

Prayer service in the style of Taizé March 28, 2023 7:00 PM

PRAYING TOGETHER IN WORD AND SONG IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

Welcome to a time of contemplative prayer and meditation. Gathered in the presence of Christ, we sing uncomplicated, repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity.
A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of our prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect and that gradually penetrates the whole being.
Our singing thus becomes a way of listening to God.

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Liz Nickerson

GATHERING SONGS



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SONG OF LIGHT

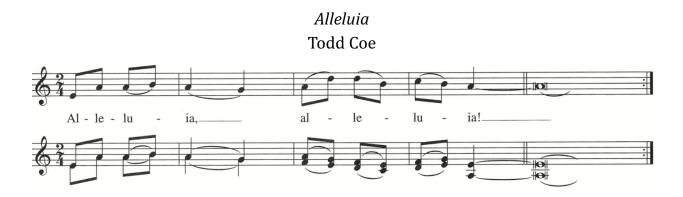
Please stand if you are able

The symbol of light reminds us that even when the night is very dark, whether in our own life or in the life of humanity, God's love is a fire that never goes out. All children present are invited to come forward to assist with the passing of the light. All worshipers who are able stand and sing as the light is passed.



PSALM 143 vv. 1-10, WITH ALLELUIA

The alleluia will be sung as a response after every two verses of the psalm. It is through the psalms, prayed by Jesus himself, that we join our hope to the hope experienced by God's people throughout the centuries.



SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:1–10

Kurt Hansen

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ[—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places[d] in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

Following the reading there is a song, which leads to silence. During this song, all are invited to place their candle in the metal tub. Please first remove the paper disks and place them on the table.



SILENCE

10 minutes

In the depths of our being, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is praying far more than we imagine. If, with a childlike trust, we let Christ pray silently within us, then one day we shall discover that the depths of our being are inhabited by a Presence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liz Nickerson

Please remain seated

To gather our petitions, we lift our prayers to God with the following sung response.



Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy on Us)

THE LORD'S 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

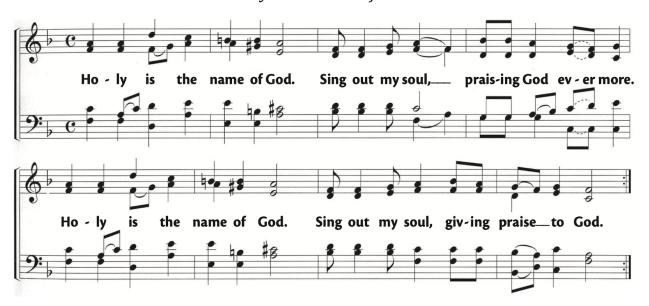
PASSING OF THE PEACE

BENEDICTION

Liz Nickerson

SENDING SONG

Holy Is the Name of God



TONIGHT'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Liz Nickerson Kurt Hansen

VOCALIST

Todd Coe

PIANIST

Pastor Jeff Carlson



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith, and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.
Welcome to our first time guests and our longtime members.
Welcome to single people, tiny children, grandparents and families of all configurations.
Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.
Welcome to each and to everyone.
We are an Open and Affirming church.
We welcome all.
We are blessed by your presence and we are glad you are here.