

WELCOME

Thank you for coming!
Welcome to our Taize service.

First United Church of Christ and Conference Center is
a church with full real life standing in the 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.

If you would like a bulletin for the service, you can find it 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, poems 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.

You may also want to light a candle wherever you are,
as our candles are lit here in our sanctuary,
to recognize the Spirit's presence with us
and set aside this time for worship.

Now, let us take a moment and in silence open our hearts to God.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

"Veni Sancte Spiritus" – Virtual Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us-v4s1sUX4>

MOMENT OF SILENCE

"Nada te turbe"

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

Chorus:

Nada te turbe, nada te espante;
quien a Dios tiene, nada le falta.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante:

sólo Dios basta

(Translation)

Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
everything passes,
only God stays.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

MATTHEW 20:29-34 (NRSV)

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him.

There were two blind men sitting by the roadside.

When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted,

"Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!"

The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly,

"Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!"

Jesus stood still and called them, saying,

"What do you want me to do for you?"

They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened."

Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes.

Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

"Behüte mich Gott"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6-UneKFm2I>

Translation:

Behüte mich Gott, ich vertraue dir. Du zeigst mir den Weg zum Leben. Bei dir ist
freude, freude in Fülle!

Translation:

Keep me, O God,

for I trust in You.

You show me the path of life.

With You there is fullness of joy.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

"Begin" by Brendan Kennelly

Begin again to the summoning birds
to the sight of light at the window,
begin to the roar of morning traffic

all along Pembroke Road
Every beginning is a promise
born in light and dying in dark
determination and exaltation of springtime
flowering the way to work.
Begin to the pageant of queuing girls
the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal
bridges linking the past and the future
old friends passing through with us still.
Begin to wonder at unknown faces
at crying birds in the sudden rain
at branches stark in the willing sunlight
at seagulls foraging for bread
at couples sharing a sunny secret
alone together while making good.
Though we live in a world that dreams of ending
that always seems about to give in
something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever begin.

TIME OF SILENT 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.

"Bless the Lord, My Soul"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJvrAHZ1TU8>
Lyrics:
Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life.

GO IN PEACE