

About Taizé

Taizé is a small village in France but the name has become synonymous with a particular style of Christian worship. Since the 1940's a group of Christians (both Catholic and Protestant) have lived a simple, communal life in Taizé with the intention of being a community of prayer and a place of peace for human beings. Members of the community initially took in children orphaned by World War II and displaced Jews. These days the community receives a constant flow of visitors who make spiritual pilgrimage to Taizé to experience their unique style of meditative worship. The Christian community of Taizé is best known for its worship and song.

Central to their worship is a focus on meditative singing. The words to the songs are generally few and simple so that when repeated many times over the music can be a way of both praying to and listening to God. We hope the meditative repetition will allow you to move beyond reading the words or enjoying the music and



create a space to pray through song. Another important aspect of Taizé worship is silence. Scripture readings are followed by long periods of silence to create an opportunity for personal reflection and meeting with God. Taizé worship often has a visual focal point, either a cross or icon. An icon or cross reminds us of the incarnation and the theological reality that the Creator of matter became manifest in matter for our sake. Should your mind wander, we invite you to use the cross as a visual focal point for your prayer. Please make yourself comfortable to pray, sitting wherever you are comfortable. We ask you to enter and leave the chapel in silence so that others may pray without interruption.