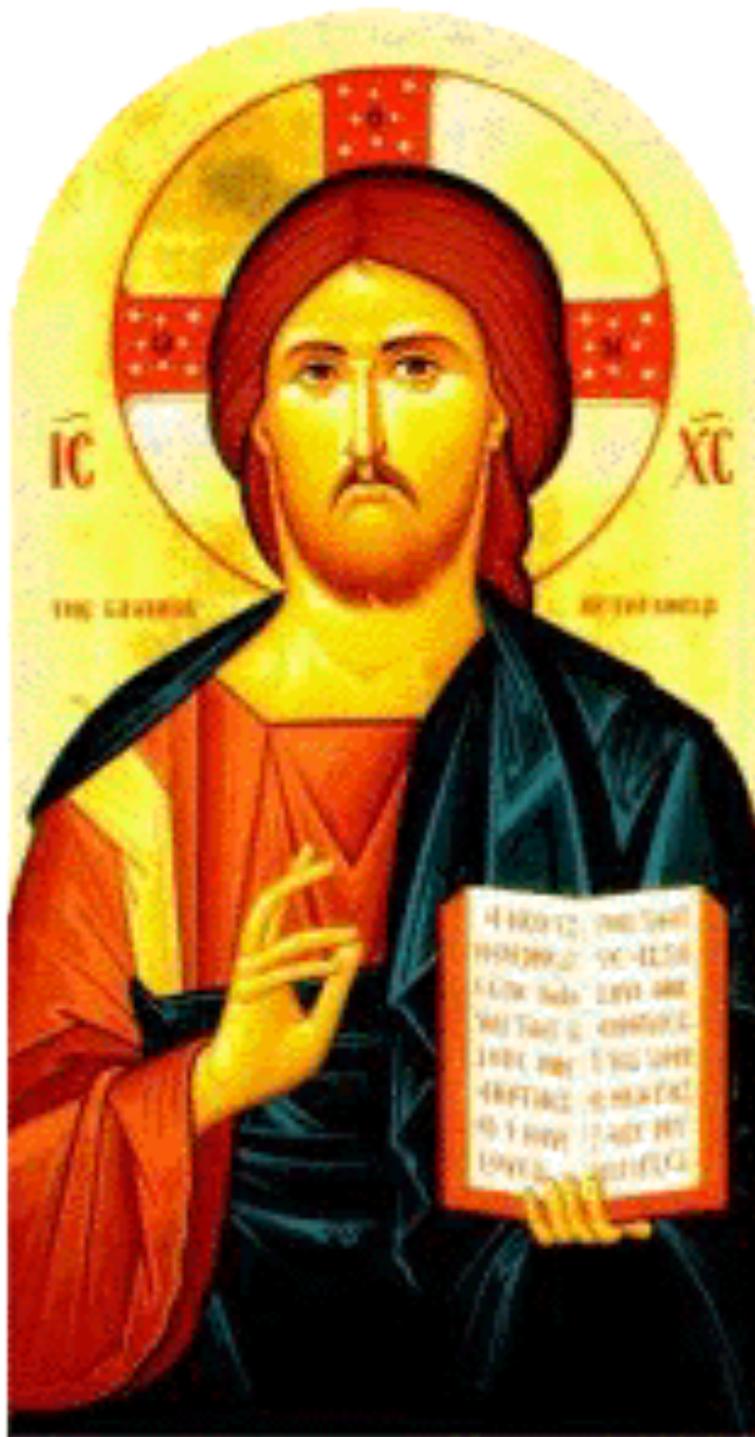


Epiphany Taizé Meditation



Matthew 2:1-12 ✠ January 6, 2021

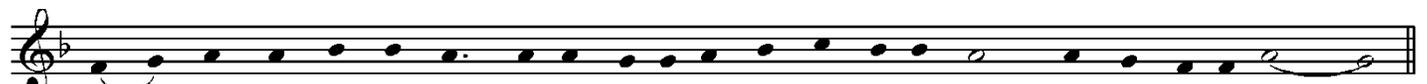
P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.

C Amen

P Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us enter into silent confession seeking the cleansing power of God.

(Remain kneel or remain seated as you so choose)

Cantor



O Christ, thou Lamb of God, who tak-est a-way the sin of the world: Have mer-cy up- on us.

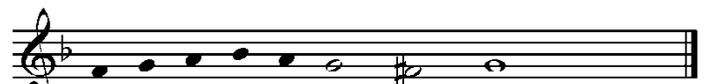
All



O Christ, thou Lamb of God, who tak-est a-way the sin of the world: Have mer-cy up- on us.



O Christ, thou Lamb of God, who tak-est a-way the sin of the world: Grant us your peace



A - men

P God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as far as the east is from the west, so far have our transgressions been removed from us. (Psalm 103:10,12) Having been reconciled to God through Christ let us "make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace for there is one body and one Spirit... Desiring to enter into sacred space to celebrate the feast of Christ let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you!

Leader

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

the light no darkness can o - ver come;

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

and the day is al - most over.

Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

and shine within your peo - ple here.

Marty Haugen

Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own face, you who

sing cre - a-tion's sto - ry, shine on ev-'ry land and race. Now as

eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to you, God of

day-break, God of shad-ows, come and light our hearts a - new.

P O Emmanuel, God with us,
C Jesus Christ, desire of every nation.
P Savior of all peoples,
C come and dwell within our hearts and lives.
P We praise you,
C for you are good.
P and your mercy endures forever,
C Come Lord Jesus. Open our hearts to welcome you,
P let the Word become flesh in our hearts
C and in our lives. Amen.

Prayer

Christe, lux mundi

Chri - ste, lux mun - di, qui se - qui - tur te,
Christ, Light of the world who - ev - er fol - lows you,

ha - be - bit lu - men vi - tae, lu - men vi - tae.
will have the light of life - light of life.

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Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be

born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection questions. You are invited to ponder the questions in your own manner (in silence, in discussion with others, in journaling):

- *What word, image or phrase stand out for you in this reading?*
- *In what ways are Herod and Jesus very different kings? (Matt 2:1-12)*
- *What do we learn from the story of the magi about how God reaches out to all people? (Matt 2:1-12)*

Jesus Christ, Inner Light

Musical score for the hymn "Jesus Christ, Inner Light". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Je - sus Christ, in - ner light, let not our own dark-ness con - quer us. Je - sus Christ, in - ner light, en - a - ble us to wel-come your love." The chords for the first system are Bm, Bm/A, Gmaj7, F#, Bm/D, Em, F#(sus4), and F#. The chords for the second system are B, Em, A, D, Em, F#, and Bm.

Silence for Reflection

Below are quotes, poems and scriptures for you to contemplate.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

The Collect for Christmas – O God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature; grant that we may share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. Amen.

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Matthew 2:16

An epiphany is a moment where God shows up. Where we glimpse a truth about God. We often see this through another person. Write the name of a person through whom you glimpsed a truth about God. Say a prayer of thanks for God placing them in your life. *I give you thanks for placing - _____ in my life and good news you shared with me through them.*

Help me to burn with the light of your love and be an epiphany to the hurting in this world. Amen.

One thing I see in your light: this will, which you have given us as free, seems to receive its strength from the light of faith, for by this light we come in your light to know your eternal will, and we see that your will wants nothing else but that we be made holy. You, light, are also the fuel for the fire, since it is you that makes the fire grow in the soul.

—*Catherine of Siena*

Revise our taking

You, you giver!

You have given light and life to the world;

You have given freedom from Pharaoh to your people Israel;

You have given your only Son for the sake of the world;

You have given yourself to us;

You have given and forgiven,

and you remember our sin no more.

And we, in response, are takers:

We take eagerly what you give us;

we take from our neighbors near at hand as is acceptable;

we take from our unseen neighbors greedily and acquisitively;

we take from our weak neighbors thoughtlessly;

we take all that we can lay our hands on.

It dawns on us that our taking does not match your giving.

In this Lenten season revise our taking,

that it may be grateful and disciplined,

even as you give in ways generous and overwhelming.

Amen.

Walter Brueggemann

De Tierra Lejana Venimos
From a Distant Land
 Puerto Rican carol

1. From a dis - tant land the Sav - ior we come seek - ing,
 2. Glow - ing gold I bring the new - born babe so ho - ly,
 Us - ing as our guide the star, so bright - ly beam - ing.
 To - ken of His power to reign a - bove in glo - ry
 Love - ly east - ern star that tells us of God's morn - ing,
 Heav - en's won - drous light, O nev - er cease thy shin - ing!
 Glo - ry in the high - est to the Son of Heav - en
 And up - on the earth be peace and love to all.

3. Frankincense I bring the Child of God's own choosing,
 Token of our prayer to heaven ever rising *Refrain*
4. Bitter myrrh have I to give the infant Jesus,
 Token of the pain that He will bear to save us. *Refrain*

*Estribillo: O brillante estrella que anuncias la aurora No nos falte nunca tu luz bienhechora
 Gloria en las alturas al Hijo de Dios, Gloria en las alturas y en la tierra amor.*

1. De tierra lejana venimos a verte,
 Nos sirve de guia La Estrella de Oriente. *Estribillo*
2. Al recién nacido que es Rey de los reyes,
 Oro le regalo para ornar sus sienes. *Estribillo*
3. Como es Dios el Nino le regalo incienso,
 Perfume con alma que sube hasta el cielo. *Estribillo*
4. Al Nino del cielo que bajo a la tierra,
 Le regalo mirra que inspira tristeza. *Estribillo*

P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

All 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant ✕ you peace.

C Amen

It has been a blessing to do these Taize meditations for you during Advent and Christmas. We will be taking a break from them for a while. But wait and keep watch for they will return. Blessed Epiphany!

*****Note new Links to explore further:

More taize Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuPcxLjVxtg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRrYRORosgo&list=PLAFC3BF61F242A1C6>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sseOf8z14uw>

Information about Taize, Fr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sskKJJYzuJ4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQwP9wnMu8k>

Websites to light a virtual candle (links can be clicked if viewing bulletin on device): <https://gratefulness.org/light-a-candle/>

<https://www.contemplativespace.com/resources/>

Explore icons of Mary Mother of our Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFxqKp6_9sc

Taizé Monastery France Live Stream

https://www.taize.fr/en_article28227.html

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The Rev. Kyle Rouze
Intern Pr Evan McVann
Viktor Andersson – *Director, Keyboard*
Melissa Herring – *Cantor*
Toni Tharp – *Flute, Vocal*
Karen Moxley – *Violin, Vocals*
Pete Moxley – *Vocals*
Todd Porter, *Vocals, Sound*
Joseph Guinn – *Videographer*

COVER ART: *Christos Pantokrator, “Christ the Ruler of All Things,”* Greek Icon.
LITURGY: O Christ, thou Lamb of God (Christe, Du Lamm Gottes) from *Der Erbarne Stadt Bruswig Chritlike ordeninge*, 1528 by Johannes Bugenhagen; music by Martin Luther (based on Gregorian Psalm Tone 1) from Luther’s German Mass (*Deutsche Messe*) of 1526. **SANTO, A Bilingual Communion Rite:** Music by Marty Haugen, based on an Argentine folk melody. prefaces by Susan Briehl. © **2001 by GIA Publications, Inc;** Taizé Songs from the Taizé Community, France © **1978,1980,1981,1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé (France), Published through exclusive licensing agreement by GIA Publications, Inc.**