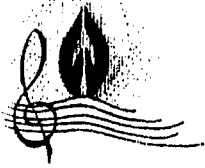


Taizé Prayer

St. James' Church, Orillia



A little bit about the Taizé "approach"...

In 1944, in Taizé, France, a young Swiss Lutheran named Roger Schutz founded a community of prayer. Christ's prayer for unity grew in his heart in response to the terrible tragedy he saw during the war when Christians on both sides killed one another, and their Jewish brothers and sisters. Roger began with seven Lutheran people and now the community numbers in the hundreds with worshipping groups in many countries, from every Christian tradition. There is a particular outreach offered to young people, who flock to Taizé to enrich their Christian faith journey, through song, prayer, and dialogue.

The Taizé service is a service of song. This is a gift Brother Roger, himself, brought from his home. His mother's musical talents helped him to discover music is often the bearer of the Spirit. It is a mantra-type song, a practice of the ancient Christian "desert" fathers and mothers. It is simple and repetitious and allows one to journey deep into the heart.

The presence of the cross and symbolic gesture which accompanies the prayers, is a gift of the Russian Orthodox Church. Prayer around the cross is a way of expressing an invisible communion not only with the crucified Christ but with each other and victims of abandonment, abuse, discrimination or torture. While the meditative singing continues, those who wish may come up to the cross to pray. You are invited to make a gesture, such as placing your hand or forehead on the wood of the cross as a sign of silently entrusting Christ with all your concerns, personally or world wide. This prayer reminds us that the resurrected Christ accompanies every human being in their suffering, even when His presence is not recognized.

We warmly welcome you to a contemplative way of prayer.