

ST AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CAMANO ISLAND, WASHINGTON

HOLY WEDNESDAY

IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE

April 1, 2026

7:00 P.M.



Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the first-born of all creation...
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things...
making peace by the blood of his Cross.

Colossians 1:15, 19-20

About Taizé Worship

The worship tradition represented in this evening's service began many years ago at the ecumenical French monastic community of Taize. It is a quiet service of meditation, reflection, readings, and music. The experience finds its true meaning in the active participation of all assembled by focusing and deepening our faith through the power of prayer. Therefore, everyone is encouraged to participate as the Spirit moves them, whether that be in song, prayer, or quiet meditation. Much of our modern personal need is for entertainment. We have "busy" souls. The liturgy that has developed around the Taize community is primarily for the worship of God, but it is also meant to quiet the soul. This quietness does not happen at once, but gradually during the worship. There is repetition in the words of the music, there are many periods of silence, and the readings are read slowly – all so that we may have a deep quiet in our hearts to hear and receive that which God is trying to impart. Then we may be still and be at peace in the Presence of God.



Credit and thanks to Epiphany Parish, Seattle for the structure of this liturgy, the above explanation, and the beautiful prayers of intercession.

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
My God shall make my darkness to be bright.
May the light and peace of Jesus Christ be with us.

When all are gathered and quiet, the following is sung as the candles are lighted.

WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some chords indicated by vertical lines. The lyrics are written below the notes.

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory for ever. As darkness falls you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your saving help. May your Word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path, that we may walk as children of light and sing your praise throughout the world: Blessed be God for ever, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*We observe a period of **silence** to recollect God's presence invisibly surrounding us before we sing.*

COME AND FILL OUR HEARTS



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone — Lord are ho - ly.



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone are ho - ly

THE PSALM 70

O Lord make haste to help me you are my de - li - ver - er,

5

O Lord make haste to help me do not tar - ry

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced. *Antiphon*

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!" *Antiphon*

But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry. *Antiphon*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM ISAIAH 50:4-9A

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL

Mixed Voices

$\text{♩} = 76$
p

Bless the Lord my soul and bless his ho - ly name.

p

Bless the Lord my soul, He res - cues me from death.

p

The musical score is for mixed voices, in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a common time signature. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 76 and a dynamic marking of piano (p). The lyrics are "Bless the Lord my soul and bless his ho - ly name." The second system also has a dynamic marking of piano (p) and the lyrics "Bless the Lord my soul, He res - cues me from death." The score includes vocal lines for both treble and bass clefs, with lyrics written below the notes.

*We keep a profound **silence***

After each intercession the congregation sings the antiphon

“O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; Come and listen to me”

INTERCESSIONS

God our Father, you set up the Cross of Christ on Calvary to make plain to people of every race and time that violence and in justice inflict terrible wounds on your own love. Draw us and all humankind to the foot of Christ's cross. There let us discover and admit our share in the continual wounding of your love. There let us find in our common need of your forgiveness the unity for which we long. And from the foot of the Cross let us go out to our daily lives, once more inspired by your love to stand against hatred, prejudice, injustice; and if need be, accept the pain of suffering with Christ, rather than denying the pardon and compassion we have ourselves received from his wounded hands.

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.

Creator, Father, as our planet Earth spins on its endless journey through time and space, enfold it with all its longings, loves, and griefs in your eternal arms. As the night comes we commend ourselves into your safe keeping and ask your blessing on all who are waking to a new day, whether of hope or pain, on the far side of the world. Grant that when our journey of night is ended we may all wake to the unending morning of your new Creation, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.

Father, as we gaze out from our little planet at the vast universe you have made, our hearts and minds are overwhelmed by the immensity and mystery of your creation. A million years is only a passing day in the history of your purposes. Yet out of the abyss of time and space you have spoken to us through Jesus. You have revealed your heart to us, the heart of a Father yearning for your sons and daughters to turn to you so that you can renew our lives with your own Spirit. Father, help us to open our lives to your grace; to turn to Jesus as the one who alone has the key to the strange destinies of our lives; to lift our hearts in trust to you our Father and our God. To you be glory for time and for eternity.

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.

God, the source and fountainhead of all beauty and truth; you have made a universe full of echoes of its Maker's glory. Grant us the open ear, the seeing eye, and the attentive heart, that we may never be content to rest only on the surface of material things, but may find beneath them the hidden presence of your love, brought close to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.

We lift our hearts to you, our Father, in thanksgiving for the gift of music as a language of the human spirit. Give us also the grace of your own Holy Spirit so to tune our hearts to the music of your transcendent joy that we may hear in all our music echoes of the songs of heaven.

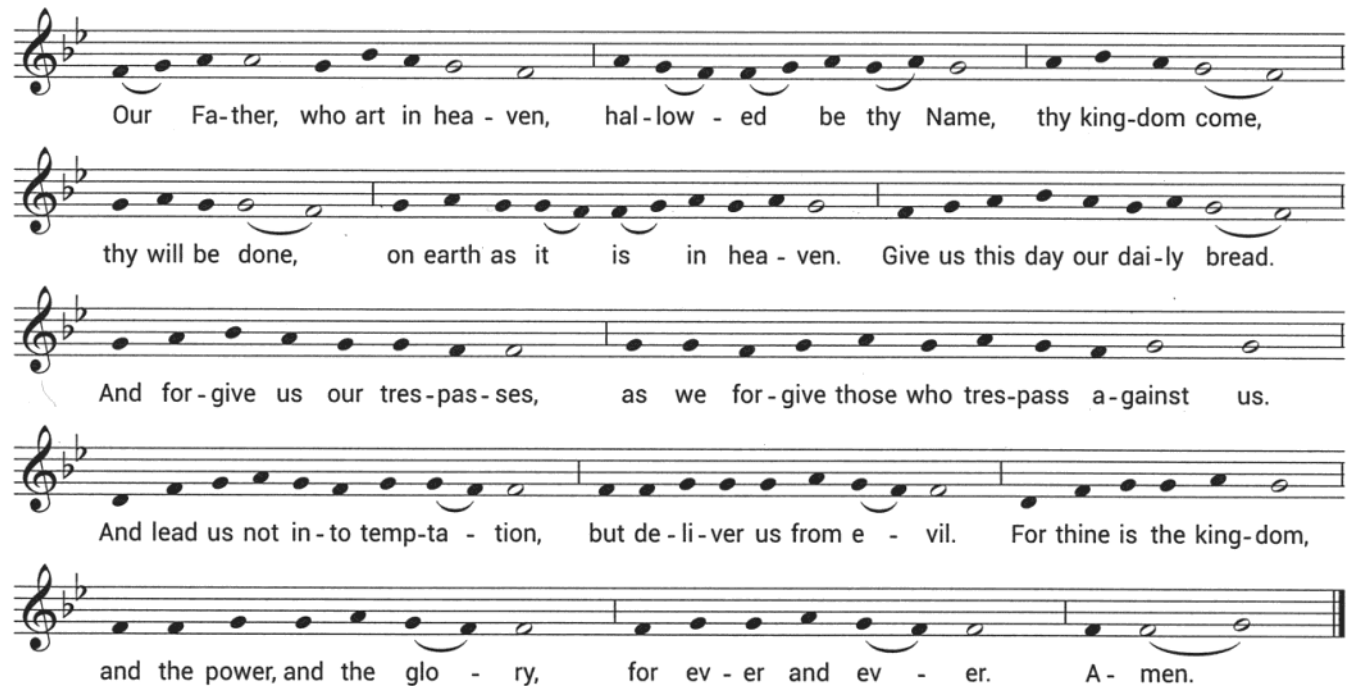
O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him who died for us and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther, who art in hea - ven, hal-low - ed be thy Name, thy king-dom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread.
And for-give us our tres-pas-ses, as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us.
And lead us not in-to temp-ta - tion, but de-li-ver us from e - vil. For thine is the king-dom,
and the power, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

A READING FROM HEBREWS 12:1-3

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

A READING FROM BROTHER ROGER OF TAIZE - *On sin and the universal gift of grace*

For the apostle Paul, Adam represents the unity of the human race and Adam's fault means that, insofar as sin is concerned, there is no difference among human beings: "All are subject to sin, as it is written: Not one of them is upright, not a single one" (Rom. 3:9-10). But Paul is only interested in Adam because this enables him to speak of the impact of Christ, which is just as universal, or even more so, than the contagion of sin: "If death came to the multitude through the offense of one man, how much greater is the effect God's grace has had, coming to so many and so plentifully as a free gift through the one man Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:15).

Christ did not come to snatch a few individuals out of an evil world, but to save humanity. All are sinners, their hands empty before God. But God offers the gift of his love to all. "God, in Christ, was reconciling the world to himself" (II Cor. 5:19). What Christ did "brought justification and life to all humanity" (Rom. 5:18). No one, by their own abilities, can find a way out of the blind alleys that are the common destiny of all humankind. But through Christ humanity is saved, and each person can then welcome this salvation into his or her life.

...When we become aware that every human being experiences the wound of sin, perhaps

we too become more merciful. In the steps of Jesus, we are called to bring healing rather than to denounce pitilessly. It is not a question of downplaying the seriousness of evil, but of knowing that there is no sin that Christ did not come to take away by giving his life on the cross.

SPIRIT OF CHRIST JESUS

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note (C5) and a half note (D5). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of Christ — Je - sus, Spir - it of lov - ing kind - ness, con -". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line with chords. The second system continues the melody with a quarter note (E5), a quarter note (F5), and a quarter note (G5). The lyrics are: "firm your heart and keep it; con - firm your heart and keep — it." The piano accompaniment continues with similar chords and a final whole note chord (G4, B4, D5).

PRAYER BY BROTHER ROGER OF TAIZE

In following you, O Christ, may we choose to love and not to harden our hearts, even when the incomprehensible happens. As we remain in your presence with perseverance, day after day, and pray with simplicity of heart, may you come and make us into people who are a leaven of confident trust by the way we live. And all that your Gospel calls us to, all that you ask of us, may you give. **Amen.**

ADORAMUS TE, CHRISTE

We a-dore you, Je - sus Christ, and we bless your ho - ly name;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, the same key signature, and the same time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

tru - ly your cross and pas - sion bring us life and heal - ing,

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff has a treble clef, two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The bass staff has a bass clef, two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

tru - ly your cross and pas - sion bring us life and heal - ing.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff has a treble clef, two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The bass staff has a bass clef, two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts and set us free by your cross and passion
to sing your praise now and for ever. Amen.

Following the service please remain in silence and depart in silence.

The altar will remain open for personal prayer and devotions after the service. All are welcome to come forward and light a candle in devotion, thanksgiving, or intercession.



HOLY WEEK
AT
ST AIDAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 30:	Holy Monday	Stations of the Cross w/Jeff Johnson	7:00 p.m.
March 31:	Holy Tuesday	Holy Tues. Eucharist w/guest preacher	7:00 p.m.
April 1:	Holy Wednesday	Holy Wed. Taize Service	7:00 p.m.
April 2:	Maundy Thursday	Holy Thurs. Euch. w/stripping of altar	7:00 p.m.
April 3:	Good Friday	Good Friday Liturgy	7:00 p.m.
April 4:	Easter Vigil	Great Vigil of Easter	7:00 p.m.
April 5:	Easter Sunday	Holy Eucharist, rite II	10:00 a.m.

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1318 SR 532, Camano Island, WA 98282

PO Box 145, Stanwood, WA 98292

www.StAidanCamanoIsland.org

Like us on Facebook, Watch us on YouTube

Office@StAidansCI.org

360.629.3969

All music used with permission.
Copyright: OneLicense.net #A-719150