

Call to Worship

Leader: *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

All: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care

Leader: *Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

All: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Leader: *Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Songs and spontaneous prayers of blessing God

Psalm 133

All: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity

Side 1: It is like the dew falling on mountains, where the LORD promises to bless his people with life forevermore.

Side 2: How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Side 1: It is as if the dew were falling on God's mountain.

Side 2: For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Side 1: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

All: It is like the dew falling on the mountains, there the LORD ordains his blessing, life forevermore.

Prayer for the Church

Let us pray for reconciliation, justice, and peace throughout the world and let us pray, first of all, for the Church, for its unity in faith, witness, and service:

for Pope Francis and the Roman Catholic Church;

for Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and the Eastern Orthodox Churches;

for Archbishop Welby of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion;

for the Oriental Orthodox Churches of Armenia, Syria, Egypt, and Ethiopia;

for the Churches of the Reformation;

for the Community of Taizé and all ecumenical communities and workers;

for all Christians in our local community, and for all who serve Christ,

that we may be one as he and the Father are one.

[silence]

Let us also pray for the reconciliation of peoples and nations: Recognizing our personal responsibility and the responsibility of our own nation, races, and even churches for alienation and injustice, we offer these prayers in a spirit of penitence and faith,

Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father forgive.

The covetous desires of men and nations to possess what is not their own,

Father forgive.

The greed which exploits the labors of men, and lays waste the earth,

Father forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee,

runner forgive.

The lust which uses for ignoble ends the bodies of men and women,

Father forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves, and not in God,

Father forgive.

(Bring our own confessions, personal, sins of our people, our unique Christian traditions)

Father forgive

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

A Short Reading on Brother Roger of Taizé

Brother Roger, was the founder and prior of the Taizé Community, an ecumenical monastic community. In 1944, he returned to Taizé to found the Community, first as a small quasi-monastic community of men living together in poverty and celibacy. Since the late 1950s, many thousands of young adults from many countries have found their way to Taizé to take part in weekly meetings of prayer and reflection. In addition, Taizé brothers make visits and lead meetings, large and small, in Africa, North and South America, Asia, and in Europe, as part of a “pilgrimage of trust on earth”.

All his life, Roger devoted himself to reconciling the different Christian churches. He especially addressed Christian youths. Part of his appeal may have been his dislike of formal preaching, while encouraging a spiritual quest as a common endeavor. From a Protestant background, Brother Roger undertook a step that was without precedent since the Reformation: entering progressively into a full communion with the faith of the Catholic Church without a “conversion” that would imply a break with his origins. In 1980, during a European Meeting in Rome, he said in St Peter’s Basilica in the presence of Pope John Paul II: “*I have found my own identity as a Christian by reconciling within myself the faith of my origins with the mystery of the Catholic faith, without breaking fellowship with anyone.*”

When he was still very young, Brother Roger had the intuition that a life of community made up of men constantly searching for reconciliation could become a sign. That is the primary vocation of taize to constitute what he called “*a parable of communion.*” But monastic life had disappeared from the Churches of the Reformation. So, without repudiating his origins, he created a community which had its roots in the undivided Church beyond Protestantism, and which by its very existence was inextricably linked to the Catholic and Orthodox tradition.

“*Make the unity of the Body of Christ your passionate concern.*” -Brother Roger

Songs from Taize

Spontaneous prayers...for the Church, our city and this gathering

Concluding Prayer of the Church

Leader: Father, look with love on your people and pour out upon them the gifts of your Spirit. May they constantly grow in the love of truth. May they study and work together for perfect unity among Christians.

All: We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom. May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us and establish the work of our hands.