

Taizé

Taizé takes its name from a small village in France located in the hills of south Burgundy where, in 1940, Brother Roger started an ecumenical community committed to simplicity of life. Today the community has over one hundred members drawn from over twenty-five countries and includes individuals from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds. Members of the community do not accept gifts or donations for themselves but exist through their own efforts while being completely committed to the sharing of their material and spiritual gifts with individuals outside their community. Since the 1950's thousands of individuals have visited Taizé to participate in the brothers' unique worship style of prayer and reflection, which they have taken to their own communities.

Taizé is prayer. Upon entering Taizé worship, attention is drawn immediately to the cross and altar. On and around the altar are icons and numerous candles in a rainbow of color that provide balance with the darkness of the church itself. Worshippers moreover become keenly aware of silence upon entering; silence calling us to remain quiet in God's presence and open to the Holy Spirit.

Worshippers participate in worship through meditative singing consisting of repetitive songs to texts taken directly from Holy Scripture accompanied by the sound of a delicate wind instrument or guitar. Repetition invites us to enter into the depth of our being; meditative singing, in fact, becomes a way of listening to God. With the exception of the opening collect and one or two readings from the Bible, there are few spoken words.

The typical service order is:

- Enter in silence
- Opening collect (spoken prayer)
- Three meditative songs
- Quietness (approximately 5 minutes)
- Bible Reading
- Quietness (approximately 5 minutes)
- Song
- Intercessory prayer and Lord's Prayer
- Two Songs

After the last song, worshippers are free to leave or remain for a time of quiet contemplation.

Taizé worship services are held every third Sunday of the month in Christ Church-Albemarle at 5:00 p.m. in the church. These services are open to everyone including worshippers from all denominations. Taizé worship is not a performance either musically or spiritually. Worshippers are participants, not observers and often speak of being struck by the beauty of prayer and the ease with which all present take part.

[Taizé Official Website](#)