

Intercessions

*In this Advent season we pray for God's church throughout the world, particularly in those places where Christians are persecuted; that it will be a herald of good tidings, speaking confidently of the glory of the Lord revealed in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*We pray for the nations of the world and their leaders; that in all the uneven, rough and unjust places the Spirit of the Lord will bring equality, healing and justice to all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*We pray for the communities in which we live, work and worship; that we may be enabled to reveal God's glory in the way we live, through the words we speak; that, in his love, we will be at peace with all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*We pray for all those in particular need; that they will be touched by God's gentle tenderness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Chant 142 : Exaudi orationem meam

*Your love embraces me and sustains me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, let my cry come to you.
You dwell in light eternal, living God,
Everlasting, merciful.*

Silence

A prayer by Brother Roger, founder of the Taizé Community

Holy Spirit, mystery of a presence, you enfold us with your peace that comes to touch our inmost heart, bringing us a breath of life.

Silence

Chant 9 : Jésus le Christ ♪

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Taizé Prayer 91 (70) 4th December 2016 (Advent 2)

Prayer in the style of the Taizé Community for Advent 2

Welcome! Please feel free to sit quietly or to join in as you feel most comfortable. We will be following a pattern based on the worship of the Taizé Community, one of whose aims has always been to make Christian worship as simple and uncluttered as possible.

Taizé is a small village in eastern France. For almost 70 years, it has been the home of a Christian monastic community made up of brothers from many different countries, speaking many different languages and, uniquely, belonging to several different Christian denominations. Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox and others live and pray together, share a simple life and welcome the tens of thousands of visitors who come to spend time with them every year from all over the world.

The numbers refer to the orange booklet of Taizé Chants which you received as you joined us. This symbol ♪ indicates that we sing the English translation provided alongside the music.



Opening Silence

Food for thought in the silence

“Following Christ with a steadfast heart does not mean lighting up fireworks that flare up brightly and then go out. It means setting out, and then remaining, on a road of trust that can last our whole life.”

Brother Roger of Taizé

Chant 12 : De nocte ♪

A reading from Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare

with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.[...] May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, 'Great is the Lord!' [...] You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.

Silence

In the silence, we reflect on God's abundant goodness. Then, confident of his mercy and forgiveness, we sing...

Chant 39 : Tu sei sorgente viva

***Lord, you are living water,
You are light and fire, you are love.
Come, O Holy Spirit! Come, O Holy Spirit!***

A reading from Romans chapt 15

Saint Paul wrote, "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written [...] 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Silence

Chant 151 : Iedere nacht verlang ik

***When in the night my soul seeks for you, O God,
I hunger for you with all my heart.
My spirit yearns for you in the depths, O Lord.
I hunger for you with all my heart.***

A reading from St John's Gospel

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Silence

Chant 58 : Misericordias Domini

***misericordias – the mercy
Domini – of the Lord
in aeternum – for ever
cantabo – I will sing***

Long Silence

Food for thought in the silence

"Prayer is standing in the presence of God with the mind in the heart; that is, at that point of our being where there are no divisions or distinctions and where we are totally one. There God's Spirit dwells and there the great encounter takes place. There heart speaks to heart, because there we stand before the face of the Lord, all-seeing within us.[...] One of the Desert Fathers, Macarius the Great, says 'The chief task of the athlete [that is, the monk] is to enter into his heart.' This does not mean that the monk should try to fill his prayer with feeling, but that he should strive to let his prayer remodel the whole of his person. [...] The way to God is through the heart."

Henri Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart*

Chant 113 : Bóg jest miłością ♪