

way of your commandments. Give us the insight to know the right path and the courage to follow it.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to the glory of your creation, as we open our hearts to you. Give us a clearer vision of your presence in and through all things.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the gift of community and for the joy of sharing your life with each other as we travel together as pilgrims. May this church continue to be a place of welcome, healing and growth for all.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the midst of struggle and pain, we trust in your never-ending love. Help us to bear one another's burdens and to lean on your presence within us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Chant 59 : Venite, exultemus Domino ♪

Silence

A prayer by Brother Roger, founder of the Taizé Community

Jesus, our peace, by your Gospel you call us to be very simple, very humble. You cause to grow within us and infinite gratitude for your constant presence in our hearts.

Silence

Chant 12 : De nocte ♪

We leave in silence.

Please allow those who wish to do so to continue to pray undisturbed.

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Taizé Prayer 93 5th March 2017

Prayer in the style of the Taizé Community for Lent 1

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

For Silent Reflection

"Most of our sins happen because we forget the commandments of God."

St Joseph of Optina, *Living Without Hypocrisy*

Chant 1: Dans nos obscurités ♪

From Psalm 50

The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to where it sets. From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. He summons the heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather to me this consecrated people, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice." And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice. [...] "I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the

insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? Sacrifice thank-offerings to God, fulfil your vows to the Most High, and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour me."

Silence

In the silence, we call to mind our sins and thank God for His mercy. Then, placing our trust in Him, we sing...

Chant 115 : The kingdom of God

From Deuteronomy chapter 6

Having received from God the Ten Commandments, Moses said to the people of Israel, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. [...] Do not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. You must diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his decrees, and his statutes that he has commanded you. Do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may go in and occupy the good land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give you, thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has promised. When your children ask you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?' then you shall say to your children, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'

Silence

Chant 137 : Behüte mich, Gott

*Enfold me, O God,
For I trust in you.
You show me the path to follow.
You give me joy, your joy in its fullness.*

A reading from St Luke's Gospel ch. 15

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance."

Chant 32 : Mon âme se repose ♪

Long Silence

Food for Thought in the Silence

"I regard myself as the most wretched of all men, [...] one who has committed all sorts of crimes against his King. Overcome by remorse, I confess all my wickedness to Him, ask His pardon and abandon myself entirely to Him [...]. But this King, filled with goodness and mercy, far from chastising me, lovingly embraces me, makes me eat at His table, serves me with His own hands, gives me the keys of His treasures and treats me as His favorite. [...] He forgives me and relieves me of my principle bad habits without talking about them; [...] and always the more weak and despicable I see myself to be, the more beloved I am of God."

Brother Lawrence (1614-1691)
The Practice of the Presence of God

Chant 150 : Sfinte Dumnezeule

*Holy, strong, immortal,
God the Three-in-One!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
God eternal, hear our prayer.*

Intercessions

God our Father, you drive us once again into the desert this Lent as you challenge us to choose the