

WELCOME

Thank you for coming!
Welcome to our Lenten Taize service.

First United Church of Christ and Conference Center is
a church with full real life standing in the Eastern Association;
Southern California Nevada Conference of the
United Church of Christ (UCC).
It's good to be real in Second Life!

And as a UCC church, we'd like you to know that
"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."

Our service will be in voice and text.
Music will be on the media viewer, so be sure that you have voice and media turned
on.
If you don't know how to do that, let someone know and we'll try to help.
There will be a link in Nearby Chat so you can watch it in your browser if the
viewer isn't working for you.
There is a bulletin for the service in the red binder near the door.

Taize worship is a contemplative type of worship developed by the ecumenical
monastic community of Taize, France.
It incorporates repetitive prayers set to music, sometimes in different languages,
along with moments of silent prayer, scripture, and other readings or prayers.
The use of repetitive sung prayers allows us to to turn off our thinking mind and
allow the music and prayer to sink into our hearts.
I encourage you, if you are some place where you feel safe doing so, to try singing
along with the sung prayers once you get the rhythm.

Let us open our hearts to God.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

VIDEO: Nada te Turbe
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvfTVxgkWpo>

MOMENT OF SILENCE

VIDEO: The Kingdom of God
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL1_IhVTJmk

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A reading from Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame...
Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
The Lord leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble the Lord's way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep the Lord's covenant and the Lord's decrees.
For your name's sake, O Lord,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
O guard my life, and deliver me;
do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

VIDEO: Stay With Us, O Lord Jesus Christ
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ygxWfRC-J8>

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A reading from Ephesians 4

Now this I say and testify in the Lord:
you must no longer walk about as the atheists and agnostics do -
in the emptiness of their minds.
They are being darkened in their understanding
because in their ignorance and hardness of heart
they alienate themselves from the life of God.
They have lost all sense of moral grounding,

handing themselves over to selfishness and
putting all their expectation in themselves to make their lives better.
But this is not what you learned from Christ!
You put aside your previous conduct,
your old self which was being corrupted by deceitful longings.
Instead, you were renewed in the spirit of your minds,
and you were clothed with the new self
which was created by God in true righteousness and holiness.

So then, having put away what is pseudo,
you all must speak truth to each neighbor,
for we are members of one another.
Of course, you may become angry at times,
but you must not sin!
Don't let the sun set on your anger.
You must not let the Devil find any available real estate in you!
If you are taking what you are not working for, stop.
Put your hands to work doing what is good
so that you can even help others who are in need.
Any words that are worthless must not come out of your mouth.
Instead, only speak the words that are good for building each other up
so that your words may give grace to those who are listening -
do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God
with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption!
Also, along with all evil, put aside all bitterness, wrath, anger,
empty pontifications, and saying things about God that are not true.
Instead, be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other,
just as God in Christ has forgiven you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TIME OF SILENCE MEDITATION - about 5 minutes

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

In the silence of our hearts or in words typed in Nearby Chat
let us give thanks for the gift of this day
and pray for the life of the world ...

if you have a prayer of joy or concern that you wish to lift to God, and have
supported by the energy of those gathered here, type it in Nearby Chat at this time.
Please conclude your prayer with the words, "Lord, in your mercy" so we know you are
finished.
When you see "Lord, in your mercy," you may wish to respond with "hear our prayers."
Lord, in your mercy,

Lord hear our prayers
those voiced here today

those spoken only in the depths of our hearts
those for which we have no words,
we lift them all up to you
with faith that you know, better than we,
what is needed.

We pray all this, in the name of the one who taught us to pray together:

Our Father
who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name
thy kin-dom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for Thine is the kin-dom
and the power
and the glory, forever.
Amen.

VIDEO: Within Our Darkest Night
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqQsZK570X8>

Lyrics:

Within Our Darkest Night
You kindle a fire that never dies away,
That never dies away.

Thank you for coming!