that you do not succumb to the trial." In this parable, the call to keep watch is linked to the banquet of the Kingdom. This urgent repetition suggests that there is a convergence between the coming of the bridegroom and Jesus's downward journey by means of his passion. The coming of the Kingdom occurs in a manner that is so different from what people imagine that it is easy to miss the moment when the doors open. That is the reason for the call to vigilance: it is not so much the time of the appointment that is unknown but the nature of the manifestation itself.

This parable invites us to be ready to welcome Christ in all circumstances. Christ's coming cannot be eliminated from any situation. It begins right now. The assurance of his presence as the Risen Lord modifies the unexpectedness of his coming. It is an encouragement for those times when we have to persevere in faith, without yet seeing clearly.

I can also read this parable more personally. The banquet room of the Kingdom, where the bridegroom welcomes me, is my own heart. The bridegroom who opens that door of the Kingdom in me is Christ, who goes before me and who alone can give shape to my most intimate longing: to love God and my neighbor. He loves in me with the Father's own love—unlimited generosity and forgiveness to the very end. He delivers me from all isolation and enables me to remain in him, in communion with the Father. Would it be possible for me to fall asleep? Could other concerns distract my desire? The lamp is my prayer. It contributes to recreating an inner unity in me. Prayer thus prepares a place for Christ to dwell in me. The oil is my faithfulness in prayer. The parable becomes an invitation to persevere in prayer, to remain close to the doorway of my heart, to recognize the bridegroom when he passes and opens the doors of the banquet hall.

- What keeps me faithful in prayer?
- In what improbable circumstances have I recognized the coming of Christ?
- What words of Jesus assure me of his presence in my life?
- What relationships with others are already possible in prayer?