Midweek Lenten Taizé Service

Shenkel UCC
March 11, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Background

This evening's worship follows the Taizé style. A meditative atmosphere is created through the use of candles, repetitive singing, scripture and readings.

What is Taizé? Taizé is a meditative style of worship begun in the village of Taizé in France. Since 1940, an ecumenical community of brothers, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, pray daily, striving for "communion of all.' People, and in particular youth, come from around the world to participate in retreats of prayer and reflection at Taizé.

What should I expect? When you enter the worship area, you will experience a quiet atmosphere with candlelight. A chime will announce the beginning and the end of the service. We invite you to come in quietly, be seated, and listen. You will hear music and readings and you are welcome to sing along once the tune is familiar.

What kind of music is Taizé? The songs are simple, repetitive melodies with meaningful words. You are invited to listen, sing along, or add harmonies. The singing contributes to the meditative atmosphere, and you may participate however you like.

How can I find out more about this style of worship? The community of Taizé has a website in many languages: www.taize.fr. In the ecumenical world, there are many variations of the worship style, but they all include music, readings, and creating a quiet place of communion.

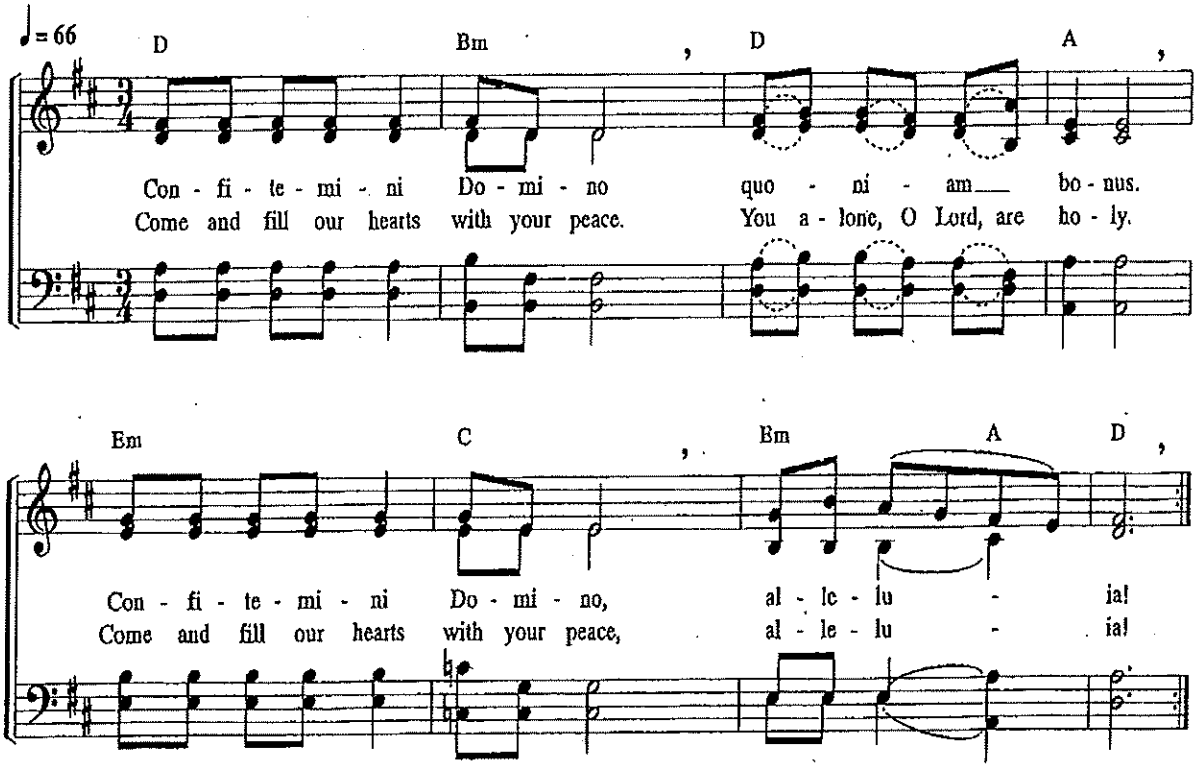
FOLLOWING WORSHIP, PLEASE LEAVE THE WORSHIP AREA IN SILENCE.

Enter in Silence

Bell Chime

Song

Come and fill — Confitemini Domino 28

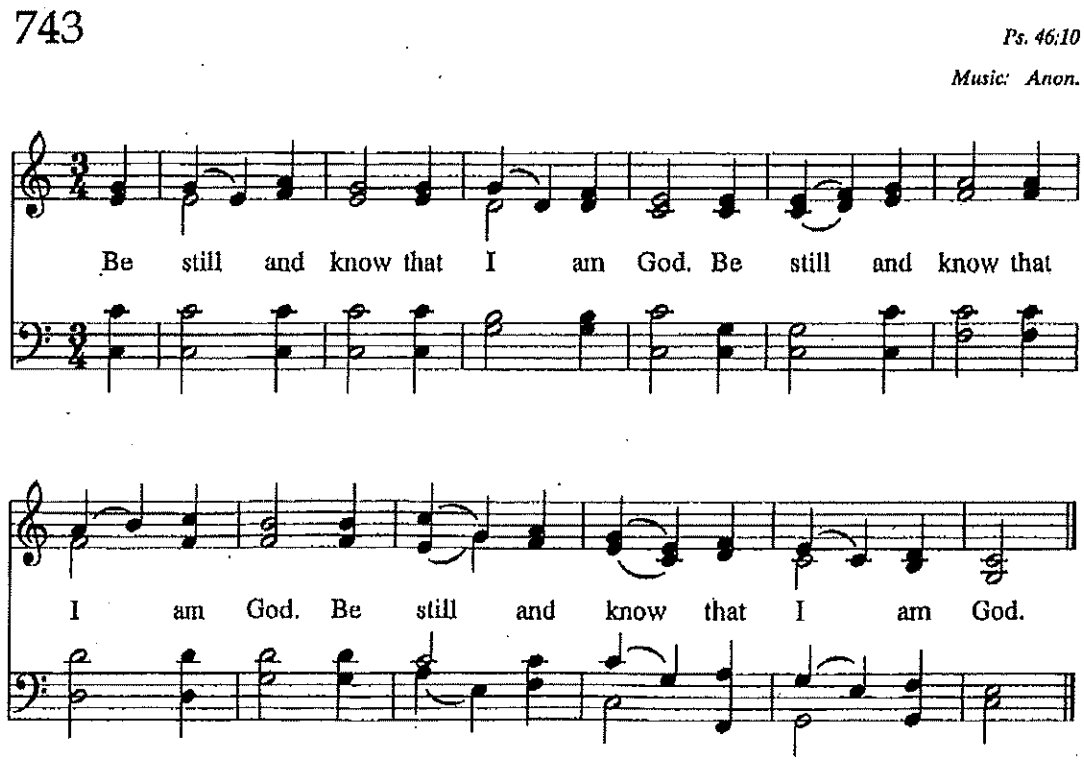


Opening Prayer

O God of the morning and of the evening hours, let your Spirit come on us here gathered. This is the holy place where we, your people, call on you in faith, joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your name. Amen.

Song

"Be Still and Know" NCH 743



After

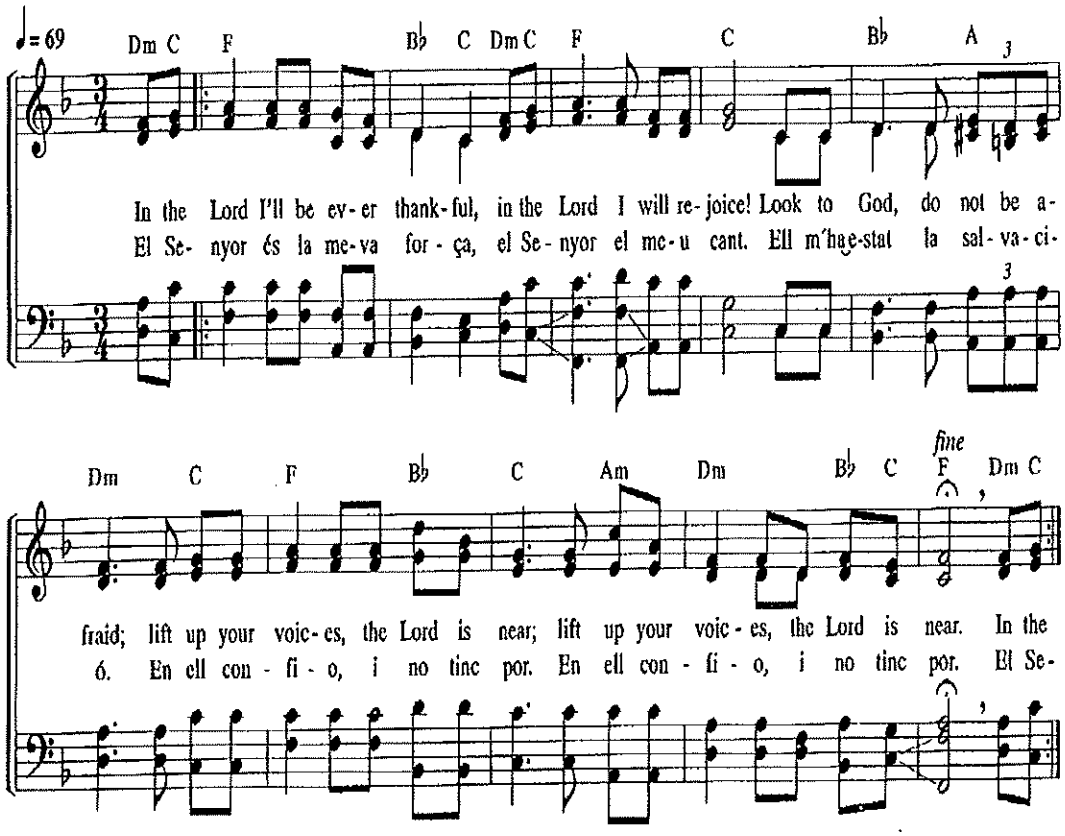
March 2, 2026 by Rosemerry

On this day after
my country bombed
a girls' school
across the world,
part of me does not
wish to meet the day.
But just after dawn,
I wake to the relentless
honking, honking
of geese returning
from far away
to make a home again
in our yard.
I want to rewrite
yesterday so every girl
who went to school
also came home
to her family,
so every mother and father
woke this morning knowing

their child was safe in their bed.
I am so filled with horror—
we killed them—
I don't know how to rise.
But the great noise
of the geese returning,
that harsh and strangled sound,
pulls me into the world
to meet whatever the day brings.
A goose wanders past my window,
regal with her long black throat,
proof that life goes on.
Even when we can't imagine how.
Even then.

Song

47 In the Lord — El Senyor



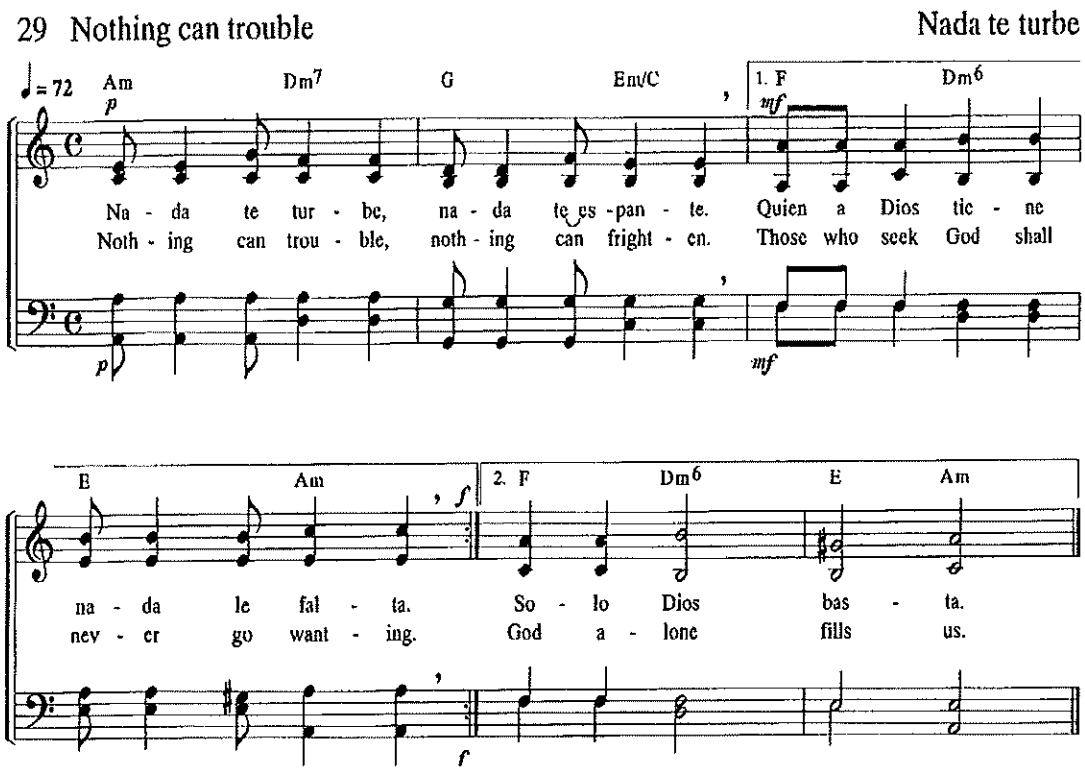
Unwritten Agreement by: Rev. Sarah Speed

We have this unwritten agreement,
us members of humanity.
When the toddler at the coffee shop runs round the corner,
when her mom, at the register, looks up in panic,
we, the adults in the room, will pledge,
with quick smiles and silent head nods, to keep watch.
We will lean out of our seats.
We will put down our phones.
We will stand at the ready
to scoop up,
to offer words of comfort,
to make silly faces,
to keep an eye on the door.
And we will do this,
because we cannot ignore the instinct of care.
We will do this,
because we cannot ignore the child right in front of us.
We will do this,
because love always includes the least of these.

Silence (2 minutes)

During the song, you are invited to take a votive candle, say a prayer, and place the candle at the foot of the cross.

Song

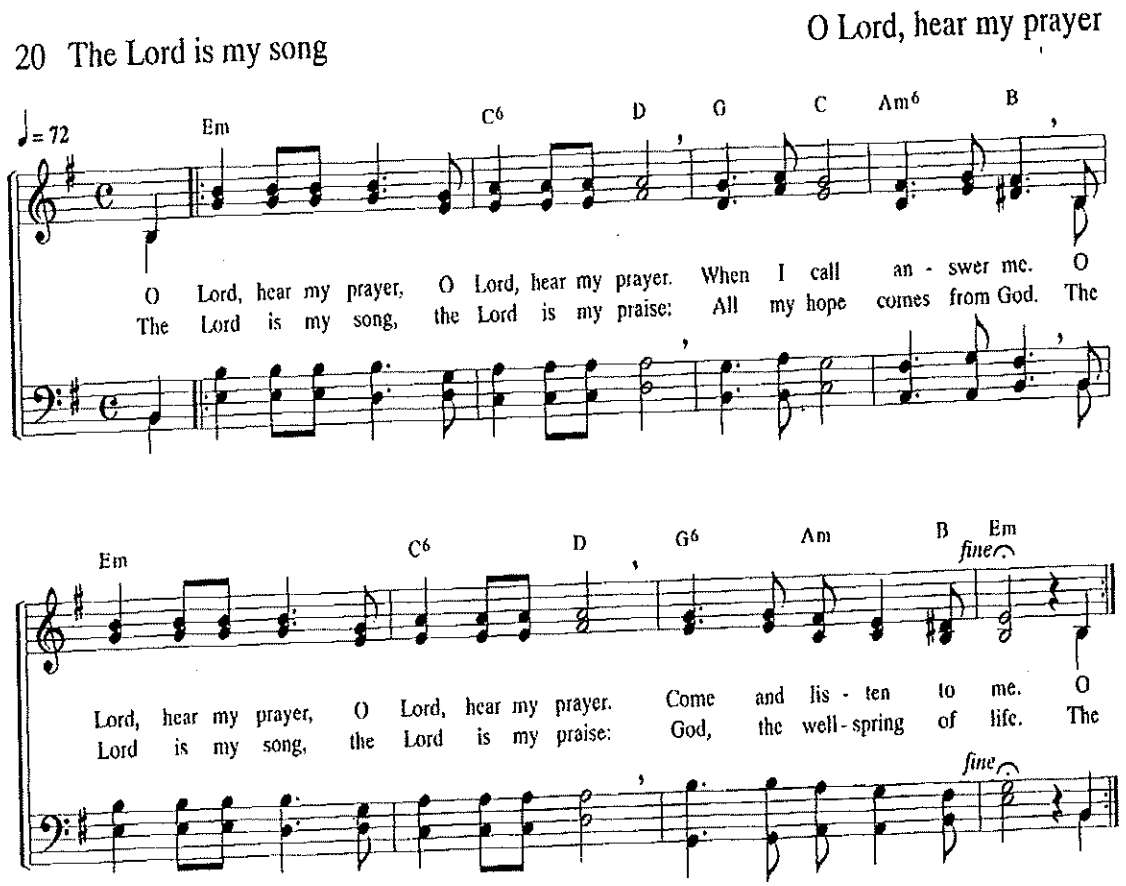


The Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Silence for Personal Prayer and Reflection
(3 minutes)

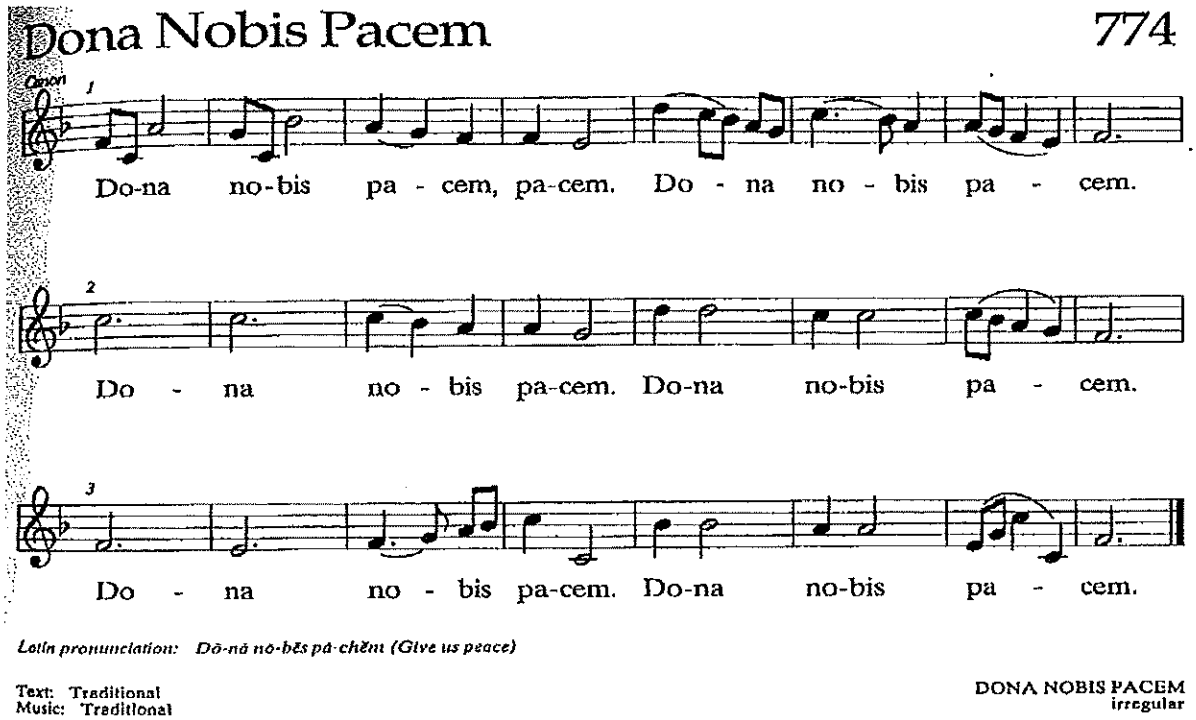
Song



Closing Prayer

May the great Ruler of all high places, God of many names, touch you with a wind that keeps you strong, for all the days to come. Amen.

Song



Latin pronunciation: Dō-nā nō-bēs pā-chĕm (Give us peace)

Text: Traditional
Music: Traditional

DONA NOBIS PACEM
irregular

Bell Chime

Please leave the worship area in silence.
Go…Be and do what God calls you to be and do…
Go in peace!

CCLI # 11169209