



HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Taizé Services are usually held on the second and fourth of the month.

Some notes about a Taizé-style prayer service:

Taizé is a village in France where an ecumenical community of brothers has lived for 70 years. The brothers live in the simplicity of daily prayer and service, and thousands of people from around the world journey each year to Taizé to share in its worship and community.

The Taizé style of worship is based on simple, meditative songs, prayer, and silence:

"Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God.

"At times prayer becomes silent. Peaceful communion with God can do without words...Like the satisfied child who has stopped crying and is in its mother's arms, so can 'my soul be with me' in the presence of God. Prayer then needs no words, maybe not even thoughts. How is it possible to reach inner silence? Sometimes we are apparently silent, and yet we have great discussions within, struggling with imaginary partners or with ourselves. Calming our souls requires a kind of simplicity: Silence means recognizing that my worries can't do much. Silence means leaving to God what is beyond my reach and capacity. A moment of silence, even very short, is like a holy stop, a sabbatical rest, a truce of worries." (from Taizé website.)

Service begins in *silence*.