

## Intercessions

*Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*O Christ, source of reconciliation and unity, we pray for our country and its leaders as far-reaching decisions are made. Give us wisdom, insight and humility, that we may reflect on the challenges which face us and make choices that reflect your Gospel priorities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*We pray for all whose lives have been touch by the recent visit of the Taizé Community to Birmingham. May the seeds of trust and hope which have been planted in this city grow and flourish. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer***

Let all who are thirsty come

*Let all who are thirsty come,  
Let all who wish receive  
the water of life freely.  
Amen, come Lord Jesus! (x2)*

## Silence

A prayer by Brother Alois, Prior of the  
Taizé Community

*Christ Jesus, by your resurrection you have become our hope. Death, violence and abandonment have not had the last word. Although we do not see you with our eyes, in our prayer we can welcome you, and we can serve you in every person we meet, particularly in those who suffer. To us all you promise God's joy for all time.*

Chant 117 : Nebojte se ♪

We leave in silence.

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Taizé Prayer 95 7th May 2017

## Prayer in the style of the Taizé Community for Easter 4

Welcome! Please feel free to sit quietly or to join in as you feel most comfortable. We will be following a pattern based on the worship of the Taizé Community, one of whose aims has always been to make Christian worship as simple and uncluttered as possible.

Taizé is a small village in eastern France. For almost 70 years, it has been the home of a Christian monastic community made up of brothers from many different countries, speaking many different languages and, uniquely, belonging to several different Christian denominations. Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox and others live and pray together, share a simple life and welcome the tens of thousands of visitors who come to spend time with them every year from all over the world.

*The numbers refer to the orange booklet of Taizé Chants which you received as you joined us. This symbol ♪ indicates that we sing the English translation provided alongside the music.*

## Opening Silence

### *For Silent Reflection*

“Faith is a simple trust in God. It does not offer ready-made answers, but makes it possible for us not to be paralyzed by fear or discouragement. It leads us to get involved, and sets us on the road. Through it we realize that the Gospel opens a vast horizon of hope beyond all our hopes. This hope is not a facile optimism that shuts its eyes to reality, but an anchor cast into God. It is creativity. Signs of it are already found in the most un hoped-for places on earth.[...]

“May our faith remain simple, like the trust of children! This does not mean watering down the content of the faith, but holding fast to what is at its centre: God's love for humanity and for all creation. The Bible tells the story of this, from the freshness of its beginnings through all obstacles, and even human unfaithfulness. God never tires of loving: may this message keep hope alive in us! To allow ourselves and those close to us to be permeated by this message, we need to come together more often to pray. The simple beauty of prayer reflects something of the mystery of God and can lead to a personal encounter with God.”

Brother Alois, Prior of Taizé  
*Together, Opening Paths of Hope (2017)*

Chant 59 : Venite, exultemus Domino ♪

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

Silence

In the silence, we call to mind God's goodness & mercy.  
Then, trusting in Him, we sing...

Chant 37 : Jesus, remember me

From Ephesians chapter 2

*So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth [...] without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. [...]*

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.*

Silence

Chant 50 : Nada te turbe ♪

From St John's Gospel chapter 10

*Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.'*

New Chant : Seek treasure

***Seek treasure that will not fail  
And give to those in need.  
For where your treasure is  
There too will be your heart.***

Long Silence

***Food for Thought in the Silence***

“The Bible tells the story of two men, Peter and Cornelius, who were deeply opposed on all counts, but who met one another and in so doing discovered a truth previously unknown to either of them. They needed to be together in order to understand that the Holy Spirit brings down walls and unites those who thought they were strangers. The dynamism of the Gospel is only revealed when we are together. When Christians are divided, between denominations or within the same Church, the Gospel message is obscured. [...] Christ unites in one community men and women, children and elderly people, of all horizons, languages and cultures, and even those from nations historically opposed. Let us find simple ways to show this in the places where we live.”

Brother Alois, Prior of Taizé  
*Together, Opening Paths of Hope (2017)*

Chant 113 : Bóg jest miłością ♪

Silence