

WELCOME

Thank you for coming!  
Welcome to our Sunday 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.

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.  
The scriptures are the Psalm and the New Testament Daily Readings from the Revised  
Common Lectionary.

Let us open our hearts to God.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

VIDEO: Let All Who Are Thirsty Come  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaxRwEZH5kg>  
Lyrics:  
Let all who are thirsty come,  
let all who wish to receive the water of life freely.  
Amen, come Lord Jesus, amen come Lord Jesus.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

VIDEO: See I Am Near  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_gfim2bySg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_gfim2bySg)  
Lyrics:  
(Refrain) See, I am near says the Lord. See, I make all things new.

The grass withers, and the flower fades, but the word of our God remains forever.  
Monte sur une montagne, porteur d'heureuses nouvelles; élève ta voix, n'aie pas peur.

Those who hope in God renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles.

À qui comparer Dieu? À qui est-il égal? Ouvrez les yeux et voyez.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PSALM 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God,  
    according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
    blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
    and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
    and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
    and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
    and blameless when you pass judgment.  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
    a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
You desire truth in the inward being;  
    therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
    wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
    let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
    and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
    and put a new and right\* spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
    and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
    and sustain in me a willing\* spirit.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

VIDEO: Ubi Caritas

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9e\\_Q01ATho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9e_Q01ATho)

Lyrics:

Ubi caritas et amor,

Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est

[where charity and love are, God is there]

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

### HEBREWS 4:1-13

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, 'As in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest" ', though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.' And again in this place it says, 'They shall not enter my rest.' Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he sets a certain day—'today'—saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.' For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day. So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs. Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

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: I Am Sure I Shall See  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Wm\\_hjF\\_PO8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Wm_hjF_PO8)  
Lyrics:  
I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
In the land of the living.  
Yes I shall see the goodness of my God,  
Hold firm, trust in the Lord

Thank you for coming!