

# Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Export, PA



A Moment of Reflection for Justice & Peace  
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 ~ 7:00 pm

**Welcome! We are glad you are here!**

*There are four ways to connect and participate in this evening's service:*

1. For the streaming YouTube video service at 7 PM, visit our YouTube Channel: [ELC NALC Worship](#) and subscribe.
2. For the TeleGathering audio only service, call in from any Phone:
  - a. Five minutes before the service, call this number: **(712) 770-5505**.
  - b. When asked for the access code, enter **234426**, then press the # key.
3. Through The Free Conference Call app to watch and listen to the video:  
To download the free app., click [HERE](#)
4. On our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/emmanuel.lutheranchurch.7583>  
For our ELC TeleGathering Support Page, click [HERE](#)

# We Need to Pray

The faithful of Emmanuel Lutheran Church welcome you. We come together to spend time with our Lord in prayer to ask for peace and healing during a global pandemic and amid great societal unrest.

To prepare at home tonight, we encourage you to be in a comfortable, quiet, dimly lit room, have this worship aid available and an unlit candle nearby. We will light our candles during the silent meditation following the Gospel reading. We invite you to participate in the singing and the praying of the prayers.

This evening will be our final Taizé service until September. We will break for July and August and resume services again on Wednesday, September 16, hopefully in person. Emmanuel Lutheran Church continues to host Sunday Audio Only Services at 10:15 AM, and during the month of June, we will simultaneously host Drive-In Worship Services with Holy Communion in our lower parking lot. More details are in the back of this worship aid.

All are welcome.

## About Taizé

Taizé is one of the first ecumenical and international monastic orders in the world. The community is located in Taizé, France which was founded in 1940 by a young, Protestant, Swiss seminary student, Roger Schütz, as a place of hospitality and reconciliation for refugees seeking sanctuary during World War II. Today, the community is composed of more than 100 brothers from both Protestant and Catholic traditions who originate from 30 countries around the world. Taizé Prayer Pilgrimages and Intercontinental Meetings around the globe bring together thousands of young people and adults in an effort to discern God's purpose for their lives and become the prayerful, reconciled presence of Christ wherever they live.

Taizé's mission is to bring peace and community to the world by healing the divisions between Christians of different denominations and within the human family. The worship of Taizé is marked by depth and simplicity, consisting of mostly singing simple, repetitive meditative chants composed and published by the brothers along with significant periods of silent meditation. For more information, please visit the community's website: [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

## A Taizé Service is a time of Prayer & Renewal

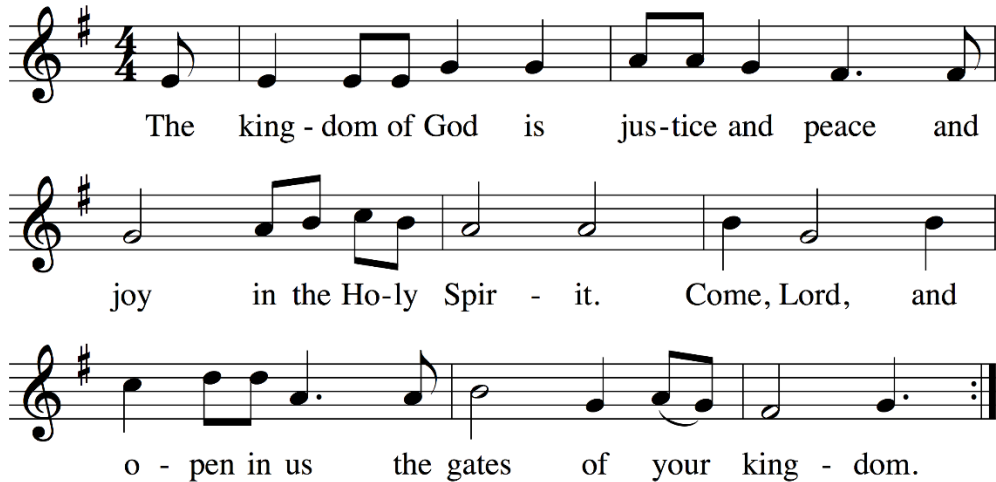
Three times a day, everything on the hill of Taizé stops: the work, the Bible studies, the discussions. The bells call everyone to pray and sing together with the brothers of the community. Scripture is read in several languages. In the middle of each common prayer, there is a long period of silence, a unique moment for meeting with God. Brother Roger was always concerned that nothing in prayer should appear inaccessible—nothing too long or too complicated. For those new to this unique form of musical prayer, we offer a few notes of introduction (from the Taizé service leaflet):

- ***Chant & Refrains:*** Each chant/refrain is repeated many times over in English; with time, you may find a mantra effect to this repetition. Many who attend Taizé regularly, can attest that once a chant is learned and becomes familiar, a space opens up within for the meeting of the soul and the Spirit.
- ***Cantors:*** While the congregation sings, a cantor may sing a descant (an independent treble melody usually sung or played above a basic melody) over the congregation. Please continue to sing the chant while the cantor sings a prayer for us all. Feel free to sing in parts at any time.
- ***Prayers:*** The large cross icon, placed at the front of the church, is a copy of the one painted by Brother Eric of the Taizé community used in their daily services. It might serve as a focus for your prayer or meditation.

# Gathering Song

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Taizé Community



The king - dom of God is jus-tice and peace and  
joy in the Ho-ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and  
o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom.

### ❖ Psalm 85

**Leader:** You once favored, LORD, your land, restored the captives of Jacob.  
You forgave the guilt of your people, pardoned all their sins.  
You withdrew all your wrath, turned back from your burning  
anger.

**All:** Restore us, God of our salvation; let go of your displeasure with us.  
Will you be angry with us forever, prolong your anger for all  
generations?

**Leader:** Certainly, you will again restore our life, that your people may  
rejoice in you. Show us, LORD, your mercy; grant us your salvation.

**All:** I will listen for what God, the LORD, has to say; surely, he will  
speak of peace to his people and to his faithful. May they not turn to  
foolishness!

**Leader:** Near indeed is his salvation for those who fear him; glory will dwell in our land. Love and truth will meet; justice and peace will kiss. Truth will spring from the earth; justice will look down from heaven.

**All:** Yes, the LORD will grant his bounty; our land will yield its harvest.

**Leader:** Justice will march before him and make a way for his footsteps.

## Sung Response

### SEE, I AM NEAR

Taizé Community

"See, I am near," says the Lord.

"See, I make all things new."

Oh, oh.

## ❖ **The Word: Luke 6:33-38**

Jesus said, “if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

## ❖ **Silent Prayer – Candle Lighting**

*At this time, please light your candle, and reflect upon the meditation below.*

## ❖ **Silent Meditation**

How can we understand the words of Jesus: “Do not judge; do not condemn”? It has sometimes been thought that they refer to the excessive harshness of some judgments. But if that were the idea, why could Jesus not have said, “Judge with moderation; do not condemn harshly”? What did he mean, then? The words that follow can help us go in the right direction. Jesus adds, “You will not be judged; you will not be condemned.” He does not only invite us not to judge others. His words also free us from the worry of being judged ourselves, of the judgment we might deserve. They take us out of the world of rights and judgments.

We can move away from “justice” in two different directions. On the one hand there is injustice. But on the other hand, there is that new form of existence the Gospel calls the Kingdom of God. The welcome offered to the prodigal son and the salary the workers of the eleventh hour receive (see Luke 15:11-32 and Matthew 22:1-16) are not, strictly speaking, “just.” But the measure of God’s Kingdom, compassion, is of another order. It is “a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over” (v. 38).

When we try to fix a situation by criticisms and demands, in the best case we obtain what we consider fair and just. But what if God wanted to give us more, to open before us an unexpected horizon? The Kingdom of God is that surprise. One day, Jesus said to those who were working hard to make things better by means of judgments and condemnations, “You do not go into the kingdom of heaven yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them” (Matthew 23:13). Not judging means keeping our eyes open to see the miracle of God and welcoming it in other people and in our own lives.

### ❖ **Personal Reflection for this Evening – Instrumental music**

- What does “loving with compassion” mean for me?
- In what situations do criticisms and demands shut doors and keep us from discovering what God wants to give us and others who are different from us?

*“Holy Spirit, mystery of a presence, you penetrate the depths of our being, and there you discern a longing. You know what our intention is –to communicate your compassion through an infinite goodness of heart.”*

*– Brother Roger Shütz, founder of the Taizé Community*

❖ Prayers of Intercession

# I Am Sure I Shall See

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first system is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: "I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the". The second system starts with a 2/4 time signature, changes to 4/4, and contains the lyrics: "land of the liv - ing. Yes, I shall see the". The third system contains the lyrics: "good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord." and includes a "Last time" instruction with a fermata symbol over the final notes of both staves.

**Leader:** For an end to the violence perpetrated by harsh words, deadly weapons, or cold indifference. May our homes, our nation, and countries around the world become havens of peace.

**All Sing:** I Am Sure I Shall See...



**Leader:** For the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of color, language or culture, and respond boldly to the Holy Spirit's call to act together to end violence and racism. May we protect all those who are most vulnerable and most in need.

**All Sing:** **I Am Sure I Shall See...**

**Leader:** For the wisdom to receive the stories and experiences of those different from ourselves and to respond with respect. May there be healing and justice for all those who have experienced violence and racism and for those suffering with COVID-19 or caring for someone who is.

**All Sing:** **I Am Sure I Shall See...**

**Leader:** For the strength to teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully, and the courage to model it in our own behavior. May we also find the courage to have difficult conversations about racism, and for a better appreciation of how our words and actions – or even our silence – can impact our communities.

**All Sing:** **I Am Sure I Shall See...**

**Leader:** For our faith community, that we may celebrate and welcome the diverse faces of Christ in our worship, our ministries, and our leaders. May we cultivate welcome, extend hospitality, and encourage the participation of people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds.

**All Sing:** **I Am Sure I Shall See...**

**Leader:** For the protection of all police and first responders who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety; for fair and just policing that will promote peace and wellbeing in all our neighborhoods and for our public officials, that they will strive to work for fair education, adequate housing, and equal opportunities for employment for all.

**All Sing:** **I Am Sure I Shall See...**

❖ **Silent & Spoken Prayers**

*Please feel free to add your silent or spoken petitions at home.*

❖ **The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader:** Let us pray together the prayer which Jesus taught us, in the way it was taught to each of us. Our Father...

**Sung Response:**

**NOTHING CAN EVER**

*Nunca Nada Podrá*

♩ = 68

**Ostinato Estribillo / Refrain**

[A] (Romanos / Romans 8:39)

Noth - ing can ev - er come be - tween us and the love of God, the love of God re -  
Nun - ca na - da po - drá pri - var - nos del a - mor de Dios, a - mor de Dios que

Última vez / Last time ☺

vealed to us in Christ Je - sus.  
se re - ve - la en Cris - to.

Estrofas / Verses (Cantor)

[B] Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ D.C.

Última vez / Last time ☺

**Leader:** Jesus our peace, obtain for us the greatest of joys: to have one mind, one love, one soul, and to remember that the Kingdom of God resides within each of us.

Thanks be to God.

**All:** Amen.

*You may now extinguish your candles.*

**O God... help us to  
walk together, pray  
together, sing  
together, and live  
together until that day  
when all God's  
children, Black,  
White, Red, and  
Yellow, will rejoice in  
one common band of  
humanity in the  
kingdom of our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Martin Luther King Jr.**



# Community Outreach

Thank you for sharing in prayer with us this evening and throughout the fall, winter and spring. We will now be taking a break for the summer. If you enjoyed tonight's service, please tell a friend or invite a friend to join us at our next scheduled Wednesday Taizé prayer service at 7 PM on September 16. Until we gather again, (in the sanctuary hopefully!) this service will be available on YouTube (ELC NALC Worship) with a link to it on our Facebook page and website: <http://www.ourlutheranchurch.org>. We will post a reminder about our September service on our website and Facebook page and let you know if we'll be providing a virtual or live service then.

In the meantime, we'd like to invite you to attend our 10:15 AM Sunday audio services led by Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman every Sunday morning. As we gradually transition to worshipping together in the sanctuary again, during the month of June, in combination with our audio service, we will be hosting a Drive-In Worship Service with Holy Communion in our lower parking lot. Please bring your mobile phone! Both the Audio and Drive-In services may be accessed by following the call-in instructions on the front of this worship aid.

Many thanks to Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman, the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council, accompanist Dr. John Salveson, Director of Music and Organist at the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, PA along with the beautiful voices of Kelsey Kotun, Louisa Dieck, Dennis Bell, David McMunn, Gregg Brandt and flutist/soloist, Gloria Christofano.

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See you in September! May God bless you and keep you safe!