



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

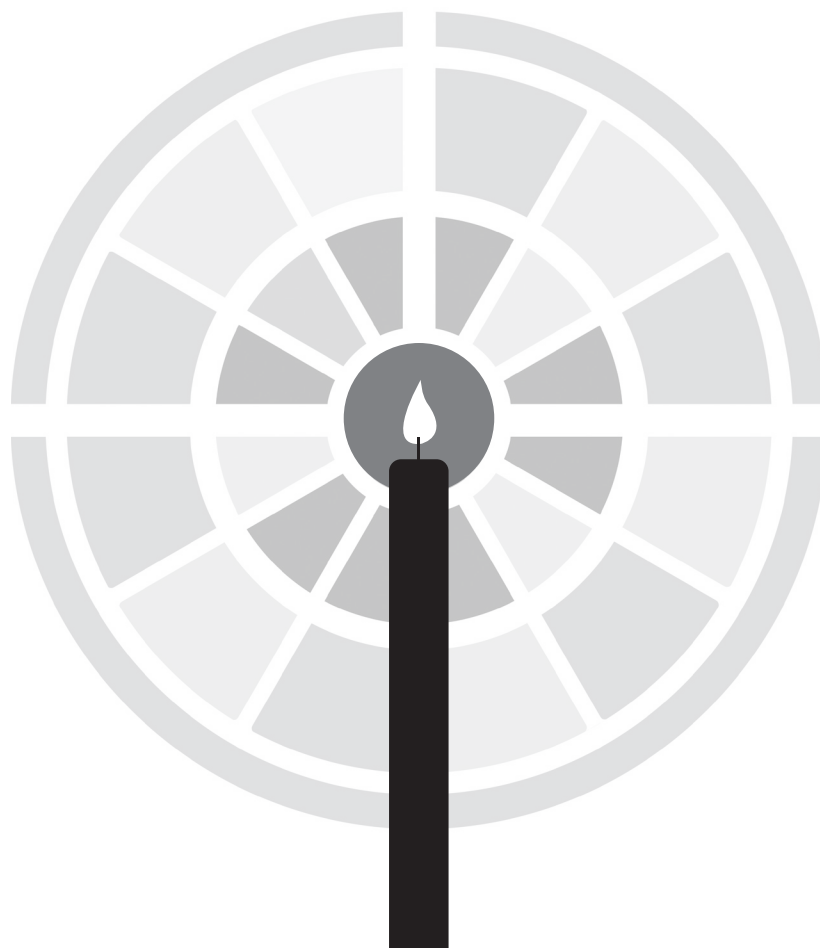
CANDLELIT PRAYER

with music from

TAIZÉ

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

7:00 PM



Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all Coast Salish tribes.

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral and this service of Taizé Prayer. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!

Tonight's liturgy incorporates elements observing the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, also known as Candlemas, including a new musical composition, Be still and rejoice, by Gregory Bloch.

To learn more about Taizé Prayer at Saint Mark's, visit saintmarks.org/taize.

If you are new to Saint Mark's and would like to learn more, please consider completing a newcomer form found in the pew rack, visit saintmarks.org/newcomers or simply contact one of the clergy. Grace and peace to you!

Thank you for attending this Candlelit Prayer service with music from Taizé at Saint Mark's Cathedral. Please consider supporting the ministries of Saint Mark's by placing money in the offering basket as you leave, or using Venmo (please put Taize in the memo line; the four-digit code is 2076 if asked). May God's peace be with you this night and always.



As the community gathers, all are invited to settle in silence. You may remain seated throughout the entire service.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WELCOME

This and each song will repeat for several minutes. All are invited to join in the singing.

GATHERING SONG *Jesus, your Spirit in us*

WORDS & MUSIC: Taizé

Je - sus, your Spi - rit in us is a wellspring of life ev - er - last - ing.
Kris - tus, din A - nde i oss är en käl - la med por - lan - de vat - ten.

PSALM

Psalm 121 ♦ read aloud by all

(trans. Taizé)

LLIFT UP my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.
May God never allow you to stumble!
Let your guard not sleep.
Behold, neither sleeping nor slumbering,
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
and stands at your right.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.
The Lord will guard you from evil,
and will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. ♦

SONG

Be still and rejoice

WORDS: Matthew J. Briggs (1989–2021); MUSIC: Gregory Bloch (b. 1978)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Be still" followed by a triplet of notes for "(Be still)", then "and re-joyce in God,". The piano accompaniment mirrors the vocal line with a triplet for "(Be still)". The second system continues the vocal line with "As God" followed by a triplet for "re-joyces in you.". The piano accompaniment also features a triplet for "re-joyces in you.". The key signature is two sharps (D major) and the time signature is 4/4.

READING

Luke 2:22-40

WHEN THE TIME came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
 according to your word;
 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. ♦

Incense is placed on the coals at the altar. All are invited to remain seated in silence, for yourself and others, and enter into an extended period of meditation.

THE GREAT SILENCE

*A poem offered for silent meditation:
Candlemas Song (author unknown)*

*I was not there.
I did not dream my way
up prayer-worn Temple steps
as you did, Christ-Mother, that day.*

*I was not there.
I did not scan the gloom
or clutch a hand for courage
in the Temple waiting-room.*

*I was not there.
I did not hear the praise
which ancient ones sang of your child
at the midnight of their days.
I was not there.
I did not feel the sting
which bitter-sweet horizons
of your motherhood will bring.*

*But I am here.
And I would know a birth
to bring Divine Light's love
into an aching, longing earth.*

*Yes, I am here.
And I would do my part.
O let a rising blade of Spring
strike fire into my heart. ♦*



SONG

Within our darkest night

WORDS: Taizé; MUSIC: Jacques Berthier (1923–1994)

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a -
 Dans nos obs - cu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é - teint ja -

way, that nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
 mais, qui ne s'é - teint ja - mais. Dans nos obs - cu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, that nev - er dies a - way. (With - in our dark - est)
 feu qui ne s'é - teint ja - mais, qui ne s'é - teint ja - mais. (Dans nos obs - cu - ri -)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The vocalist introduces the Kyrie, all repeat. The intercessor offers the prayers, all repeat the Kyrie when indicated.

Intercessor May your peace shine among us and your love set us free, Lord, we pray.

People Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Intercessor Keep us persevering in faith and set in our hearts the desire for your Kingdom.
 Lord, we pray:

People Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Intercessor Guide your Church along the way of the Gospel; may your Holy Spirit keep her
 welcoming. Lord, we pray:

People Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Intercessor We pray for the leaders of the nations; may they have the will to promote justice
 and freedom. Lord, we pray:

People Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Intercessor O Christ, you have take our weaknesses upon yourself and taken charge of our
 illnesses; support those who are going through trials. Lord, we pray:

People Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Intercessor For those who work with the oppressed, with foreigners and with the lonely. Lord,
we pray:

People **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.**

Intercessor We entrust to you our families and friends, all who have asked for our prayers and
who pray for us. Lord, we pray:

People **Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.**

(“Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison.” is Greek for “Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.”)

CANDLE LIGHTING

All are invited to bring the prayers in your heart to Christ, symbolized by lighting a single candle in the candle bowl. Please place your candle as close to the center as possible, working outward as more candles are added.

SONG DURING CANDLE LIGHTING *Bless the Lord*

WORDS: cf. Psalm 103:1-4; MUSIC: Berthier

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly Name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(prayed by all)*

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
holy and blessed is your name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
we pray that your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day the bread we need,
give it to those who have not enough.
Let forgiveness flow between us.
Deliver us from evil.
For yours is the power and the glory
and the mercy now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

GOD OF MERCY, enable us to surrender ourselves to you in silence and in love. Such trust does not come easily to our human condition. But you open within us the way that leads towards the radiance of a hope. **Amen.**

– Brother Roger Schütz, founder of Taizé, adapt.

CLOSING SONG *Let your servant now go in peace*

WORDS: cf. Luke 2:29; MUSIC: Berthier

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O Lord,' and the piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation. The second system continues the vocal line with 'now go in peace ac - cord - ing to your word.' and the piano accompaniment. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written in Latin and English. The piano accompaniment features a steady rhythm with chords and single notes. The vocal line is a simple melody that follows the text. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O Lord,
Nunc di - mit - tis ser - vum tu - um, Do - mi - ne,
(O Lord)

now go in peace ac - cord - ing to your word.
se - cun - dum ver - bum tu - um in pa - ce.
(O Lord)

ABOUT “BE STILL AND REJOICE”: *This song was inspired by an Advent video reflection written and recorded by Matthew Briggs and Victoria Szydlowski in December of 2020, perhaps the darkest and most isolated days of the pandemic. Several cathedral community members had been asked to create these videos to be released throughout Advent that year, each reflecting on a different passage of Scripture, but it was Victoria and Matt’s reflection, on the opening verse of the Magnificat, that lodged itself in my head. Their video begins: “Before Mary rejoices in the things God does, she first and foremost simply rejoices in God...”*

Matt died about nine months later, in August of 2021. After his death was announced to the community, I shared the video with the community once again, and Matt and Victoria’s words continued rolling around in my head. At some point, I realized I needed to set them to music. When I write music, I almost always begin with a clear concept of what the end will look like, but that was not the cast this time. At various points in the process I thought I was setting a long passage of the text as choral anthem, or a solo with organ, or a duet. Gradually, what I had written was pared down and focused, and finally I discovered that what I had been working on all along was, in fact, a meditation in the style of Taizé, using only final sentence spoken by Matt in the video. At that point, the words of Scripture that inspired the reflection in the first place seemed to click into place as solo verses above the refrain. I’m grateful to the Taizé organizers at Saint Mark’s for including it in this service, where it is being sung publicly for the first time. I offer it to the greater glory of God and in memory of this remarkable person. He was taken from us too soon, but his presence in this world can still be felt, like the ripples in a pond when the pebble can no longer be seen, creating even now new wisdom, beauty, and joy.

– Gregory Bloch

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

READERS

Betsy Heimburger
Michael Perera

MUSICIANS

Keri Adams-Lee
Jane Carter
Ben Cope
Amanda Davis
Sarah Eisert
Hannah Hochkeppel
Arthur Lee
Michael Seewer
Kate Strathdee

USHER

Ray Miller

VIDEO

Gregory Bloch

SOUND

Micah Hayes

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ABOUT THE ICON: *There are two icons for the focus of our prayer tonight. The Virgin of the Sign refers to Isaiah 7:14. "The Lord shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The smaller icon shows Mary bringing Jesus to the temple for his blessing. Jesus is holding a sacrificial dove in his left hand and a scroll of the Law in his right. There is a string connecting them. He is looking away from his mother towards his destiny. Both icons were commissioned by Jane and Dick Carter and written by Alexander Stalnov.*



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