

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
Friends in Christ, Serving Together with Love

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024



*Sermon:
Called to
Loving Service*

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

JOHN 13:34

*Hearing assistance available: FM receivers
and earpieces are stored near the AV room.
See sound technician with questions.*

*Coffee House Worship: in education wing foyer.
Enjoy a more casual environment while
Worship is livestreamed from the sanctuary.*

Welcome to our very special service of Holy Communion and Contemplative Taizé Worship. We hope you will sense God's presence, be challenged by God's Word, and leave strengthened to live for Christ in the world.

*You are invited to sing on all songs. You are invited to sing melody or harmony. You are invited to sing in your native language. You are invited whether you are happy or sad, joyful or hopeless. You are invited to sing aloud or to sing silently. You are invited to sit, stand, or kneel.
You are invited!*

THE GATHERING

*Sing Praise and Bless the Lord
Jesus, Remember Me
Lord Jesus Christ*

S35
T11
T15

WELCOME**CENTERING WORDS****CALL TO WORSHIP** *Psalm 116*

One: Snares of death surround us.

All: Call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

One: Pangs of suffering and grief enfold us.

All: Call on the name of the lord and be saved.

One: Bonds of distress and anguish bind us.

All: Call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

One: Come! Let us worship the God of our salvation!

OPENING PRAYER *1 Corinthians 11, John 13*

All: Your love calls us here, Gracious One, calling us to dine with you and to be instruments of your love. Gather us in Jesus' name, that we may offer the full measure of our devotion. Amen.

TAIZÉ

*Stay with Me
Wait for the Lord*

S8
S12/T30

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Exodus 12*

Let us take a moment for personal reflection.

All: Eternal God, come to us in our need. When your people cried out in Egypt, you are hearkened to their tears. When Pharaoh refused to let your people go, you spared them from death as your plague took Egypt's first born. When your people today suffer abuse and oppression, you hasten to their side. When the helpless and voiceless are silenced, you send prophets to plead their case. Come and bless us with your never-failing love, for we need your power to save us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Psalm 116, 1 Corinthians 11*

One: The Lord is the cup of our salvation. All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** *John 13*

One: Christ gave us a new commandment: to love one another. Let us share this love with one another and find the peace that comes with sharing Christ's blessing. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

TAIZÉ *Nothing Can Trouble* S29
Jesus, Remember Me T11

SCRIPTURE READING [Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; John 13:1-17, 31b-35](#)

SERMON “Called to Loving Service” Pastor Rick Stein

*OFFERING/DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 606

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

TAIZÉ *Within Our Darkest Night* S37

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are welcome at the Lord's table. The ushers will direct you to the front of the sanctuary. Please note that ALL bread is gluten-free and the cup is filled with juice.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ by Intinction

Prayer of Communion

TAIZÉ *Eat this Bread* T7
O Lord, Hear My Prayer S20

BENEDICTION

One: Each week we remind ourselves

All: to go out into the world. Return no one evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, and honor every person. Every person. And rejoice in the Lord always.

One: And now may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with each of you, all your loved ones, and all your concerns, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Nunc dimittis (Let Your Service Now Go in Peace)* T16

...a time of further reflection as you Depart in a Spirit of Mindfulness

The Community of Taizé, France *Worship, Prayer, Community, and Song*

During a time of great strife and division in Europe, Swiss-born Roger Louis Schütz-Marsauche began a spiritual journey to decipher what it meant to actually live out a Christian life. In the throes of WWII, the Church in Europe was further divided by political and ethical dilemmas stemming from the Third Reich's expanding grip, which led Roger to question if there was a better, more Christ-like way for Christians to live together. After traveling to France, Roger purchased a small house on some land in Taizé, an area that soon became the dividing line between occupied and liberated France. Roger spent much of his time there taking in refugees from the war-torn nation, all while planning for a potential community to reflect an ecumenical (universal) Christian life. During a forced trip to Switzerland, the house was seized by the Gestapo and Roger was unable to return for two years.

Post WWII, Roger was able to return to Taizé, this time with seven men, and on Easter Sunday of 1949, the men committed themselves to a life of simplicity, celibacy, charity, and prayer, and began what is now called the Community of Taizé. The Community has since stood as a place of prayer, reconciliation, hospitality, and worship.

Every year, thousands of people flock to the Community to spend time with the brothers in devotionals, scripture study, song, and prayer. Today, there are over one hundred brothers from over thirty nations and a myriad of denominational backgrounds. They live in poverty; everything they own belongs to the community and any gifts or inheritances are given to the poor. One of the defining features of the community is the service of evening prayer which incorporates scripture readings, prayer, psalm acclamations, sung refrains, and silence. These services have been taken back with the pilgrims who visit the Community and have since spread across the globe as a means of worship and sharing of the Spirit with Christians from all walks of life.

Today's Musicians

Rick Fortney	Piano & Vocal
Joan Wojcicki Fortney	Cello
Cathy Graves	Flute
Jim Parry	Violin
Sherry Spenzer	Bassoon
Sarah Waggoner	Vocal
Kim Weaver	Oboe