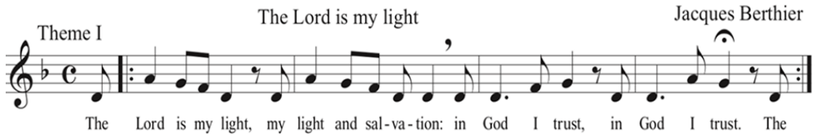
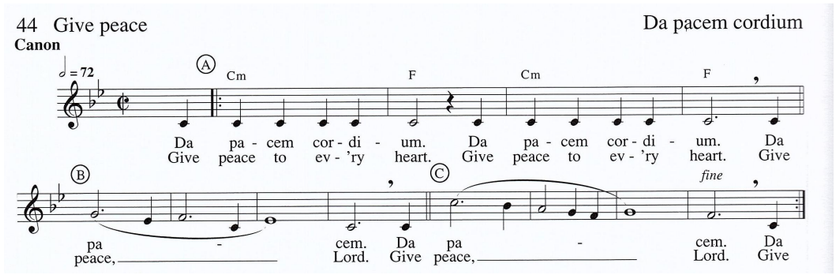
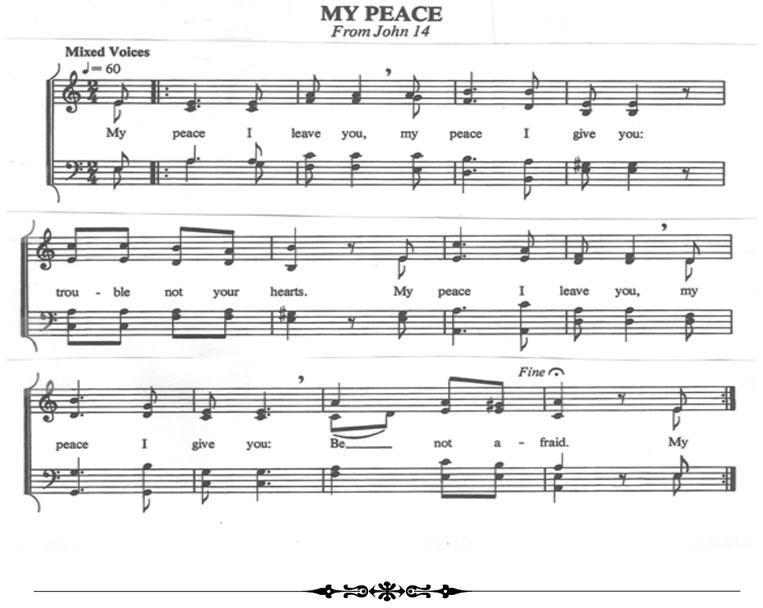




Blessing Prayer

Going Forth

All music selections are from GIA Publications in North America. Words and music © 1991 and © 1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, France. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-710087.

The Labyrinth

The canvas labyrinth used in this evening's service is a model of the labyrinth inlaid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France. A labyrinth differs from a maze in that there is but one path to the center and therefore no "blind ends." Its winding course symbolizes the twists and turns of our lives, yet if we remain on the path, we come to the center eventually. From the center point of illumination, we can return by the same path, only it will be different, because we are different. Walking the labyrinth is a form of prayer in itself. Walk and listen for the inner Voice of the Spirit to speak to you in that still, small voice which speaks Truth.

The Icon

In our service this evening, we are featuring an icon painted by local artist Suzan Sommers, entitled "The Black Madonna." The history of figures of women with dark skin which appeared in Europe during the Middle Ages is not clear. Some feel these figures represented the Earth Mother, as a complement to Mary, the mother of Jesus, who was the "Queen of Heaven." Some say these figures are the result of the way the materials used to create them aged. Others say the inspiration for these figures is from the "Song of Songs," chapter 1, verse 5: "I am black but beautiful." Since no one knows for sure, you may select your favorite among these interpretations or come up with your own. Closer inspection of the painting reveals small figures of the infant Jesus and an angel. You are welcome to approach the painting after the service to view it at closer range.

The Taizé Pilgrimage Community

Taizé [teh-ZAY] is a tiny village hidden away in the hills of Burgundy, in the eastern part of France. Since 1940 it has been the home of an ecumenical community of brothers and sisters whose prayer, three times daily, is at the center of their life. Today, Taizé is a place to which visitors of all ages and backgrounds travel as pilgrims, to participate in international meetings of prayer, Bible study, and reflection.

The music of the Taizé community is designed as short responses which are sung over and over again by the congregation. This repetition of a short phrase or two quiets the busy, everyday chatter of the mind so worshippers can access the deeper realms of heart and soul. As the congregation repeats this response (ostinato), the cantor and instrumentalists overlay this melody with their own, either composed or improvised.

Some of the texts are in Latin. The sound of the Latin vowels is especially clear and simple, helping to create the beauty and calm of the music. If you prefer, however, you may sing all the chants in English.

Healing is a journey
toward spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental wholeness.
Healing happens in relationship
with Self, Others, and God.
Healing brings peace.

For more information
contact Sally Ahner at 615.397.7488 or sallyahner@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/TaizeNashville

Taizé

Service of Prayer and Healing

prayer that
quiets the mind
opens the heart
feeds the soul

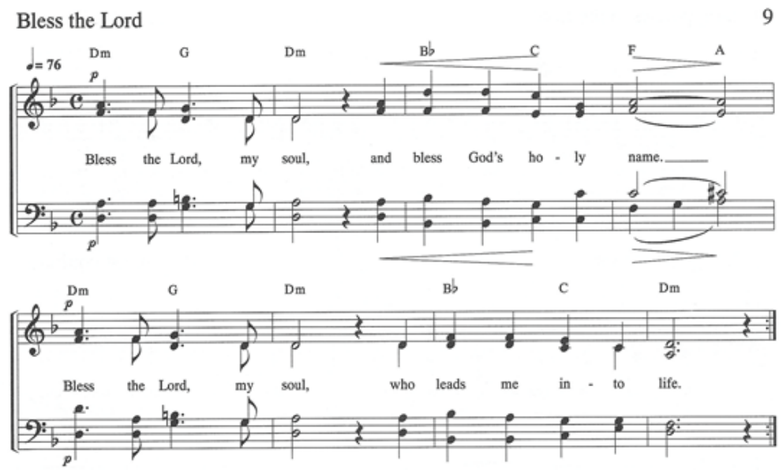
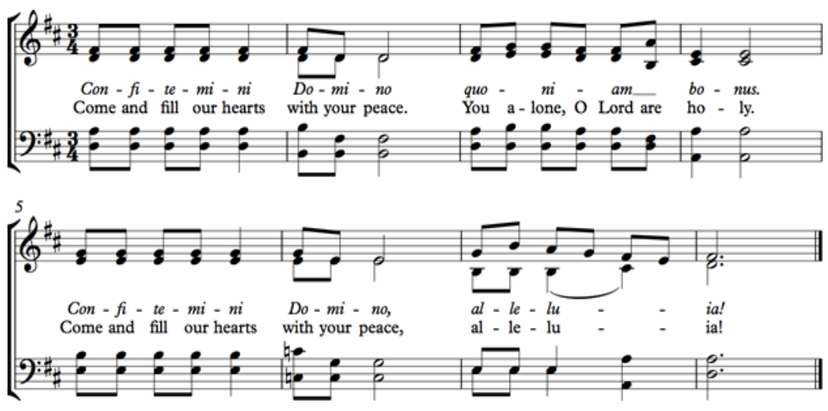
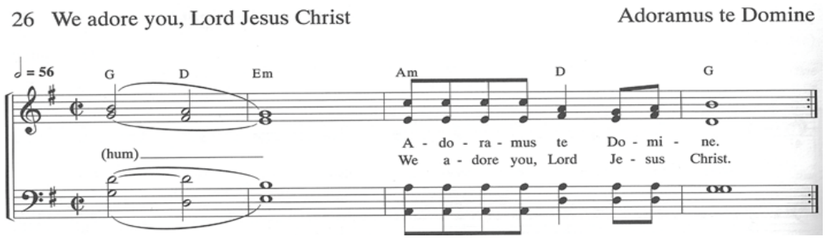
Sunday, March 20, 2022
Five o'clock in the Evening

WEST END
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2200 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

PHONE: 615.321.8500
WEB: www.westendumc.org

Taizé Service of Prayer and Healing
Around the Labyrinth
Sunay, March 20, 2022, 5:00 PM

Meditative Singing



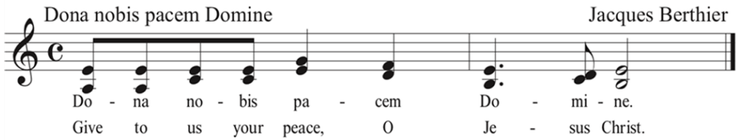
Silence

Prayer Brother Roger of Taizé

Silence

Reading Hafiz (c. 1320 to 1389)

"I have come into this word to see this"

Song in response

Heart-Wisdom Meditation

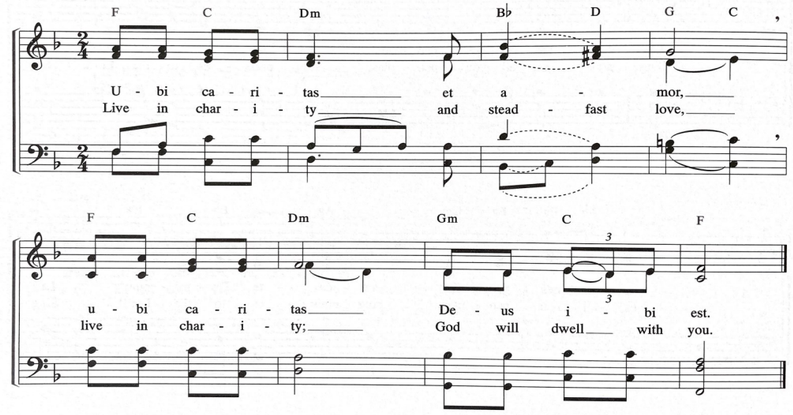
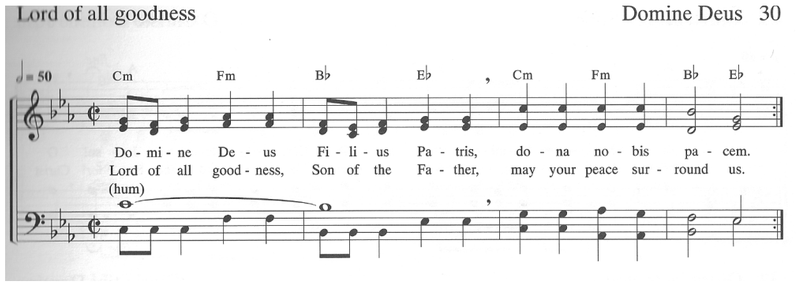
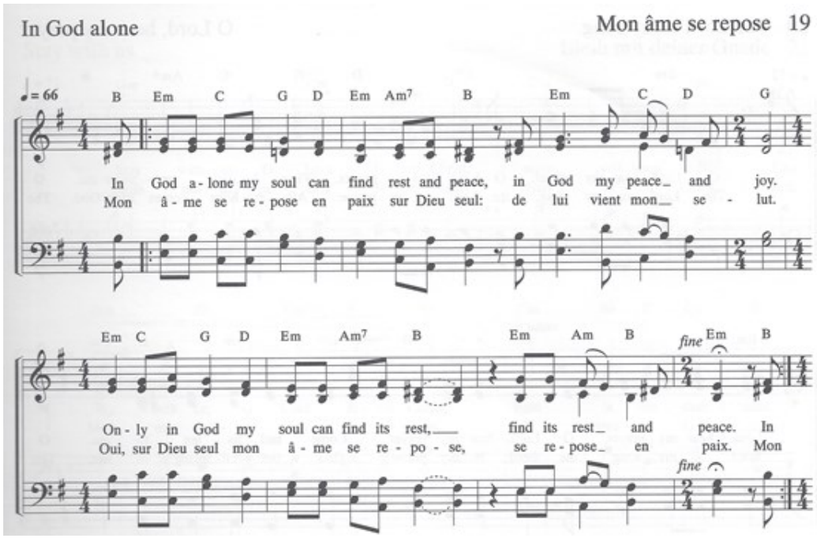
Long Silence

Our Common Prayer

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. Amen.

Silence

Invitation for Healing Prayer

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14)

Selections to be sung during the healing