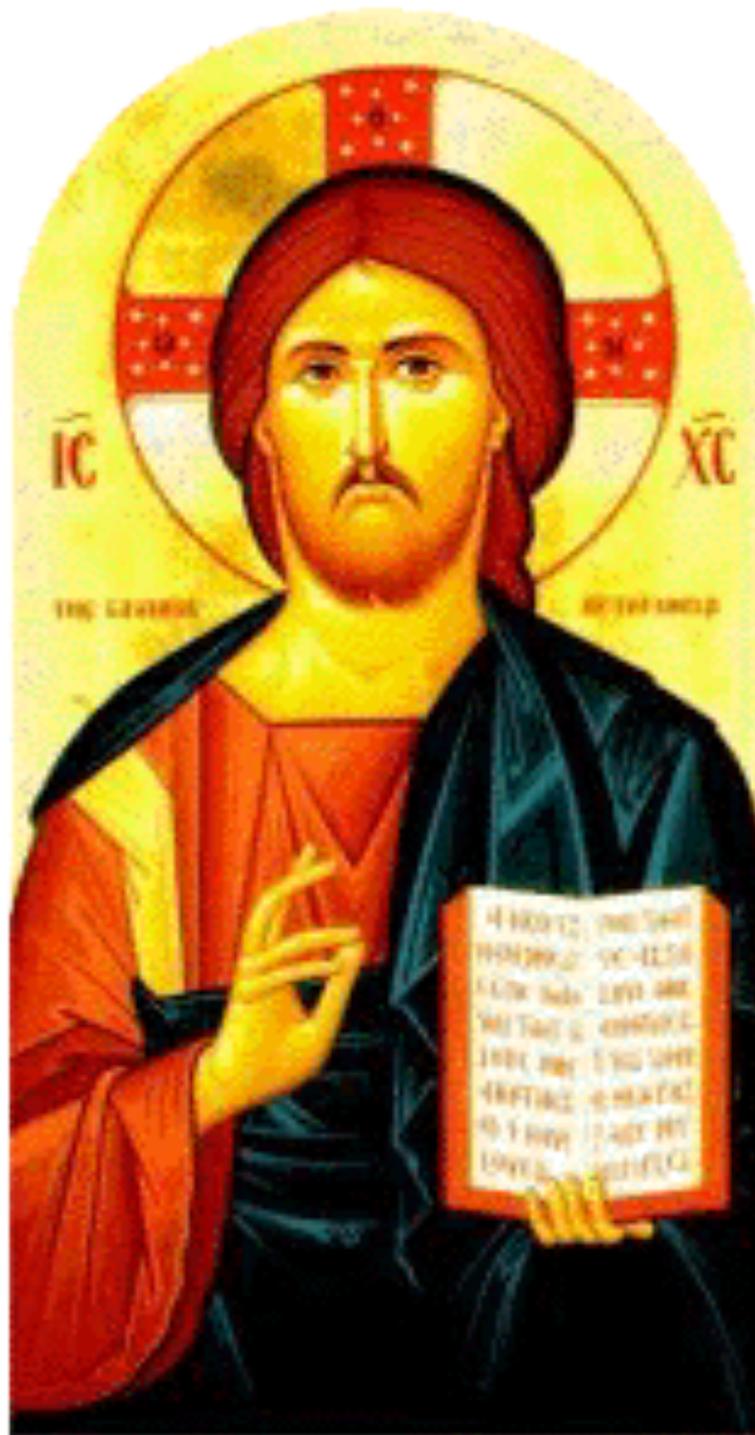


Christmas Taizé Meditation



Luke 2:22-40 ✦ December 30, 2020

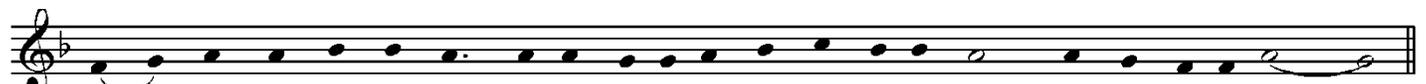
P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.

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.

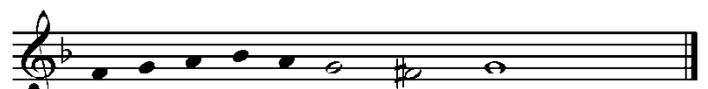
All



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

My Soul Magnifies God's Name

My soul mag - ni - fies God's name. My soul re - joi - ces in God my Sav - ior.

My soul mag - ni - fies God's name. My soul re - joi - ces in God my Lord.

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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?*
- *When have you had an experience in creation that has moved you to declare God's praise? (Ps 148)*
- *Some Christmas gifts may have been returned, but not God's grace. How does it carry you to 2021? (Gal 4:7)*

- Simeon and Anna confirmed the baby's greatness. Who was a prophet regarding your life? (Luke 2:33, 38)

Song of Simeon

Janet Sullivan Whitaker

Now, O God, let your ser- vant go. Let me go in

peace ac- cord - ing to your word. For my

eyes be - hold your sav - ing work: a

light for all the world, al - le - lu - ia.

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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.

The mystics say that most of the time we are a bit like sleepwalkers. It is possible to accomplish a lot of things: to be someone of great integrity, to have a very full agenda, and yet all the time to be living like a sleepwalker, never able just to stop -- to admire something, to love, or simply to wonder. It is essential for us to learn how to wake up.

Anthony DeMello Oliver Clement

We proclaim your death Lord, we celebrate your rising. We break this bread and share this cup until you come again.

Swell
by Sarah Are

You know that feeling when you fall is love?
Time-stands-still and moves too fast.
You'd give up sleep just to talk all night,
Because there's so much to say and not enough time.

It's that full to the brim,
Over the stars,
Living is dreaming,
Too-good-to-be-true
Kind of feeling?

I image that's how Simeon and Anna felt
When they saw Jesus that day.
I imaging it was that full to the brim
Over the stars,
Living is dreaming
Too-good-to-be-true
Good news kind of feeling.

I imagine it was love.
 And I imagine that that good, good news
 Swelled to the tip of their tongues
 Until they could not keep silent.

So may we know what Simeon and Anna knew,
 Which is that some dreams we hold close to our chest,
 For ourselves to cherish and never forget.
 But other dreams must be spoken out loud-
 Dreams of justice and love and hope, here and now.

So today my prayer is to know that swell,
 For there is good, good new
 That we must tell.

I Am Sure I Shall See

I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the land of the liv-ing

Yes, I shall see the good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord. I am

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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

*****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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Intern Pr Evan McVann

Viktor Andersson – *Director, Keyboard*

Melissa Herring – *Cantor*

Toni Tharp – *Flute, Vocal*

Karen Moxley – *Violin, 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 Erbarb 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.**