

Taizé Worship

A quiet reflective service of singing, prayer and silence.

WELCOME Revd Canon Graham Hedger

Today, during this challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic we gather together from our homes through the internet, to celebrate Father's Day, and worship God, our Father. With holy words, Taizé chants, silence and prayer, we explore how to be 'rooted and grounded' in God's love.

OPENING SCRIPTURE Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge; so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

OPENING PRAYER

In the whirling wheels of the world, you are with us; when the day takes its toll, you are with us, In the clamour of strife, you are with us; when the world turns sour, you are with us,
Great Spirit, whose breath is felt in the soft breeze, and whose life surges through socket and screen; we seek your love and strength in the midst of this pandemic. May we, and the peoples of the world, live and work in dignity and walk in the power of your love. **Amen.**

CHANT 1

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us, let not my doubts, nor my darkness speak to me,
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us, let my heart always welcome your love.

Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us.
Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re,

Let not my doubts nor my dark-ness speak to me. Lord Je - sus Christ, your
ne lais - se pas mes té - nè - bres me par - ler. Jé - sus le Christ, lu -

light shines with - in us. Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.
mière in - té - rieu - re, don - ne - moi d'ac - cueil - lir ton a - mour.

PSALM 67 (adapted) Led by Jackie Clark

God be gracious to us and bless us; may your face shine upon us.

Make known your ways on earth; your saving health among all nations.

May all the peoples praise you, O God, may all the peoples praise you.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations upon earth.

May all the peoples praise you, O God, may all the peoples praise you.

Then the land will yield its produce and our God will bless us.

You will bless us and the ends of the earth will honour you.

FORGIVENESS

We offer to you Lord, the troubles of this day;

we lay down our burdens at your feet.

Forgive us our sins, give us your peace,

and help us to receive your Word.

SCRIPTURE Paul's First Letter to John, chapter four, verses seven to twelve.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

CHANT 2

With you, O Lord, is life in all its fullness, and in your light we shall see true light,

With you, O Lord, is life in all its fullness, and in your light we shall see true light.

The musical score for Chant 2 is written for a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of three lines of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "With you, O Lord, is life in all its full - ness, and in your light we shall see true light. With you, O Lord, is life in all its full-ness, and in your light we shall see true light." The final line of music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

With you, O Lord, is life in all its full - ness, and
in your light we shall see true light. With you, O Lord, is
life in all its full-ness, and in your light we shall see true light.

MEDITATION – an extract from: **The Desert – a place of solitude** written by Joyce Huggett
Read by Revd Wendy Gourlay

Jesus never forgot the value or the wonder of the wilderness. Throughout his earthly ministry, he seeks solitude – retreating to places where, in the silence, he is reassured of his belovedness, where he immerses himself in the Father's love, where that love takes the sting out of the wounds inflicted on him by friends and enemies alike (see Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:6). These times of solitude recharge his emotional spiritual and physical batteries. Befriending and working with people syphons off energy that needs to be replenished. And Jesus is almost always surrounded by people.

Jesus not only learned the value of the terror and the wonder of the actual desert and substitute deserts, places of solitude, his life was also formed by that other desert – the inner desert or the 'symbolic desert', as it is sometimes called. The symbolic desert refers to any place where the landscape of the spirit, our inner landscape is reminiscent of the bleakness, the barrenness and the beauty of the actual desert – any place, for example, where we are stripped of the resources we normally rely on, those places where we are tested almost beyond our endurance.

It might be an internal place where emotional emptiness yawns, where loneliness haunts us or where the soul feels as parched and dry as cracked soil that cries out for water. The symbolic desert might be an experience of mental anguish or dis-ease that creates havoc of the heart. It might take the form of a paralysis of the soul, a weakening of the body or an oppression of the spirit.

The symbolic desert is any situation of helplessness, hopelessness and terror. It is any place that forces us to make a clean break with the past. It is also a place of wonder, a place where we encounter God in the depths of our being, a place where fresh revelations change the direction of our lives, a place where God whispers words of tenderness in the ears of our heart.

God sometimes needs to push us into the desert. One reason might be that we never try to be alone. This lack of solitude may lead to disaster because there are certain things that we can only work out when we are on our own. Other people may advise us and journey alongside us but sometimes we need to stop in our tracks, be alone with God and allow God's thoughts to become our thoughts.

We may be busy, busy, busy in God's service but have no deep-down awareness that God loves us uniquely. Yet the Father refused to allow Jesus to ride on such a spiritual roller-coaster. The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness *after* the Father had reminded him that he was a much-cherished child.

In today's spiritual climate, we may find ourselves drawn into the desert so that God can whisper tender words into our love-hungry hearts in an environment where we are freed to receive it; where we have rid ourselves of the clutter of other loves. The divine desert-dweller knows how vital this is for our survival. Only when we are rooted and grounded in love will we discover the resilience and the desire to resist the Tempter and place our faltering footsteps into the footprints of Christ.

Joyce Huggett 'Formed by the desert – heart to heart encounters with God.' ©2004 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

SILENT REFLECTION during INSTRUMENTAL Music "*Hidden Promise*" ©2012 Wendy Gourlay; Artwork ©2010 Charmian White

Please ponder the words of the meditation and offer to God the people and concerns of your heart.

INTERCESSIONS Led by Mary Baker

Ground of all being, all people come from you,

may we love one another and seek the common good . . .

In our tiredness be our Rest . . . in our stumbling be our Shield . . .

Into our place of darkness, into our place of strife, into our fears and worries, come with eternal life.

When we neglect you, remind us of your presence . . . ; when we are frightened, give us courage . . . ;

when we are tempted, give us the power to resist . . . ; when we are anxious and worried, give us peace . . . ; when we are weary in service, renew our tired frame.

Jesus, Master of apostles, Teacher of evangelists, Friend of the poor, Crown of saints,
lead us through this dark night into a day of renewal.

Into your hands, O Lord, we place our families, our neighbours, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and
all whom we have met in recent days....

Enfold them in your will. **Enfold them in your will.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we place all who are victims of prejudice, abuse, oppression or neglect;
May everyone be cherished from conception to the grave.

May everyone be cherished from conception to the grave.

Into your hands, O Lord, we place all who are restless, sick, or prey to the powers of evil
Keep them in your peace. **Keep them in your peace.**

Into your hands, O Lord we place members of our community and others in our hearts . . .

Watch over them and watch over us this night. **Watch over them and watch over us this night.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come, thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

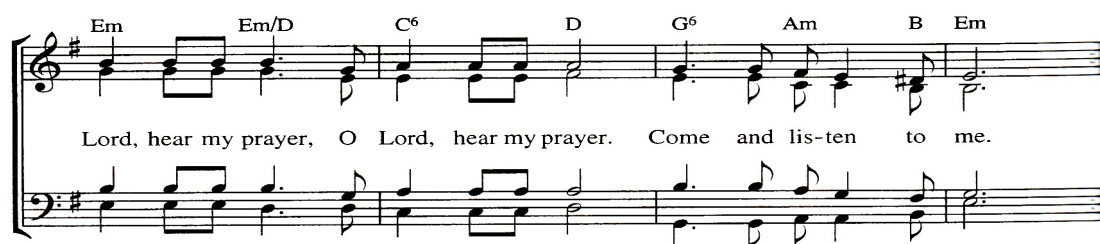
**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

CHANT 3

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.



A SONG OF THE WILDERNESS

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, coming with judgement to save you.'

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.

Then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Joy and gladness shall be theirs, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10

CHANT 4 Sing to the Lord all my being

Sing to the Lord, all my be - ing, let
Lo - be den Herrn, mei - ne See - le, und

ev - 'ry - thing in me pro - claim God's sal - va - tion. Sing to the Lord, all my
al - les in mir sei - nen hei - li - gen Na - men! Lo - be den Herrn, mei - ne

be - ing, and re - mem - ber all of God's mar - vel - ous deeds!
See - le, und ver - giß nicht, was er dir Gu - tes ge - tan!

CLOSING PRAYER and BLESSING

May the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, and that knowing his love, broad and long, deep and high beyond our knowledge, you may be filled with all the fullness of God; and the blessing . . .