



Taize & Carols Worship
Sunday, December 29, 2024 – 10:00 am
First Sunday of Christmas

This style of worship comes to us from the Taize Monastic community in France. Founded in 1940 in the midst of World War II, the community sought to be a place of peace and reconciliation. People from all over the world still worship there every day. The Taize style service is one of quiet contemplation and prayer. The songs are simple and are meant to be repetitive. As we sing the songs over and over, they become our prayers, allowing us to focus and quiet our minds and hearts. There will also be times of extended silence throughout the service. While they may seem awkward at first, you are encouraged to spend the time meditating on the Scriptures we read, praying or simply just being still.

Prelude

Celebrate the Child

O Little Town of Bethlehem (V. 1 & 4) ELW 279

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Song Go Tell It On the Mountain ELW 290

A Time for Silent Prayer

A Reading from the book of 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Moment for Silence & Meditation

Song

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "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." The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in the second system and chord markings (C, Dm, C, F) in the third system.

Psalmody

Psalm 148

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
- 2 Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**
- 3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
- 4 Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,
- 6 who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- 9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**
- 11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 young men and maidens, old and young together.**
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

A Reading from

Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song

I Am Sure I Shall See

E A/C# A D Bm Bm/D E E7/D
I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the

3 A/C# A E Bm F#m F#m/E
land of the liv - ing. Yes, I shall see the

6 Bm/D D/F# C#m C#m/B F#m/A Bm/D Bm E
good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord. I am

A Moment of Silence

Healthy Habits

(from *Parables of a Resilient Nomad: 10 Years, 500 Kitchen Tables, No Map* by Dawn Trautman)

Autopilot is not all bad. We call the good version of autopilot healthy habits. Healthy habits keep you in shape for the life you'd like to have.

I was reminded of this when my friend Travis and I thought it would be a good idea to climb a glacier in New Zealand.

It turns out that one does not just drive up to the side of a glacier, get out of the car, and start climbing. Glaciers continually move, so they can't build a parking lot right beside it, because before you know it, six of the best parking spots would be swallowed up in the ice. In addition, this glacier was surrounded by a beautiful rain forest that no one wanted to disturb by building a road into it. Thus, we had to follow a steep trail through the rain forest to arrive at the edge of the glacier.

After about an hour of hiking uphill into the rainforest, we paused for water. I was winded. My friend was fine. I attributed this difference to the fact that he runs on a regular basis. Because of his exercise habits, he was more prepared for the hike than I was. Later, once we got up onto the glacier, our skills were more matched and we had a truly memorable day.

Preparation has a significant effect on your experience of an event. He and I were both hiking on the same trail, but his preparation made the experience much more pleasant for him than for me. He did not train specifically for the glacier, but his life habits had the accidental effect of preparing him.

Sometimes we actively prepare for something we know will happen, and sometimes we end up being prepared simply because of our previous life experiences.

(Author's question: What healthy habits can you add to your life that are likely to prepare you for what's next?)

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Pastor's question: What healthy habits did Jesus have in his life that were evidenced in today's gospel reading (coming up next!)

A Moment of Silence

The Gospel: A Reading from St. Luke

2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

41 Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." 49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song

See, I Am Near

Chords: Eb Bb/D Cm Fm Eb Bb/D Fm Eb/G Ab/Eb Ab/C Db

See, I am near, says the Lord. See, I make all things new.

5 Eb Ab Db Fm Bbm Bbm/F Eb

O O

The Great Silence

Prayers of Intercession

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (sung after each intercession)

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system includes the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God." The second system includes the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace

Offering

Instrumental

The Communion of God's People

The Lord's Prayer

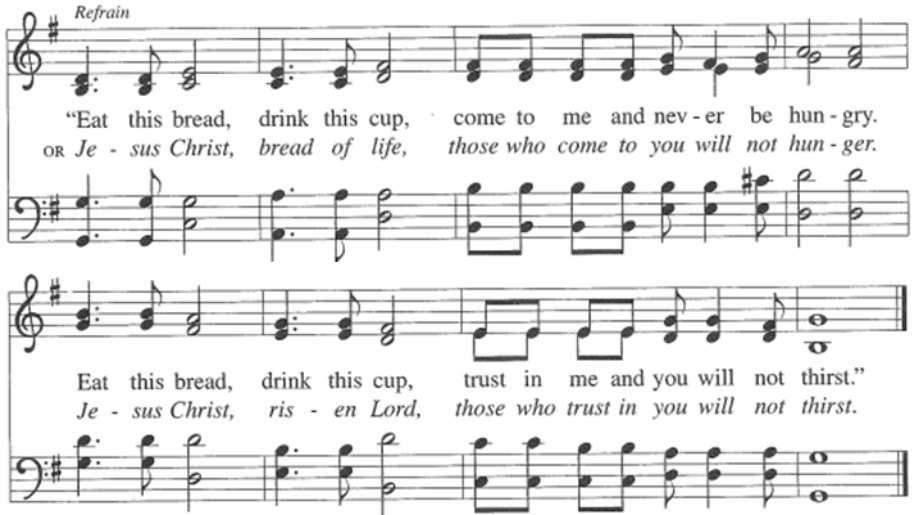
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

****Please note:** Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

(continued on next page)

(repeat during communion)

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. C: **Amen.**

Sending Song Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King. Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Joy, unspeakable joy! An overflowing well; no tongue can tell! Joy, unspeakable joy! It rises in my soul, never lets me go!

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love and wonders of His love and wonders, wonders of His love!

Joy, unspeakable joy! An overflowing well; no tongue can tell! Joy, unspeakable joy! It rises in my soul, never lets me go!

Depart in Silence



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 /2--Shelley Miller

1 /4—Maggie Russell

1/3—Carol Bowes

1/5—Jacque Rossfeld

1 /4--Jennifer Cilluffo

1/5—David Glenn

Worship Servants for December 29

Assisting Minister—Bethany Uhl

Lector—Kathi Ivany

Musicians: David Husser, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Tom & Jana Rockne In Memory of our loved ones*

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Dale Wentzloff / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee— Gail Goldsmith / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer— Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors— Gail Goldsmith

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Jim Hinds

Counters—Barb Graf / Kate Holtfreter

BLC ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JAN 5 AFTER THE SERVICE: Please attend if you can. It is critical for you to be involved in knowing the financial status of our congregation and in voting to approve the budget for 2025. Copies of the budget are available at the back of the sanctuary. If the service has to be cancelled due to bad weather on Jan 5, the meeting will be postponed to the following Sunday.

VISIONING RETREAT SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 11: Our Visioning work is well underway and we are experiencing a well-deserved pause during this Advent and Christmas Season. Our mission statement has been created and we are now going to be doing some "heavy lifting" in creating the Vision Statement. The January retreat is open to those who would like to join the work of the Visioning Team and Pastor Roger Hardy as we move into this next phase. **The retreat will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 11, at Liv Arbors, 2955 Leggett Drive (off of Hartman Road).** There is no cost and lunch and snacks will be provided. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet posted in the church gathering space by Sunday, January 5. For those attending, we ask that you plan to stay for the entire retreat in order to complete the tasks planned for that day! Many Thanks! Blessings as You Continue your Preparations for the Christ Child!