



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

Taizé Service

17th March 2024 6.30pm

Welcome to Lancaster Priory

We gather today for a different type of service. The focus of this service is prayer, and as such we will not be standing to sing but will remain seated throughout.

Silence is a significant part of worship in Taizé, as we try to calm ourselves from the outside world and allow ourselves to be fully present to the presence of the Holy Spirit. There will be pauses and more extended spaces for silence throughout the whole of the service.

In this order of service, you will see Taizé songs with words and music. Don't worry if you get lost or don't know the tune, as you'll soon pick it up. The songs contain few words, and they are repeated a number of times.

In place of a sermon, we will have periods of time for meditation and silent prayer. This is a chance to still our minds and listen to God.

We hope that you will enjoy the silence as an opportunity to rest and relax in the presence of God.

If it is helpful, you may wish to focus your attention on a word or a phrase contained in our liturgy this evening, on an object which you can see nearby, or to close your eyes and listen to nearby sounds, your breath, your heartbeat. All these things can be a symbol of our desire to be in God's presence.

You will notice your mind wandering. Thoughts are a normal part of silent prayer and to be accepted. By gently returning to your chosen word, object or sound you bring your attention back to God in an act of love.

Instead, you might want to use the prayer labyrinth.

Use your finger to trace the path of the labyrinth, working from the outside to the centre, and back out again. Listen for the inner Voice of the Spirit to speak to you in that still, small voice which speaks Truth.



CONTACTLESS CARD DONATIONS STATION—you can donate to the Priory using the contact-less card reader which stands beside the door. Alternatively, you can give online via GiveALittle using this QR Code:



Acknowledgements

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Welcome and Introduction

Lighting of additional candles and opening silence

Genesis 1:27

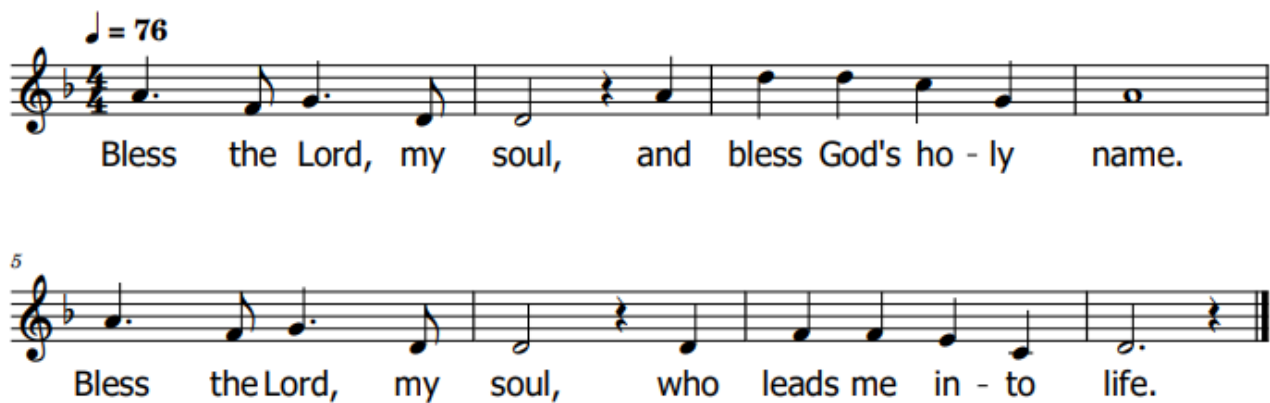
God created mankind in his own image. In the image of God he created them;

God created mankind in his own image. In the image of God he created them;

God created mankind in his own image. In the image of God he created them;

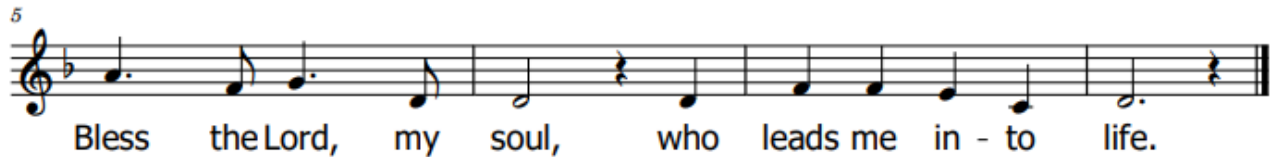
Hymn Bless the Lord my Soul

$\text{♩} = 76$



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

5



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

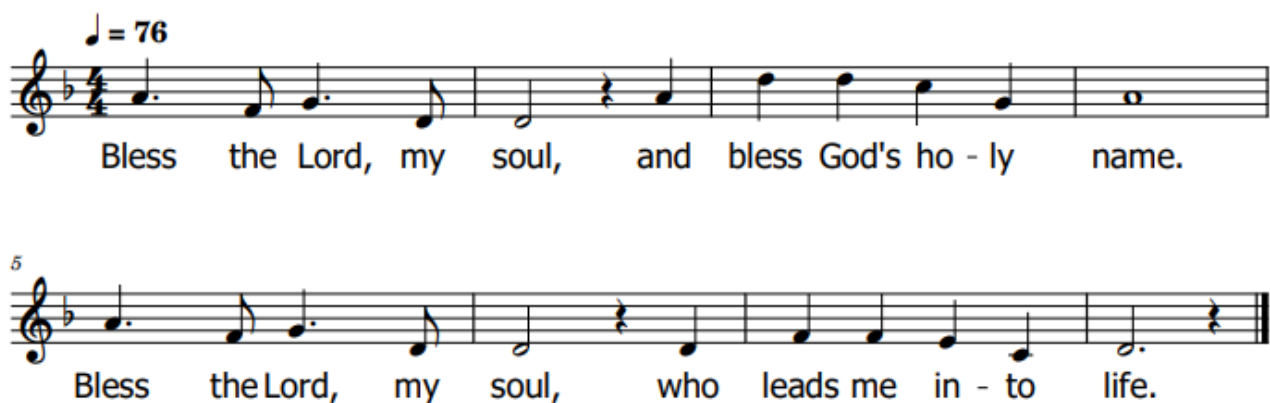
Detailed description: The image shows two staves of musical notation for a hymn. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. Above the staff is a tempo marking '♩ = 76'. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics 'Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.' are written below the staff. The second staff starts with a measure rest marked '5', followed by a continuation of the melody. The lyrics 'Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.' are written below this staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Reflection 1: (Frederick Beuchner: The Remarkable Ordinary)

I am haunted now as I never was before by the sense that we all have the mark of God's thumb upon us. We have a holy place within us that gets messed up in a million ways, but it's there, and more and more I find myself turning inward toward that and trying to learn how to be quiet ... hoping to get another few steps in that direction toward turning off the eternal chatter, the endless dialogue that goes on inside most of us ... and just to exist somehow in the fullness and unspeakableness of the present and let whatever is down in the holy place drift up.

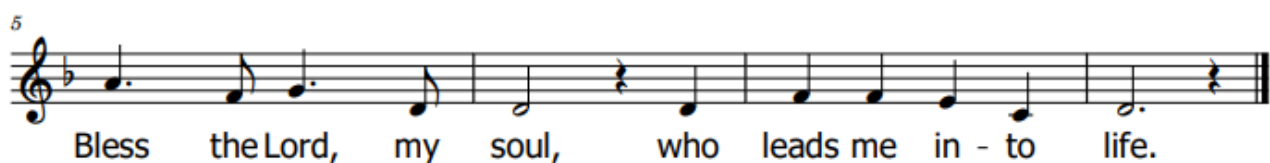
Hymn Bless the Lord my soul

$\text{♩} = 76$



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

5



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Detailed description: This block is identical to the one above, showing the musical notation for the hymn 'Bless the Lord my Soul' with two staves, a tempo marking of 76 beats per minute, and the lyrics: 'Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.' and 'Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.'

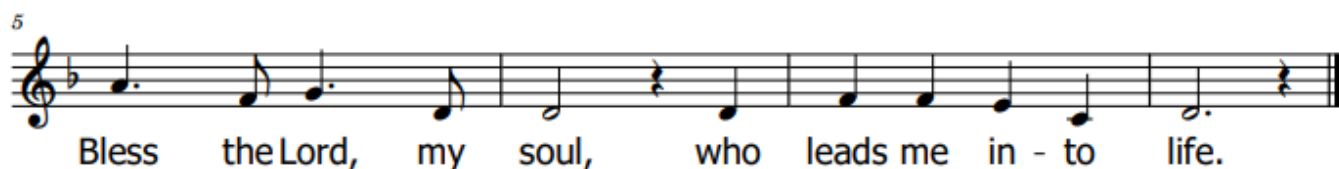
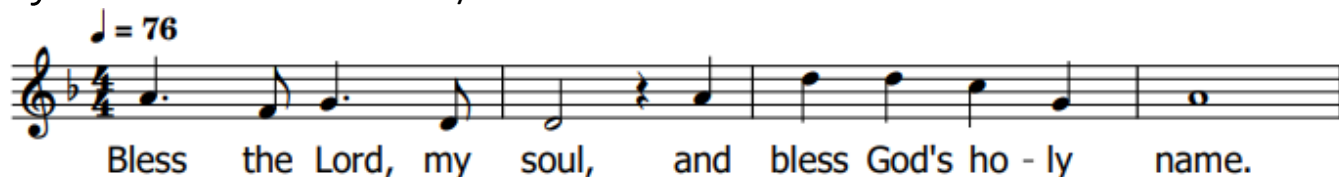
Extended Silence (4 minutes)

Psalms 130/131:

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
My heart is not proud, Lord
my eyes are not haughty. I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
But I have calmed and quietened myself,
I am like a weaned child with its mother:
like a weaned child I am content.
O Israel, put your hope in the Lord
both now and for evermore.

My soul waits for the Lord
more than those
who watch for the morning,
more than those
who watch for the morning.
I will wait for the Lord.
My soul waits,
and in His word
do I hope.

Hymn Bless the Lord my soul



Let us confess:

Lord of light, enter our past,
Dispel the works of darkness,
Destroy the deeds of evil,
Defeat the thoughts of blackness.
Enter the recording room of our memories,
Enter the dark room of guilt and shame,
Enter the secret room of sins hidden or forgotten.
Come, Lord of Light, and forgive.
Come, Lord of Love, and set us free.
Come and scatter our darkness.
Come, draw us closer to you.

Hymn Our Darkness

The musical score for the hymn "Our Darkness" is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff for the piano accompaniment and a single staff for the voice. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 60. The lyrics are: "Our dark-ness is nev-er dark-ness in your sight: the deep-est night is clear as the day - light. Our". The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning and a "Fine" marking at the end. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, supporting the vocal melody.

Reflection 2: (John Philip Newell: Sacred Earth Sacred Soul)

In Celtic wisdom we remember that our soul, the very heart of our being, is sacred. What is deepest in us is of God. Every child, every woman, every man, and every life form is in essence divine. ... Therefore, how the body of another is handled in relationship, how the physical needs of those who are

hungry and homeless are responded to, and how the body of the earth and its resources are treated – all these are holy matters.

Reading: Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37

Response Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

**(R) The law of the Lord is perfect
reviving the soul.**

They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

**(R) The law of the Lord is perfect
reviving the soul.**

In the heavens God has pitched a tent
for the sun.
It is like a bridegroom coming out of
his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run
his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

**(R) The law of the Lord is perfect
reviving the soul.**

Hymn In the Lord I'll be ever Thankful

$\text{♩} = 69$

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-

joice! Look to God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your voices the Lord is

near; lift up your voices, the Lord is near. In the

fine

Extended Silence (8 minutes)

A Prayer for Courage:

Courage comes from the heart
and we are always welcomed by God,
the heart of all being.
We bear witness to our faith,
knowing that we are called
to live lives of courage,
love and reconciliation
in the ordinary and extraordinary
moments of each day.
We bear witness, also, to our failures
and our complicity in the fractures of our world.
May we be courageous.
May we learn.
May we love.
Amen

Prayers for Others:

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:

when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

We pray for all who this night are in pain and distress.

(sung response) O Lord hear my prayer

We hold out to you those living in the shadow of death.

(sung response) O Lord hear my prayer

We hold out to you those caught up in war.

(sung response) O Lord hear my prayer

We hold out to you the homeless and the hungry.

(sung response) O Lord hear my prayer

We hold out to you those who have no work and those whose work is unrelenting.

(sung response) O Lord hear my prayer

We hold out to you the sick of body, mind, and spirit.

***(sung response)* O Lord hear my prayer**

Listen, Lord, listen, not to our words but to our prayer. You alone understand.

Listen, Lord, listen, not to our words but to our prayer. You alone understand.

We hold a short silence

A Liturgy of the Night:

On the first night God said: 'Let there be darkness.' And God separated light from dark; and in the dark, the land rested, the people slept, and the plants breathed, the world retreated. The first night.

And God said that it was Good.

On the second night God said: 'There will be conversations that happen in the dark that can't happen in the day.' The second night.

And God said that it was Good.

And on the third night, God said 'Let there be things that can only be seen at night'. And God created stars and insects and luminescence. The third night.

And God said that it was Good.

And on the fourth night, God said: 'Some things that happen in the harsh light of day will be troubled. Let there be a time of rest to escape the raw light' The fourth night.

And God said that it was good.

And on the fifth night, God said: 'There will be people who will work by night, whose light will be silver, whose sleep will be by day and whose labour will be late.' And God put a softness at the heart of the darkness. The fifth night.

And God said that it was Good.

And on the sixth night, God listened. And there were people working, and people crying, and people seeking shadow, and people telling secrets and people aching for company. There were people aching for space and people aching for solace. And God hoped that they would survive. And God made twilight, and shafts of green to hang from the dark skies, small comforts to accompany the lonely, the joyous, the needy and the needed. The sixth night.

And God said that it was Good.

And on the last night, God rested. And the rest was good. The rest was very good.

And God said that it was very Good.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.

Hymn

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenwards, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Be thou my inheritance now and always,
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Blessing

The Father of many resting places grant you rest;
The Christ who stilled the storm grant you calm
The Spirit who fills all things grant you peace.
God's light be your light,
God's love be your love,
God's way be your way.
And may the blessing of God almighty
The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit
Be with you, and those you love and pray for
Now and always

Amen

We depart in silence.