



## Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Taizé Service

February 18, 2026 | 7:00 pm

Welcome in the name of Christ to this annual meditation worship to begin our Lenten Journey.  
The service is inspired by the Ecumenical Community of Taizé, France, which strives to be a  
“parable of reconciliation and community” for the world.

*Be reconciled, all you who enter here:  
Parents, children, partners, friends, enemies;  
Believers and those who cannot believe;  
Christians and followers of other faiths.*

(Variation of greeting posted outside the Church of Reconciliation, Taizé, France)

Artwork: *Bless the Dust* by Jan Richardson

# Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Taizé Service

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\* Please join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**.

We Gather in Silence.

WELCOME

David Prentice-Hyers

*Bless The Lord, My Soul*

A musical score for two voices (soprano and bass) and piano. The score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is for the soprano voice, and the bottom staff is for the bass voice. The piano accompaniment is on the bottom staff. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines. The first section of lyrics is: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second section is: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano part features simple harmonic chords.

Cantor: It is God who forgives all your guilt, who heals ev'ry one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. God does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. As a Father has compassion on his children, the Lord has pity on those who fear him; for God knows of what we are made, God remembers that we are dust.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Friedman

We are dust – whether rich or poor, whether lofty or lowly, whether privileged or powerless, we are all made of the same stuff.

**We are dust – but not merely dust.**

**We are dust into which God has breathed the Breath of Life.**

**Let all that has life and breath give thanks to God.**

Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit.

**Breathe once again into the dust of this world.**

Blow through us with your life-giving breath, and call us into Life, as you did at the beginning of all things.

**Blow through us with your eternal Spirit, refining us, renewing us, reforming us until we are made new.**

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:10

Melissa Anne Rogers

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:17-19

David Prentice-Hyers

**And to them God said, “Because you have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”**

*Stay With Me*

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch \_\_\_\_ and.  
 pray, \_\_\_\_ watch \_\_\_\_ and pray.

Cantor: Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray, watch and pray! Watch and pray not to give way to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak. My heart is nearly broken with sorrow. Remain here with me, stay awake and pray. Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Father, if this cannot pass me by without my drinking it, your will be done.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51:1-17

Mark Mares

*Within Our Darkest Night*

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.  
 With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Matthew Ackerman

*Worshippers are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. In sharing this ancient rite, we recall Genesis 3:19, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Come forward down the center aisle and return by the side aisles. You may choose to be marked on your hand or your forehead, and may respond by saying, "Amen." If coming forward is difficult, a pastor will come to you.*

*Ubi Caritas*

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,  
u - bi ca - ri - tas de - us i - bi est.  
Live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Cantor: Your love, O Jesus Christ, has gathered us together. May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives. Let us love one another as God has loved us. Let us be one in love together in the one bread of Christ. The love of God in Jesus Christ bears eternal joy. The love of God in Jesus Christ will never have an end.

*Christ Jesus*

Christ Je - sus, Lord and Sav - ior! Christ Je - sus, Lord and Sav - ior! Christ  
O Chri - ste Do - mi - ne Je - su, O Chri - ste, Do - mi - ne Je - su! O

Cantor: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where you give me repose. Near restful waters you lead me to revive my drooping spirit. You guide me along the right path; you are true to your name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil I fear. You are there with your rod and staff; with these you give me comfort. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

## SILENCE

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Invitation to the Lord's Table Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

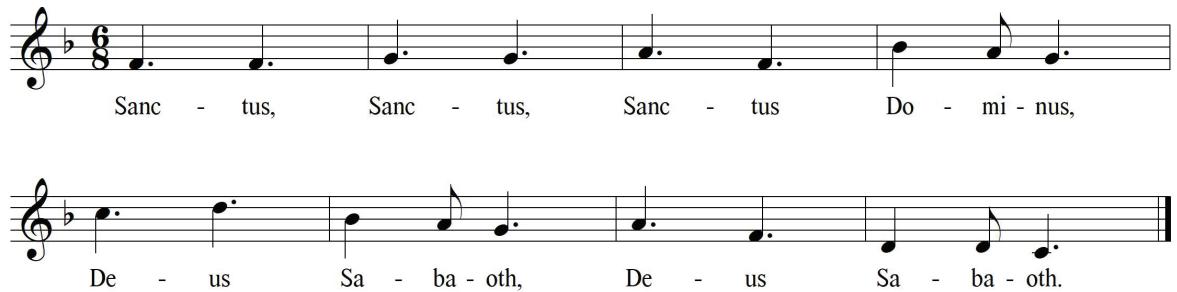
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

願主及你同在  
也及你同在  
舉起你的心  
將你的心獻互主  
做伙來感謝咱的主上帝  
主上帝應該得到感謝及謳咗

### *Sanctus*



Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus,  
Deus, Sabaoth, Sabaoth.

Cantor: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in  
the highest.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom 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 kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

主禱文  
阮佢天裡的父，  
願你的名聖，  
你的國臨到，  
你的旨意得成，佢地裡親像佢天裡。  
阮的日食今仔日互阮。  
赦免阮的辜負，  
親像阮也有赦免辜負阮的人。  
莫得導阮入佢試，  
著救阮脫離彼個歹的。  
因為國，權能，榮光攏是你所有，  
代代無盡。阿們。

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome at this table. All cups contain grape juice. Wafers are gluten free but contain sesame and soy. You may return to your seat by the side aisles. If coming forward is difficult, servers will come to you.*

*When receiving each element, please respond as follows:*  
The bread of life. **Thanks be to God.**  
The cup of salvation. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*By Night We Hasten*  
(instrumental)*Eat This Bread*

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and ne- ver be hun - gry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58:1–11

Michael Hoogeboom

*Veni Sancte Spiritus*

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.  
Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

Cantor: Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Come, Father of the poor, come, generous Spirit, come, light of our hearts. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Come from the four winds, O Spirit, come breath of God; disperse the shadows over us, renew and strengthen your people. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Father of the poor, come to our poverty. Shower upon us the seven gifts of your grace. Be the light of our lives. O come. Veni Sancte Spiritus. You are our only comforter, Peace of the soul. In the heat you shade us; in our labor you refresh us, and in trouble you are our strength. Veni Sancte Spiritus. Kindle in our hearts the flame of your love that in the darkness of the world it may glow and reach to all forever. Veni...



*You are invited to remain after the service as long as you desire for continued personal meditation and prayer.*

## **Worship Leaders**

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Ann Arbor Community Reformed Church: Michael Hoogeboom

Ann Arbor Taiwanese Presbyterian Church: Ho-Tek Tan

Campus Chapel: Matthew Ackerman

First Presbyterian Church: David Prentice-Hyers, Mark Mares, Melissa Anne Rogers, Hanna Richards, Sarah Rutherford

Lord of Light Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry: Elizabeth Friedman

Cantors: Benton DeGroot, Abby Kasenow, Tyrese Byrd

Instrumentalists: Benjamin Maxwell, cello; Yuki Harding, oboe; Eriko Fujita, trumpet; David Hufford, piano

David A. VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

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## **About Taizé**

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We hope that by our joining together as people from various churches and denominations for this Lenten worship, this spirit of reconciliation will be experienced and spread throughout our city and world. Tonight we are called to remember our fragile nature, that we are born and that our bodies die, and that God is infinite and forever. As we have come together from different churches and traditions to join in the body of Christ, let us remember that we come together surrounded and welcomed by the Spirit.

Taizé is a tiny village hidden away in the hills of Burgundy, in the eastern part of France, not far from the town of Cluny. Since 1940, it has been the home of an ecumenical community of brothers whose prayer, three times each day, is at the center of their life. Today, Taizé is a place to which visitors of all ages and backgrounds come on pilgrimage, to participate in international meetings of prayer and reflection.

Taizé's vocation is to strive for communion among all. From its beginnings, the community has worked for reconciliation among Christians split apart into different denominations. But, the brothers do not view reconciliation among Christians as the end in itself; it concerns all of humanity, since it makes the Church a place of communion for all.

Song is one of the most essential elements of Taizé worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give a meditative character. Using just a few words, they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. And these simple songs then enable us to keep on praying when we are alone, by day, by night, and sometimes in the silence of our hearts when we are at work.

Icons contribute to the beauty of worship. They are like windows open to the realities of the kingdom of God, making them present in our prayer on earth. Although icons are images, they are not simply illustrations or decorations. They are symbols of the incarnation, a presence which offers to the eyes the spiritual message that the Word addresses to the ears. By the faith it expresses, by its beauty and its depth, an icon can create a space of peace and sustain an expectant waiting. It invites us to welcome salvation even in the flesh and in creation.

Soli Deo Gloria: To God alone be the Glory.



1432 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-662-4466 / [fpca2.org](http://fpca2.org)