

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....

We begin our day alone,
honoring this life with all its potentials and possibilities

We begin our day with trust,
knowing we are created for loving encounter.

We begin our day with hope,
knowing the day can hold love, kindness, forgiveness and justice.

[Take a deep breath in and long slow breath out followed by a moment of silence]

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

REFLECTION - (From the book - Living Resistance by Kaitlin B, Curtice.

Presence is about recognizing our relationship to ourselves and one another.
Potawatomi author and scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer puts it like this: “

The land is the real teacher.

All we need as students is mindfulness. P

aying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world, receiving the gifts with open eyes and open heart.”

What do we learn from this wisdom?

We learn that reciprocity is resistance.

That mindfulness is resistance.

That paying attention to the land is resistance, and it leads us deeper into relationship with all things and all beings.

I keep a begonia plant in my office, on my desk by the window.

It's thriving in that spot, right beside the bright light that filters in through the blue curtain in the afternoon.

I have learned to care for begonias because I have killed a few in my time, and every time it is painful to admit that I could not keep them alive and well.

When this begonia plant flourishes, I am full of hope.

But still, sometimes I notice that they are thirsty. I pour water from my own drinking glass into the plastic container beneath the pot, so their roots can drink first.

Within seconds, the water disappears, and I say to myself, "Oh, you were so thirsty."

They keep drinking and blooming and asking for more care in that most gentle way plants do,

and I say that I am sorry when they are too thirsty or too drenched in sunlight.

And I wonder how thirsty we are, or if we notice,

if that mindfulness and way of keeping watch happens in our own souls.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

My Soul in Stillness Waits - Marty Haugen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lllvQVdvvgg>

I wonder if we let others know when we need a drink or a break from the heat, or that we might need a little deadheading here or there.

And when we get closer to the water, we drink it up within seconds, begging for more, while nearby someone says,

"Oh, Love, you were so thirsty."

I wonder if we even notice that we're thirsty.

Presence is resistance, in almost every way we can imagine—

presence to ourselves, presence to each other, presence to whatever we should be paying attention to in that moment.

Mystics of every religion have written on this because they knew why it mattered then and why it matters now.

For us to be fully alive, we must be present,

and when we are, we resist hate in ourselves and in the world around us.

Taize O Lord Hear My Prayer -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY>

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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!