

# Taíze Prayer

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## Waiting

Wednesday, December 10 – 7:15 PM

*Truly, the Lord is waiting to be gracious to you...*

-Isaiah 30:18a

Isn't Advent about us waiting for Jesus to show up? This simple line from Isaiah opens a whole new picture of this season of waiting. Do we approach Advent waiting on God as if God isn't already here? Isaiah is inviting us to see that God is the one who initiates the waiting with gifts already prepared for his beloved. Advent invites us to anticipate, to be curious, expectant, and hopeful.

Have you ever had the experience of spending weeks looking for the perfect gift for someone you care about, beautifully wrapped the gift, and then had to wait for the moment of seeing their face when they opened your gift? This is the image our reading today invites.

We approach each Advent waiting anew for God's arrival in the person of Jesus. Christ is the lover who endows his beloved with life-giving gifts. Each gift is selected as the perfect answer to our deepest longing. What is the desire of your heart today? What is the word of comfort or mercy you need to hear? What companionship do you long to find in God? God waits with eager anticipation for us to receive his Son and open the gifts prepared for each of us by name.

Tonight, look deep within yourself and notice and name your greatest needs and desires. Tell them to God; not so God knows them, God already knows them, but so that you will recognize the gifts and the Giver when they arrive. And maybe you will even see the joy on God's face in the moment of surprise when the gift arrives in your heart.

- Pr. Anne

# Welcome to St. Paul's Spirituality Center

***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 our privilege to welcome you to St. Paul's Spirituality Center. As we gather this evening, We would like to offer hospitality, introduce you to our congregation and our Spirituality Center, 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 hear 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.

**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** The short repetitive sung mantras 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; you are invited to come forward and light a candle before one of the icons in the room. There will be time for all to move slowly and prayerfully. There is no need to form a line. The music will continue until all have had ample time to participate and pray.

**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 the Spirituality Center 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.

**St. Paul's Spirituality Center** is an outreach of our congregation. The first call of any church is to bring people to Christ and form them to be disciples. The Spirituality Center, desires to be a space and place where people are invited to explore their relationship with God. We invite people to prayer, to learn to talk to God and surrender to God's presence and action in their lives. The heart of this ministry is our Wednesday Contemplative Prayer Services. We also currently offer retreats, classes, and a grief support group. If this ministry is meaningful to you, reach out to Pr. Anne for ways you can be more involved. The Spirituality Center is intended to be a resource for the wider community. We hope to support other congregations in their journey to form disciples. We hope to reach those who, for whatever reason, don't have a church home. And we are intentional about being a place of healing for those who have been wounded by the church.

If you would like to be on the email distribution list for the Spirituality Center, please fill out one of the information cards in the basket at the welcome table at the back of the church this evening or send Pastor Anne an email at [pastoranneharman@gmail.com](mailto:pastoranneharman@gmail.com)

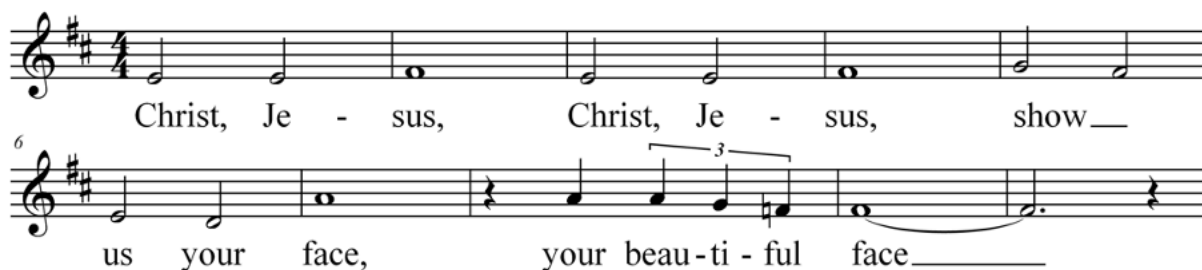
St. Paul's Spirituality Center has its own Facebook Page. You can find us by searching "St. Paul's Spirituality Center" in the Facebook search bar or through this QR code. We also have a web page under St. Paul's website:  
<https://stpaulsclearwater.org/spirituality-center>.



## CALL TO WORSHIP—Psalm 145:13-18

### Christ Jesus, Show Us Your Face

Anne M. Harman



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Reader 1: The Lord is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.<sup>[c]</sup>  
The Lord upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**ALL:** The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

Reader 1: The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

### Behold God

Anne M Harman

Lyrics by:  
adapted from St. Ignatius of Antioch  
by Anthony De Mello

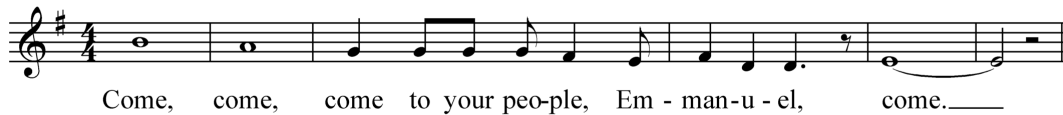
*For the 2012 Creighton University  
CSP - Term I Graduates*



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# Come, Emmanuel

Anne M. Harman



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## ***Reading from Scripture – Isaiah 30:18-21***

Truly, the Lord is waiting to be gracious to you,  
truly, he shall rise to show you mercy;

For the Lord is a God of justice:

happy are all who wait for him!

<sup>19</sup> Yes, people of Zion, dwelling in Jerusalem,  
you shall no longer weep;

He will be most gracious to you when you cry out;  
as soon as he hears he will answer you.

<sup>20</sup> The Lord will give you bread in adversity  
and water in affliction.

No longer will your Teacher hide himself,  
but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher,

<sup>21</sup> And your ears shall hear a word behind you:

“This is the way; walk in it,”

when you would turn to the right or the left.

## **A SERVICE OF LIGHT:**

Each of us has come here waiting for something. Some come waiting for peace, or clarity, comfort, or mercy. Some are waiting for something to end or something new to begin. Some are waiting for silence and stillness in the midst of the preparations for Christmas. Some are waiting for healing or death. Whatever longing within us invited us here tonight, we have heard that God too is waiting.... for us. God has come with gifts of peace, clarity, comfort, mercy, and companionship. But mostly God has come, waiting to simply be with us in our waiting.

You are invited to come forward, a few at a time, to light a candle and place it in the sand as you offer your own prayer. There is no need to form a line as the music will continue until all have had time to come forward and pray.

Maybe tonight in your prayer, you can simply experience God waiting with you.

# Waiting

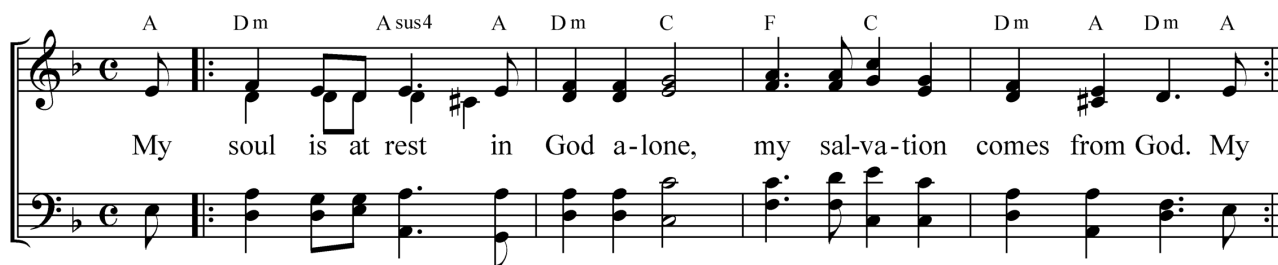
Anne M. Harman



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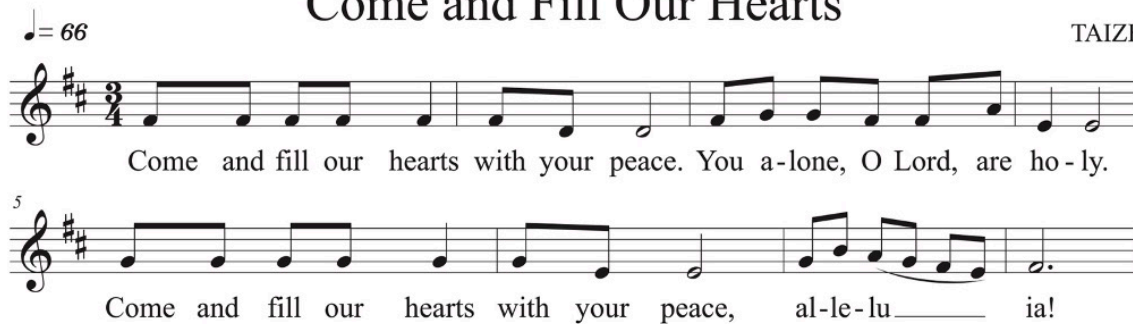
# My Soul Is At Rest

Taize



# Come and Fill Our Hearts

TAIZE



# Dona Nobis Pacem Domine

*Grant us peace, Lord*

Taize



# Wait For The Lord

Taize

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

5 Wait for the Lord: be strong take heart!

# My Heart Is Searching

Bob Hurd

$\text{♩} = 62$

My heart is search-ing, my soul is thirst-ing for

5 you, the liv-ing God, for you the liv-ing God.

(c)2000 Bob Hurd, Published by OCP Publications. All Rights Reserved.  
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# O God, Come and Save Us

Suzanne Toolan, RSM

O God, O God, come now to

4 save us, and turn our mourn-ing in - to

6 glad - ness, and our brokenness in - to whole - ness.

Text and Music (c) 2004, Suzanne Toolan, RSM. Published by OCP Publications.  
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## Will You Let Me Love You?

Anne M Harman

Will you let me love you? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you let me know \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ the se - cret boun-dries of your soul? \_\_\_\_\_

The image shows two staves of music in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and lyrical, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the song, and the second staff contains the third line.

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## Arise, My Beloved

AMH

A - rise, my be-lov-ed, come.\_\_\_\_\_ My beau - - ti - ful-be -

lov - ed, come.\_\_\_\_\_ For see the win - ter is

past,\_\_\_\_\_ the rains are o-ver and gone.\_\_\_\_\_

The image shows three staves of music in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and lyrical, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line.

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## Lead Me Into Silence

AMH

Lead me in - to si - lence to hear Your Word of grace.

Lead me in - to still-ness by love to be em - braced.

Lead me in - to dark-ness to see You face to face.

The image shows three staves of music in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and lyrical, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line.

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## A Time of Silence

*We will observe several minutes of silence and stillness.*

As the music ends, allow yourself to sink into silence. Maybe there is a single word or thought from our prayer this evening that holds your attention or has special meaning for you. Hold that word reverently in your silence. Please try to refrain from moving unnecessarily, rustling papers, or causing other distractions in the room.

## Intercessory Prayer:

### Waiting

Anne M. Harman



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## Closing Prayer, Lord's Prayer, and Blessing

*Please stand.*

O God, you stand waiting  
to shower your children with gifts of love,  
mercy and friendship.  
Make our hearts ready  
to receive and recognize your gifts.  
Let us see the joy in your heart  
as we wait on you.

**ALL: Amen**

**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**

+May the Lord bless you and protect you,  
keeping you from every harm and evil  
until the day of his coming.

**ALL: Amen**

**Sign of Peace**

## **Interfaith Light Labyrinth** **Sunday, December 21 - 5:30 PM**



**Temple B'nai Israel**  
labyrinth walk - drum circle - refreshments

# CHRISTMAS EVE ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

Wednesday, December 24

5:30 PM - Dinner in the Hall

6:45 PM - Walk Through the Luminaries

7:00 PM - Candlelight Worship



To RSVP for dinner,  
please sign up  
on the bulletin board  
outside of the church  
or send an email to:

[office@stpaulsclearwater.org](mailto:office@stpaulsclearwater.org)

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathers at St. John's Episcopal Church - 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater*

# 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.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

Email: [office@stpaulsclearwater.org](mailto:office@stpaulsclearwater.org)

Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>

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**To reach Pastor Anne**  
[pastoranneharman@gmail.com](mailto:pastoranneharman@gmail.com)



Florida-Bahamas Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



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