

# LANCASTER PRIORY

A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

## Taizé Service

14<sup>th</sup> July 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:



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*Welcome and Introduction*  
*Opening Silence*

Together we say:  
**Blessed are you**  
**Lord of all creation.**  
**You have called us out of darkness into light.**  
**Open our eyes to your presence,**  
**Open our ears to your call,**  
**Open our hearts to your love,**  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## 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.

*Let us confess:*

We come to you, Lord, for you alone can heal and restore us.

We are not able to heal ourselves,

We are not able to forgive ourselves,

We are not able to restore ourselves,

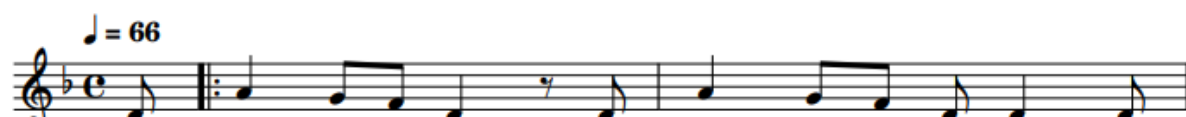
We are not able to sanctify ourselves,

We are not able to satisfy ourselves.

We come to you, Lord, for you alone can make us whole.


## Hymn The Lord is my light

$\text{♩} = 66$




The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in

3




God I trust, in God I trust. Fine

$\text{♩} = 66$



The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in

3



God I trust, in God I trust. The Fine

## **Reflection 1:** (Howard Thurman: Meditations of the Heart)

I seek this day an active wonder.

An active wonder is the desperate need of my mind and spirit.  
The awareness of the unexplored and the untried  
until I find my way into their secret places,  
this I need and I seek.

The illumination of wonder over my familiar landscape,  
revealing in ordinary things, fresh glories;  
making manifest in my familiar heights and depths that which I have never  
known – this I need and I seek this day.

Teach me this day to expose to Thy scrutiny, my Father,  
the frayed edges of my aliveness  
until they are renewed and freshened by Thy Healing and Thy Love.

## **Extended Silence (4 minutes)**

### **Psalm 34:1-10**

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
whose praise shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the Lord;

Let the humble hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord:

Let us exalt the Name together.

I sought the Lord, who answered me,  
and delivered me out of all my terror.

Look upon the Lord and be radiant;

And let not your faces be ashamed.

I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me;  
and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear God,

who will deliver them.

(R) Taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are those who trust in God!

Fear the Lord, you saints,

For those who fear God lack nothing.

## Gospel reading: Mark: 4:26-32

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of God is like seed, that a farmer scatters on the ground. The farmer sleeps, and rises, night and day, knowing that the seed will sprout and grow - though not knowing how. Out from the soil comes first the stalk, then the head, and then the grain. And when the grain is ripe, the farmer comes to collect the harvest. Or the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, which grows into a great tree; and the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.'

## 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

*fine*

**Reflection 2:** (Nadia Bolz-Weber: Extracts from *Too Small to Fail*)

We have just the tiny things of God at hand with which to heal ourselves and this busted up world. But they are enough. The smallest, easily unnoticed, not terribly significant miracles surround us in multitude.

In fact, there is so much beauty in this world that sometimes I think I might cry from the immensity of it. And other times all I can think about is how annoyed I am by how, because of construction, every street in Denver is down to one lane. And that is a perfectly good life of faith.

... I guess what I am trying to say is that the world is just as filled with the glory of God in the times we notice as in the times we don't.

The good things, the tiny beautiful, God-scatters-them-all-around-us things don't go anywhere during the times we can't perceive them due to the weight of grief or even due to the light pollution of a shiny life. They are always here. And they are always ours. And they are always free.

**Extended Silence** (8 minutes)

*Prayers for Others:*

Christ, light of the world, scatter our darkness,

Let your healing spring up with the dawn.

In the darkness around us,

Let this church be a still place of light

A still place of love

A still place of peace

A still place of your presence.

*(sung response)* O Lord hear my prayer

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



Together we say:  
Through us  
May your light flow  
May your love radiate  
May your peace reach out  
May your presence be known.

*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 forever.  
Amen.

**Hymn: 10 000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)**

*Bless the Lord O my soul,  
O my soul, worship Your Holy Name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul.  
I'll worship Your Holy Name*

The Sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Bless the Lord O my soul...*

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,  
Your Name is great and Your heart is kind;

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

*Bless the Lord O my soul...*

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near and my time has come,  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

*Bless the Lord O my soul...*

## **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.

**Amen**

*We leave in the closing silence.*