

Prayer and Worship in the style of the Taizé Community. As we find some relief from the privations of lockdown and its aftermath, we think of the joy and blessings we receive.



... my lips will shout with joy when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have rescued.

from Psalm 71

Opening Silence

Slow me down Lord. Ease the pounding of my heart by the quietening of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with the vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amid the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Chant: Into your hands, O Father

A reading from the book of Genesis

God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'

Silence

Confession:

The Lord looks on his servants with pity, not with blame. In our sight we do not stand; in God's sight we do not fall. Both these insights are true but the greater belongs to God.

Silence as we place ourselves into the merciful hands of God.

Chant: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

A Form of the Beatitudes

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of trouble.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen; they will learn a lot of new things.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously; they will be valued by those around them.

Happy are those who can take small things seriously, and take serious things calmly; they will go far in life.

Happy are those who can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others; they may be taken for fools, but that is the price of charity.

Happy are those that can appreciate a smile, and forget a frown; they will walk in the sunshine.

Blessed are they who think before acting, and pray before thinking; they will avoid many blunders.

Blessed are they who recognise the Spirit in all whom they meet; the light of truth will shine in their lives.

Silence

Chant: Adoramus te, domine

A reading from the letter to the Galatians

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

from Galatians 5

Silence

Chant: Lord of all goodness

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

For you will go out with joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and hills before you shall burst into song, and the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

from Isaiah 55

Silence

Chant: Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo

During this chant you may wish to light a candle as a sign of your prayers and your hope and trust.

Prayers:

For all the many ways your people have suffered and continue to suffer because of Covid19 **Lord, hear our prayer**

For those who work to relieve the suffering of others across our world and in the worldwide church **Lord, hear our prayer**

For those working among the dispossessed and the destitute **Lord, hear our prayer**

For asylum seekers and refugees in this country and abroad **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the aged and sick and housebound **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the lonely **Lord, hear our prayer**

For those who struggle with mental illness and those with learning disabilities **Lord, hear our prayer**

For those who suffer silently and are tempted to despair **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the bereaved and those who watch with the dying **Lord, hear our prayer**

For those who suffer because of the prejudices of others **Lord, hear our prayer**

For all peoples who face hostility for their Christian commitment **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the Incarnation, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ **We thank you, O God**

For our membership in Christ's Church and in the church communities where we are known **We thank you, O God**

For our calling as followers of Christ **We thank you, O God**

For the beautiful and life sustaining world in which we live **We thank you, O God**

Silence

Chant: O Lord, hear our prayer

Silence

Final Prayer:

O God, our protector, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we give into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes; for you alone are our sure defence and bring us lasting peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Chant: Jesus, Remember me

We leave in silence

Copyright Licence Acknowledgement

Some material included in this service is copyright: Some material is from SSF the Society of St Francis. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Copyright 1989 Used by permission. All rights reserved. Music is from The Taizé Community used by Permission. Some material is from Seasons of Grace copyright Ann Lewin 2005 and 2011. CCLI Copyright Licence No. 538064