

Ways to Pray: Lent 2020 - Taizé Prayer





The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation.

The 100-strong community of Protestant and Roman Catholic monks is drawn from 30 countries across the world.



Taizé was founded in 1940 by Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche ('Brother Roger').

The son of a Protestant pastor he was born in Provençe, Switzerland in 1915.

From an early age he was conscious of the divisions between Protestants and Roman Catholics but he was urged to look beyond them. At university, he first felt the call to monastic life.

He was greatly influenced by his grandmother's tales of helping refugees during the First World War. This gave him a strong desire to reach out to the poor and oppressed.



In 1949, Brother Roger set up a monastic community with Protestants and later with Catholics too. In a public letter shortly before his death in 2005, Brother Roger spoke of the need to "love life on earth, and at the same time long for a beyond, a life that will never end." The monastery is in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. Taize is near the ruins of the monastery at Cluny, which was the heart of European Christianity in the Middle Ages.



Today Taizé is one of the world's busiest sites of Christian pilgrimage. It is also the world's largest young adult ministry. Each year tens of thousands of young people flock to the small village of Taizé in central France to share in the community's way of life.



Following the monastic tradition, the community gathers for common prayer three times a day.

Prayer chants are sung in many different languages and include those from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The structure of prayer is typical of the monastic tradition with a hymn, psalms, a scripture reading and intercessions. The Taizé style of prayer is distinctive.



There are 13 Taizé hymns in our current hymn books including:

Holy Spirit Come to Us
Stay With Me
Eat This Bread
Jesus Remember Me
O God Hear My Prayer



During this time of social distancing, Taizé is unable to receive pilgrims and visitors.

The brothers are sharing daily prayer, in the Taizé style, online each day.

You may join in live or use the recorded prayers each day.

This is a great way to experience the music and prayer of Taizé.



You can visit Taize online at:
<https://www.taize.fr/en>
and
<https://www.facebook.com/taize/>