Taízé Prayer

"The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life". — NRSV

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran

Please turn off your cell phones.

Even the buzz of "silence mode"
will be heard during our time of profound silence.

Good evening! In the name of Christ, it is my privilege to welcome you to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. As we gather this evening, I would like to offer hospitality, introduce you to our congregation, give a little background about Taizé Prayer and what to expect in worship this evening. If you are here for the first time, our restrooms are in the breezeway just outside the main doors of the church.

About Taizé Prayer The Taizé style of sung prayer mirrors other forms of meditative or contemplative prayer. The gentle repetition of a single thought, in this case, expressed in music, allows us to savor God's voice in the text. The text melts away creating an interior silence for an encounter with God. The music holds the time and space for prayer. Each piece of music has a simple thought that invites the participant to bring their own story, their own needs to this time of prayer. The music and prayer are simply the vehicle for you to still your mind and soul and sit with the Lord in solitude while surrounded by a community of faith all intentionally making time and space for an encounter with God.

How To Participate First, as you gather in the dimly lit room, you might want to simply review your day. Notice what still has your attention and anything that is a distraction to being present to this time of prayer. You might place these distractions at the foot of the altar or the doors of the church. But also notice things beyond your to-do list that are taking space in your heart. What are your needs and concerns, what do you desire most at this moment in your life? What needs to be celebrated, discerned, or even let go of? Bring these things to God tonight!

Singing and Prayer before our Icons Taizé Prayer is known for the short repetitive sung mantras. These are gateways to prayer. Although each chant has a text, often with deep theological meaning, this isn't a Lutheran Hymn Sing! (We will do that someday too!) The music is gentle and quiet. You are encouraged to sing or even hum as it serves your prayer, but no one should feel a need to lead the singing or encourage others to sing. All should blend into gentle, contemplative prayer. After the scripture reading for the evening, there will be an extended time, with several pieces of music sung, when you are invited to come forward and light a candle before one of the icons in the room. This is your time, you are welcome to remain in prayer, standing or kneeling, even sitting on the floor near the icon if you choose. There will be time for all to move slowly. There is no need to form a line. The music will continue until all have had ample time to participate.

Silence After our time of prayer and candle lighting, we will share profound silence. You can expect that to be 10 - 15 minutes long. The musicians are the timekeepers, so your only role is to sink into the silence and allow God to speak. It is helpful if all of us do our part to minimize distractions. Please put your programs aside and again be sure your cell phones are off and avoid any distracting movement.



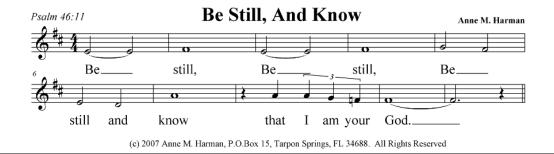
Offering We leave a basket at the back of the church for an offering. Your presence and prayer are the most important gifts you bring to our community. However, your contributions support our Taizé and Retreat ministries. Our congregation uses an online giving service and with this QR code you can create an online account and make a donation towards our Taizé Ministry. If you use the app and it asks for an "Invite Code" it is MW9599. Checks should be made out

to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Thank you.

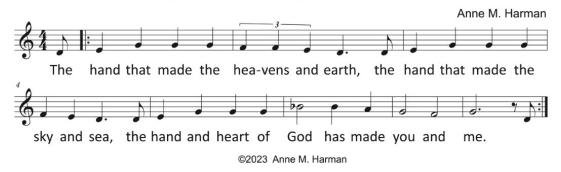
About St. Paul's Lutheran St. Paul's is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). This congregation was one of the first RIC congregations in Florida. We believe in and work at not only being inclusive but also being a place of reconciliation. Too many people have been told God doesn't love them because of their sexual identity or orientation. But our work and ministry go far beyond issues of sexual identity. As an RIC congregation we welcome all seeking God's healing for the wounds of exclusion, poverty, oppression, and racism. If you have found yourself on the outside of a church community and are looking for a place where you can bring all of who you are, and you desire to seek God's healing for these wounds please don't hesitate to reach out to me after the service tonight or at a time of your convenience.

If you would like to be on the email distribution list for our Taizé Services and other events of our Spirituality Center, please fill out one of the information cards on the piano before you leave this evening or send Pastor Anne an email at pastoranneharman@gmail.com

The music from the Taizé community, and other composers is used with permission of Onelicense.net under license A-739852. Music by Anne M. Harman is used with permission of the composer.



The Hand That Made



Reader: Job 33:4

"The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life".

Sung: The hand that made the heavens and earth, the hand that made the sky and sea, the hand and heart of God has made you and me.

Reader: Isaiah 64:8

"But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."

Sung: The hand that made the heavens and earth...

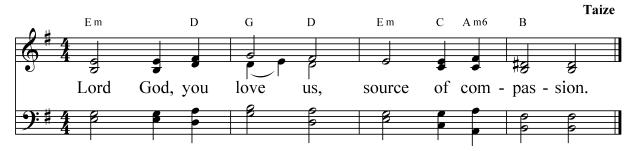
Reader: Jeremiah 1:4-5

"Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

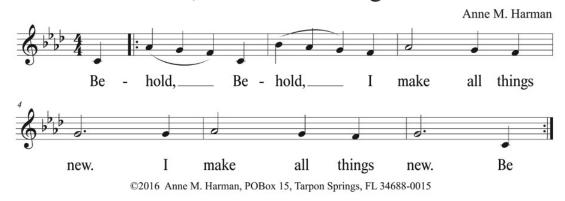
Reader: 1 John 3:1-2

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Lord God, You Love Us



Behold, I Make All Things New



Reader: Psalm 100:3

Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Sung: Behold, behold, I make all things news. I make all things new.

Reader: 1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Sung: Behold, behold, I make all things news. I make all things new.

Reader: Revelation 4:11

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."



Psalm 139: 1-16, 19-24

Reader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

ALL: Even before a word is on my tongue,O Lord, you know it completely.You hem me in, behind and before,and lay your hand upon me.Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Reader: Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

ALL: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Reader: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

ALL: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Reader: Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

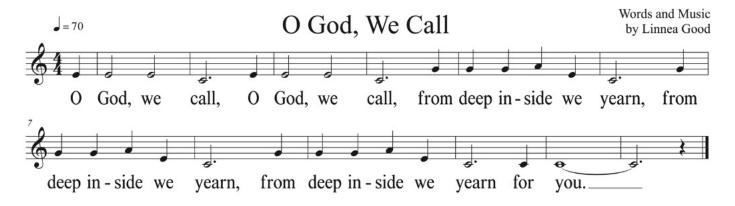
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

ALL: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT:

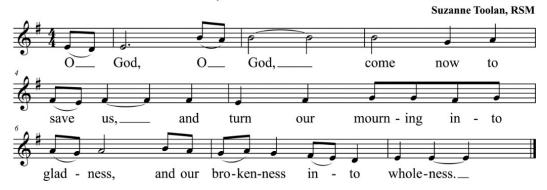
When the music resumes all are welcome to come, one at a time, take a candle, light it from another candle and place it in the sand in front of one of the icons. This will be an extended period of prayer and meditation. The music will continue until all have had time to come forward and pray. There is no need for an orderly line, simply allow a few at a time to come forward.

Tonight, pray for the grace to know, at the depths of your soul, that you and all living things have been created by God who loves you, cares for you, and desires to be in an intimate relationship with YOU.



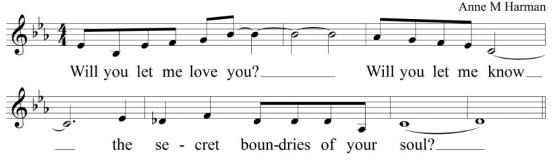
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O God, Come and Save Us



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Will You Let Me Love You?



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Breathe on Us, Breath of God



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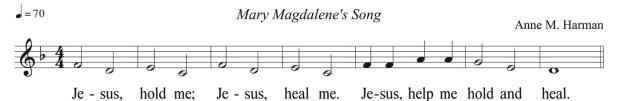
Teach Us To Love, To Till and Keep



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Jesus, Hold and Heal Me

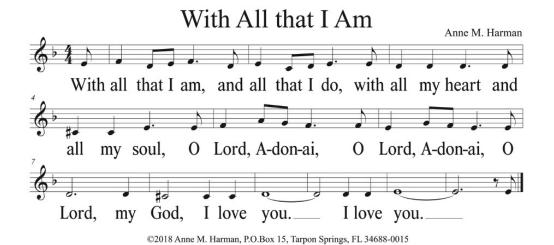


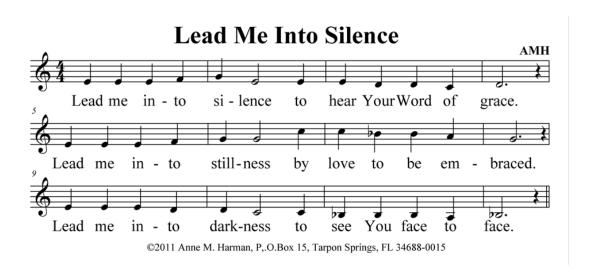
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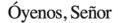
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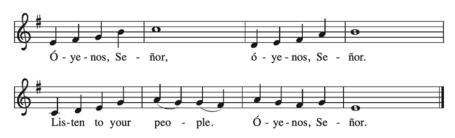




SILENCE
This evening we will allow time for a profound silence.

Intercessions:





Text: Bob Hurd, b. 1950, alt. Music: ÓYENOS, Bob Hurd

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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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray:

Almighty and Eternal God,

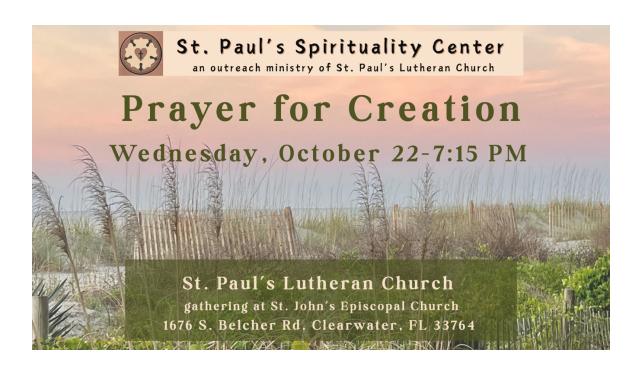
You are the author of all life, You are the author of *our lives*. Help us to realize the depth of your love for all you have created. Give us your heart of compassion that we may give witness to the love we experience from you by our actions in the world.

+ Loving God, bless us this night with your peace, your healing, and your love.

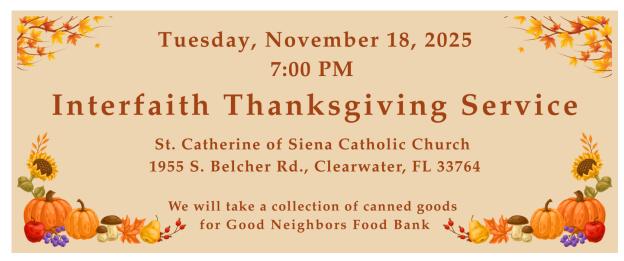
ALL: Amen

As we conclude this evening let us offer one another a sign of Christ's reconciling peace and love.









St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies
God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending
inclusion and welcome to all.

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

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To reach Pastor Anne pastoranneharman@gmail.com







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