



Maundy Thursday

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

March 28, 2024

7:30 PM

Tonight, most of our congregational singing will revolve around music from the Taizé Community. The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. Founded in 1940, it is composed of more than one hundred brothers from Catholic and Protestant traditions who originate from about thirty countries around the world.

A popular site for Christian pilgrimage (with over 100,000 visitors a year), communal singing is one of the most essential elements of worship in the Taizé Community. Short phrases from Scripture, repeated again and again, give the singing a meditative character. Singing like this thus becomes a way of listening to God; it allows everyone to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly.

The songs, or chants, from Taizé also sustain personal prayer. Through them, we can find inner unity in God. The music may even continue in our hearts when we are at work or home, speaking with others, or resting. In this way prayer and daily life are united.

These songs allow us to keep on praying even when we are unaware of it. May it be so.

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Tom DiGiovanni, piano, Richard Hotchkiss, cello

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

SUMMONS

"Give Me Jesus"

Elder Don Hannis

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Charlie Frinzi, Liturgist

I love the Lord, who heard my cry.

God's ear was inclined to me.

What shall I return to God for all of God's kindness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

*TAIZÉ SONG

"Stay with Us, O Lord Jesus Christ"

Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, night will soon fall. Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness.

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts, and still you love us - you have loved us to the end. We have denied you, and we have denied our calling to serve one another. We have betrayed you, and we have betrayed your commandment to love one another. Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us. Teach us to love and serve you faithfully. Help us to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us. In your holy name we pray.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*TAIZÉ SONG

"In God Alone"

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:17-18

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

TAIZÉ REPRISE

"In God Alone"

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:20-29

When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

[Darkness begins to fall]

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE LAST SUPPER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

...Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

...As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray: **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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:30-35

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very

night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

[Darkness deepens]

KYRIE

"Kyrie Eleison"

Don Hannis, followed by congregation

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

[Darkness deepens]

TAIZÉ SONG

"Stay with Me"

Stay with me, remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray.

FIFTH SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

[Darkness deepens]

SILENCE

SIXTH SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

[Darkness deepens]

KYRIE SOLO

"Kyrie Eleison"

SILENCE

BENEDICTION SOLO

"Give Me Jesus"

Don Hannis

Congregation departs in silence following the solo.

Thank you to our musicians this evening: Tom DiGiovanni (piano), Richard Hotchkiss (cello), Don Hannis (tenor), Liz Kane (violin), Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy (alto & viola).

Richard Hotchkiss knew he wanted to be a musician well before he started at age 8 in the Philadelphia School System. Mr. Hotchkiss attended Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, now the University of the Arts, studying with Jazz Violinist John Blake, Loren Munroe of the New York Philharmonic and Mihalay Virizlay of the Baltimore Symphony. He has a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Violoncello Performance and performs all kinds of music from classical to pop. Mr. Hotchkiss teaches at his studio in Flemington, at the New Jersey School of Music, and for Hunterdon Musical Arts. Previously, he was on the faculty at the University of the Arts for 30 years.

Don Hannis lives in Frenchtown, NJ with his wife, Maria. They have two children and three grandchildren. Don is the owner of Foundations Pre-School in Annandale. Don comes from a singing family, having sung ever since he was a young boy attending the family church in Cranford, NJ. He has four sisters, all of whom love to sing as well.

Elizabeth (Liz) Kane is a choir member at OGPC and teaches music and choral studies at Bridgewater Raritan School District. She enjoys painting, pottery, and spending time with her husband and two awesome kids. She is happy to share her violin playing with her church community!

Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy loves music of all kinds, and is grateful to share her love of viola (the most underrated instrument of all time, in her estimation!) tonight. She began playing viola when she was 13, but put it down for well over a decade and a half because she would always shake when she played it (ask her to tell you the story). Thank you for helping her be brave in picking it up again! Mostly, praise be to God from whom all music -- shaky or not -- flows.



Our Church's Mission
To celebrate the love of God in all we say and do.

"Blessed are the peacemakers"
We are a gun-free church - buildings and grounds
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