

Ash Wednesday - Taize Worship Service

We'll be worshipping tonight in the style of Taize. The Taize community is an ecumenical Christian monastery in France. Taizé music highlights simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture, sung repeatedly. The repetition is designed to help meditation and prayer. We will share in several short scripture readings and there will be a time of silence, about a minute's time after each reading. Relax into the silence.

Please take time now, if you have not already done so, to be in a quiet place where you will not be interrupted. Have a bit of oil for anointing each other or yourself on your forehead or wrist. If you wish, have a bit of fine dirt or dust to make the sign of the cross on others or yourself on your forehead or wrist. Have both bread and juice ready for the communion portion of the service.

Prelude

We invite you to take deep slow breaths and relax into the music and focus on the candle you have lit or listen to your breath.

Song

"Kyrie"

Prayer

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that You have made, from the dust of the earth, You have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Silent Reflection

Second Reading

Silent Reflection

Song

"Come to Me"

Third Reading

Silent Reflection

Song

"Be Still and Know that I am God"

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, open our eyes to see injustice in our world. Give us courage to resist the powers that oppress the poor. Open our ears to hear the cry of the needy. Teach us generosity for sharing the abundance of Your creation. Open our minds to imagine an end to human strife. Grant us wisdom to pursue the ways of peace. Open our hearts to love our neighbors and our enemies near and far. Give us desire to embody the compassion of Christ. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

Blessing of the Dust

(words by Jan Richardson)

Anointing of Oil and Dust to Dust

"Make whole these Your Servants, Lord."

(We invite you to make the sign of the cross on your forehead with oil as you have available.)

"Remember, from dust you have come and dust you shall return."

(We invite you to make the sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes or dirt as you have available)

Song

"Jesus, Remember Me"

Declaration of Forgiveness

Our God is ever merciful. In infinite grace, God made us and called us good. We are good. In infinite compassion, God gave us the Christ, who said, "You are good." We are good. We are already forgiven, even before we asked. Receive and accept the forgiveness of God, through the grace of Jesus the Christ.

Song

"Eat This Bread"

Communion

Invitation to the Table of the Lord

Receiving the Gift of Jesus in the Bread and Juice

Song

"One Bread, One Body"

Benediction

Credits: This service is adapted from Get Lit Worship Resources (getlitworship.wordpress.com).

