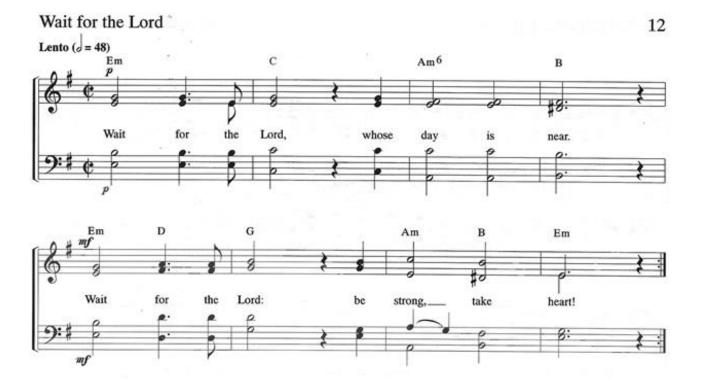
Taizé Service of Prayer and Healing Order of Worship Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:30 PM

Meditative Singing



Our darkness La ténèbre 14





Prayer

Psalm 80:14-15, 19

Return to us, God Almighty
Look down from Heaven and see

Watch over this vine,

The root your right hand has planted, The son you have raised up for yourself.

Restore us, Lord God Almighty; Make your face shine on us, That we may be saved.

Silence

Reading

Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179)

O comforting fire of Spirit, Life, within the very Life of all Creation. Holy you are in giving life to All.

Holy you are in anointing those who are not whole; Holy you are in cleansing a festering wound.

O sacred breath, O fire of love, O sweetest taste in my breast which fills my heart with a fine aroma of virtues.

O most pure fountain through whom it is known that God has united strangers and inquired after the lost.

O breastplate of life and hope of uniting all members as One, O sword-belt of honor, enfold those who offer blessing. Care for those who are imprisoned by the enemy and dissolve the bonds of those whom Divinity wishes to save.

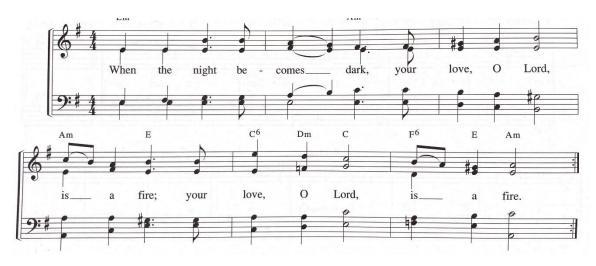
O mightiest path which penetrates All, from the height to every Earthly abyss, you compose All, you unite All.

Through you clouds stream, ether flies, stones gain moisture, waters become streams, and the earth exudes Life.

You always draw out knowledge, bringing joy through Wisdom's inspiration.

Therefore, praise be to you who are the sound of praise and the greatest prize of Life, who are hope and richest honor bequeathing the reward of Light.

Song in Response When the night becomes dark



Silence

Guided 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.

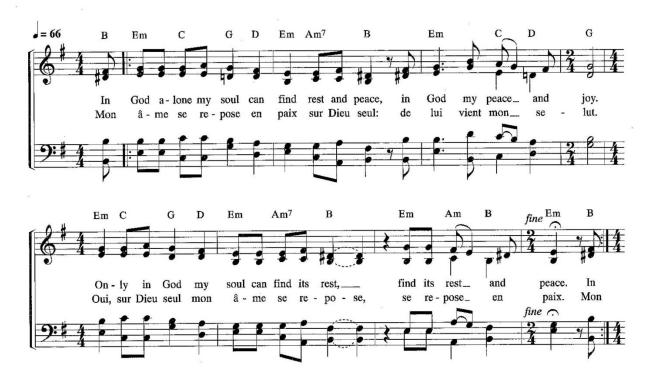
Silence

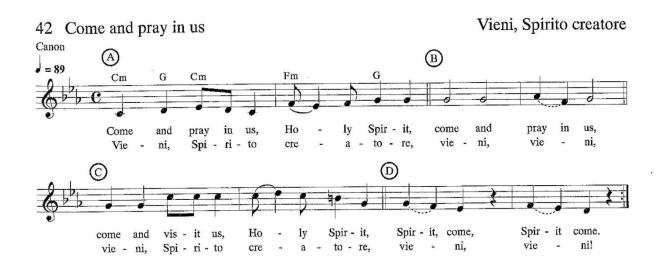
Invitation for Healing Prayer

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:

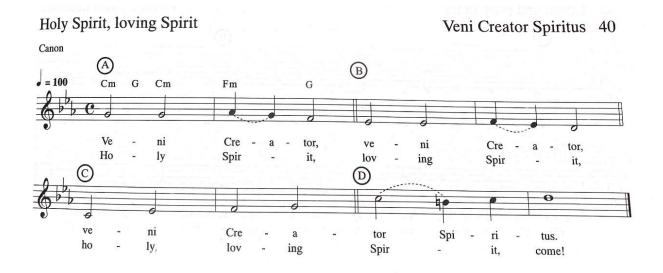






With you, O Lord No. 31





Silence

Blessing Prayer



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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.