

WELCOME!

We are glad you joined us for Taizé at Acacia Park Lutheran Church. Tonight is a service of contemplative prayer, full of both music and silence. The periods of silence are intentional and are for you – for your thoughts, prayers, wanderings, meditation, or contemplations.



Silence can be both peaceful and uncomfortable. Silence often asks us to sit with discomfort so that we can realize that not every moment needs noise or answers. Try your best to embrace this stillness.

Songs will be introduced on the piano, then sung 4-5 times. During the Songs of Light, you are invited to come forward to light candles at the front of the church. You may stay there as long as you wish: sit, stand, or kneel as you are called to. It is also during the Songs of Light that you can approach Pastor Tom for a blessing.

ABOUT TAIZE

The Taizé movement started in the village of Taizé in Burgundy, France. This community was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, who sought to create a place of refuge and peace during World War II. Located in Nazi-occupied France, this movement became a symbol of hope and reconciliation. Today, Taizé is known worldwide for its meditative sung prayer and silence, and is a living sign of unity, peace, inclusion, and shared faith across all traditions.

ABOUT US

Acacia Park Lutheran Church is a faith community inspired by God's love, following Jesus' example, welcoming all, serving and helping others. We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace and embraces everyone as a whole person —questions, complexities, and all.



Pre-Service Music

Words of Welcome

Welcome, familiar faces and new, friends all alike, to this ecumenical service of prayer in the Taizé tradition. We gather from different spiritual paths, yet we come with a shared longing for peace and healing. In this space of candlelight, song, and silence, we rest from the noise of the week and open ourselves to the creator of the universe who meets us with tenderness and hope.

Taizé prayer invites as we are: hurried, anxious, tired, questioning, hurt, or lost. The simple songs repeat a few times and the periods of silence – however peaceful or uncomfortable – allow us to listen, both to God and to the deep places within ourselves. You may sit, stand, or kneel as you feel led. As we begin, take a deep breath, open your hearts, and let this time be a gift.

Gathering Song: O God, We Call

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two phrases: "O God, we call, O God, we call, from". The second system contains the next two phrases: "deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from". The third system contains the final phrase: "deep in - side we yearn for you." The piano accompaniment consists of simple chords and single notes, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal melody.

O God, we call, O God, we call, from

deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from

deep in - side we yearn for you.

First Reflection & Meditation in Silence

We often set out on our lives with certainty, with a path in mind and a destination at the end of the road. But we soon learn that we have more questions than answers. We begin to carry doubts that feel heavy, we find that grief lingers longer than welcomed, and we come across relationships that still cause our hearts to ache.

We find that we are actually not so certain after all.

We are unsure if we belong, unsure if we're ready, unsure if we have anything to offer to the world.

Our faith flickers.

Our grief changes us.

Our attempts at reconciliation fail.

And yet, in the places where we feel least steady, something quieter begins to rise. A longing not for control, but for peace. A peace that does not demand answers. A peace that does not erase sorrow. A peace that meets us exactly where we are.

So breathe. Open your hearts. Let us begin to seek peace.

Silence

Song: Come and Fill Our Hearts

The image shows a musical score for the song "Come and Fill Our Hearts". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system has the lyrics: "Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly." The second system has the lyrics: "Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. A — men. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. A — men." The bass line consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic accompaniment for the vocal line.

Second Reading & Meditation In Silence

Peace begins its work in silence, in the places and moments we cannot name. Not because we are ready but because grace has always moved unseen beneath the surface of our lives.

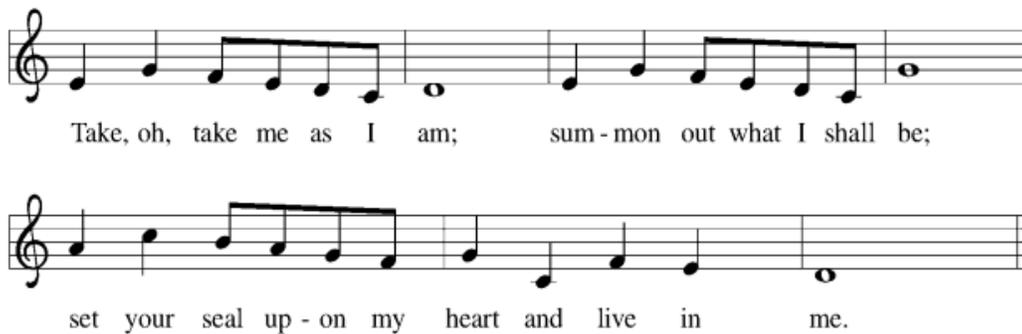
We are not asked to outrun our questions, nor to bind up our sorrow. We are not asked to force peace before its time. We are simply asked to show up—to the mystery, to one another, to the slow, steady rhythm of healing.

And in showing up, something softens. A heart grows wider. A table grows longer. Hope rises quietly and peace returns like the sun breaking the horizon after the longest night.

This is the transformation — not loud, not sudden, but quiet and faithful.

Silence

Song: *Take, oh take me as I am*



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.



Litany of Healing

During these next few songs, you are invited to come forward, light a candle, and place it in the bowl of sand. You may stay here, sit in a chair, kneel at the steps, or stand as long as you wish. If you would like additional prayers, please come find me.

For the last spoken words this evening, I share this final reflection on the words from Brother Roger, the founder of Taizé:

“All who root their lives in forgiveness are able to pass through rock-hard situations, like the water of a stream, which in early springtime, makes its way through the still frozen ground.”

Peace is not always the path we feel ready to walk. It asks us to unclench the grip of fear, to breathe where anxiety has taken our breath. Peace does not erase what has wounded us; it simply offers a way to move through life without being hurt over and over by the same wound.

As water does not force its way through the frozen earth, peace moves the same way—patiently finding openings where none seemed possible. It slips into the cracks of our fear, loosens the ice around our hearts, and makes room for something new to grow.

Let us walk away this evening remembering:

You are not alone.

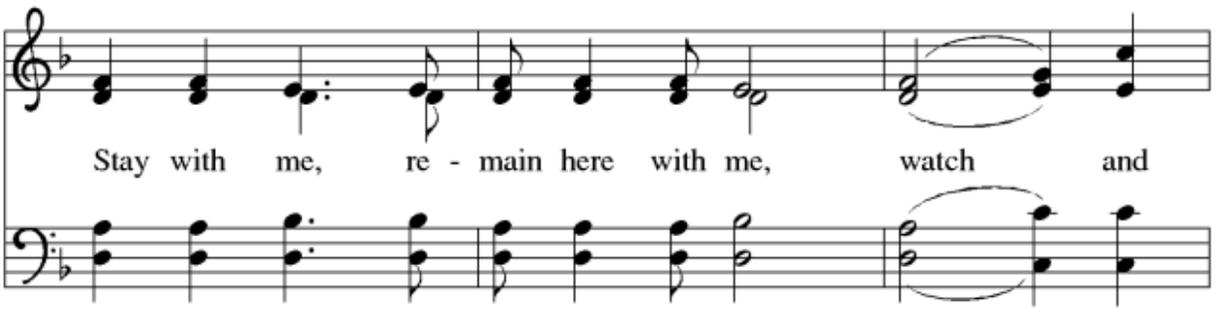
You have never been alone.

And even now, God is making all things new.

And may peace—quiet, steady, and already on its way—find you exactly where you are tonight.

***Songs of Light:
Stay with me
Ubi caritas, et amor
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful***





Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and



pray. Watch and pray.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.



In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the
El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se -



Lord I will re - joice! Look to God, do not be a -
nyor el me - u cant. Ell m ha es - tat la sal - va - ci -



fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is
ó. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc



near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.
por. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc por.