

St Johns United Church of Christ

Easter Vigil – Taizé Service

Welcome! We ask that once you enter the sanctuary, you remain in silence except for the communal singing and praying, so that the entire service may be a peaceful time of meditation and prayer.

Opening songs:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Reading: Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

Song:

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.

Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.

Reading: John 19:38-42

Song:

Stay with me, remain with me,

Watch and pray, watch and pray.

Silence

Song:

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

(Where there is charity and love, where there is charity, God is there.)

Intercessions

O Holy One, You gather us into community of your beloved children;

Give us life by your love.

Son of the Living God, You have lived our trials and our poverty;

Give us life by your love.

Holy Spirit, You lead us toward all who suffer;

Give them life by your love.

Holy Spirit, You place gifts in our hearts to make us bearers of your love;

Give us all life by your love shared.

(You are invited forward to light candles as we sing together)

Song:

O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer.

When I call answer me.

O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer.

Come and Listen to me.

Sharing Communion Together

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

Closing Song:

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

***Please feel free to remain in silence.
If you choose to depart, please leave quietly.***

About the service: This service is modeled after the services held at the Taizé Community in France, home to a community of Catholic and Protestant Brothers. It is meant to be a worship experience wholly dedicated to prayer and to hearing God's word, using song, scripture, and silent meditation.

About the music: All of the music we will sing was composed for and by the Taizé Community. Each song will be sung through once by the worship leader; you are invited to join in the second time or any subsequent time you feel comfortable with the music. Each song will be sung several times in order to allow you to meditate on the words so that each song becomes a prayer.

About the silence: Following the scripture readings there will be a period of silent meditation lasting approximately 7 minutes. During this time you are invited to offer your own silent prayers, or to simply sit in the quiet and listen. If you are not sure where to start, consider the words of one of the songs we have sung or one of the scripture passages you have heard. We invite you to use the silence to still your hearts and minds, letting the word of God touch you wherever you are.

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;

be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.

John 19:38-42

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.



*"Be still and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10*

St John's United Church of Christ

March 30, 2024

7:00pm