



LANCASTER PRIORY

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

Taizé Service

9th June 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.



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Acknowledgements

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Welcome and Introduction
Opening Silence

Together we say:
One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.

Hymn I Waited on the Lord

$\text{♩} = 60$

I wait - ed, I wait - ed on the Lord; - I

wait-ed, I wait-ed on the Lord; - He bent down low and re -

mem - bered me when he heard my prayer

Reflection 1: (Thomas Merton: Seeds of Contemplation)

You and I and all people were made to find our identity in the One Mystical Person of Christ, in Whom we all complete one another ...

Therefore we have to remember that we look for solitude in order to grow there in love for God and in love for others. We do not go into the desert to escape people but to learn how to find them: we do not leave them in order to have nothing more to do with them, but to find out the way to do them the most good. But this is always only a secondary end.

The one end that includes all others is the love of God.

Extended Silence (4 minutes)

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

$\text{♩} = 60$

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Our dark-ness is nev-er dark-ness in your sight: the". The second system starts with a measure rest of 4 measures. The lyrics continue: "deep-est night is clear as the day - light. Our". The piece ends with a "Fine" marking over a fermata on a whole note chord.

Our dark-ness is nev-er dark-ness in your sight: the

deep-est night is clear as the day - light. Our

Fine

Psalms 24:1-6

The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
 the world and all who live in it;
 for he founded it upon the seas
 and established it upon the waters.
 Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
 Who may stand in his holy place?
 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Who does not lift up his soul to an idol
Or swear by what is false.
He will receive blessing from the Lord
And vindication from God his Saviour.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
Who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
**The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
The world and all who live in it.**

Gospel reading: Matthew 14:12-23

John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

"Bring them here to me ", he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. Then all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

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 voic-es the Lord is
near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near. In the

Reflection 2: (Henri Nouwen. Clowning in Rome)

In solitude we can come to the realization that we are not driven together but brought together. In solitude we come to know our fellow human beings not as partners who can satisfy our deepest needs, but as brothers and sisters with whom we are called to give visibility to God's all-embracing love. In solitude we discover that community is not a common ideology, but a response to a common call. In solitude we realise that community is not made but given.

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

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

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast:'
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down, and drink and live;'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And I now live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright:'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done.

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.