

WELCOME

May Grace and Peace be with you in the name of our Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be with you on this Friday night.

Thank you for coming!

Usually, Pastor Jamie leads Friday.

I am covering for them today.

My name is Yadi Martínez-Reyna, I am one of the Pastors in this community.

And anyone you see with a "Minister" tag is an ordained UCC minister in real life.

Welcome to our 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, if you want one, 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.

Take a moment friends to seek a time of mediation and reflection.

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.

I invite you to light a candle,

As our candles are lit here in our sanctuary,

to remind us of God's presence with us,

and to set aside this as a time of meditation for you.

And now let us invite the Holy Spirit....

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Come Lord Jesus, Maranatha (sung in various languages)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srCwBJ0-ZY0>

SCRIPTURE

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV

I should weave in and out on this text as we contemplate as the music plays.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

My Soul in Stillness Waits - Marty Haugen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=111vQVdvvgg>

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything....

Let us acknowledge if there is any anxiety in your life today, or anything that might cause you concern.
Breath in -
Acknowledge what it is maybe even naming it
And Breath-
Know your not alone the Holy-One is right there with you.

Taize O Lord Hear My Prayer -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY>

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Let us acknowledge what you bring before God.
Let your request be known to God while this song plays

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.

Confession

Whole God, We confess that we have paid so little attention
to the sources of joy in our daily lives.
We have such constant access to the terrors and traumas of this world
that it has become difficult to see anything else. We have sneered and mocked the
happiness of others, dismissing their fun as immature or juvenile.

We have possessed sparse imagination for the relationship between sorrow and joy,
often demanding joy present as mere cheerfulness.
We have grown so used to the sinister curiosity around Black pain, that we've
created a culture where it is consumed as the only Black experience worth attuning
to.

Liberate us, God.

And have mercy on our imbalanced assessment of daily life,
that in our survival we would cling to the practices of joy we've
inherited and find some measure of peace. Amen.

Give Peace (Da Pacem Cordium): A Taizé Virtual Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GybHTGNGvI>

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV

Peace may be far.

Peace may be different for each of us.

Peace for someone might look like being surrounded by family opening gifts, sharing
stories.

Peace for some might look like an AA (Alcoholic Anonymous) meeting or an Al-Anon
meeting (designed to help people who are affected by a loved one's drinking
behavior.)

Peace might be found in a traditional church setting listening to a sermon, worship,
or being among community.

Peace might be found in the movies, eating popcorn and enjoying the telly (as my
Brit friends might say)

Peace might look like gardening.

Peace might look like a nap or perhaps sitting in a tub full of water and lavender smells with candles around you.

The scriptures says that God's peace surpasses all understanding.
It guard your hearts and your minds.

Jesus in John says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

I want you to name what a nugget or a moment of peace might look like at this time.
Breathe in and see it in your mind.
Breathe out and may it be so..

My Peace -- Taizé Song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPkN7by6XAk>

Benediction

Be at peace.
May you access the fullness of a joy that allows for both an
interior solemnity and a levity.
May you learn to be at rest with yourself, able to access a peace
that carries memory but isn't chained to the past.
And may you laugh, allowing the mystery of joy to steady you
always and keep you from despair. Amen.

Black Liturgies - Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for staying human
by Cole Arthur Riley

Thank you for coming!