CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

TAIZÉ VESPERS
6:00 P.M.

Sunday, November 1, 2026 | ALL SAINTS DAY



WELCOME TO SUNDAY TAIZE VESPERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into God's presence through prayers, readings, songs, silence and poetry. And as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are loved. May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

TAIZÉ

Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for all the world and we are all God's people.

THE PATTERN OF VESPERS

GATHERING: God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God's bringing light into the darkness of our lives.

WORD: God continues to communicate through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God's beloved children.

PSALMS: Psalms are the Bible's language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.

MEDITATION: When we listen and pray while gathered in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about "just me," but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

PRAYERS: Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.

GOING OUT: As we leave the Vesper service, we are reminded of Christ's peace, presence and purpose in all of life.

OPENING SONG | Laudate Dominum



Officiant: God dwells in you.
People: **And also in you.**

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lampstand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

SONG | Da pacem cordium





CONSOLATIONS | Solace

is the art of asking the beautiful question, of ourselves, of our world or of one another, in fiercely difficult and un-beautiful moments. Solace is what we must look for when the mind cannot bear the pain, the loss or the suffering that eventually touches every life and every endeavor; when longing does not come to fruition in a form we can recognize, when people we know and love disappear, when hope must take a different form than the one we have shaped for it.

Solace is the beautiful, imaginative home we make where disappointment can go to be rehabilitated. When life does not in any way add up, we must turn to the part of us that has never wanted a life of simple calculation. Solace is found in allowing the body's innate wisdom to come to the fore, the part of us that already knows it is mortal and must take its leave like everything else, and leading us, when the mind cannot bear what it is seeing or hearing, to the birdsong in the tree above our heads, even as we are being told of a death, each note an essence of morning and of mourning; of the current of a life moving on, but somehow, also, and most beautifully, carrying, bearing, and even celebrating the life we have just lost. A life we could not see or appreciate until it ,vas taken from us. To be consoled is to be invited onto the terrible ground of beauty upon which our inevitable disappearance stands, to a voice that does not soothe falsely, but touches the epicenter of our pain or articulates the essence of our loss, and then emancipates us into both life and death as an equal birthright.

Solace is not an evasion, nor a cure for our suffering, nor a made up state of mind. Solace is a direct seeing and participation; a celebration of the beautiful coming and going, appearance and disappearance of which we have always been a part. Solace is not meant to be an answer, but an invitation, through the door of pain and difficulty, to the depth of suffering and simultaneous beauty in the world that the strategic mind by itself cannot grasp nor make sense of.

To look for solace is to learn to ask fiercer and more exquisitely pointed questions, questions that reshape our identities and our bodies and our relation to others. Standing in loss but not overwhelmed by it, we become useful and generous and compassionate and even amusing companions for others. But solace also asks us very direct and forceful questions. Firstly, how will you bear the inevitable that is coming to you? And how will you endure it through the years? And above all, how will you shape a life equal to and as beautiful and as astonishing as a world that can birth you, bring you into the light and then just as you are beginning to understand it, take you away?

SONG | My Peace



THE PSALM |

Psalm 34:1-10,22 | *Praise for Deliverance from Trouble*

I will bless the Lord at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the Lord; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; *
let us exalt his Name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.

Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.

The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.

The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

SCRIPTURE READING | 1 John 3:1-3

Reader: *A reading from 1st John.*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

(continued)

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY/REFLECTION | The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Senior Associate Rector*

THE SILENT MEDITATION | Wild Geese



You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please scan to give.

OFFERTORY SONG | Come and Fill Our Hearts

During the singing, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in prayer.



POEM | *The Sound of Eternity* by Pamela Pruitt

What does
God's voice
Sound like?

How do I
Know that
It is He
Speaking
And not me
Attempting
To be
Almighty?

Because
While
His words
Come forth,
I hear
Endless
Love
Rushing
To caress
The world.

My grateful heart
Stops beating
For a moment
To listen
To the Sound
Of Eternity.
Knocking
On its doors.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Lord, make us servants of your peace.

Almighty God, we gather today at a time of great division in our nations, when anger threatens to overcome us, when intolerance of opinions and political viewpoints seems to inhibit our willingness to find common ground, when the worst of our human nature often overcomes the best, instill in us your second great commandment – to love our neighbor as ourselves – and give us the strength and courage to do it. Let peace inform our actions with one another.

Using the words of St. Francis, we pray together: **Lord, make us servants of your peace**.
Where there is hatred, **let us sow love**.
Where there is injury, **let us sow pardon**.
Where there is discord, **let us sow union**.
Where there is doubt, **let us sow faith**.
Where there is despair, **let us sow hope**.
Where there is darkness, **let us sow light**.
Where there is sadness, **let us sow joy**.

At this time of national elections, we pray for free and fair voting, respecting the rights of all citizens to determine the future course of our nation.
Where there is hatred, **let us sow love**.
Where there is injury, **let us sow pardon**.
Where there is discord, **let us sow union**.
Where there is doubt, **let us sow faith**.
Where there is despair, **let us sow hope**.
Where there is darkness, **let us sow light**.
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We pray for people of faith across our nation and across our world, that we may be the first to sow faith and hope and light. In the worldwide Anglican Church, we pray today especially for the people in the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America. In our own Diocese of Maryland, we pray today especially for the people of: St. James', Mount Airy, St. John's, Ellicott City, and St. Luke's, Brownsville. We pray for ourselves here at Christ Church today, for our priests, lay leaders, and congregation, for our newcomers and visitors. Almighty God, **let us sow light**.

We pray for all who are ill, for all those who are hungry or without shelter, for all who are struggling, for all who have died especially Lee Harvey, for all who need work, and for those who love and care for them. In our Christ Church family, we pray especially for Rick, Nancy, Ivy, Joi, Lenore, Shannon, Mary, Ally, Sean, Maggie, Liam, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Brandon, Clarence, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry and those you now name. Almighty God, **let us sow hope**.

We pray for our dear ones who are celebrating birthdays, baptismal anniversaries and wedding anniversaries especially Rebecca, Kyle, David, Elizabeth, Zakiya, Michael, Noah, Emmanuel, Esther, Victoria, Ainsley, Amanda, Laura, Ben, Jonathan, Jonah, Francis, Saah, . May they find renewed strength from the joy of their special days. Almighty God, **let us sow joy**.

Lord, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are borne to eternal life.

AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Officiant: Let us pray.

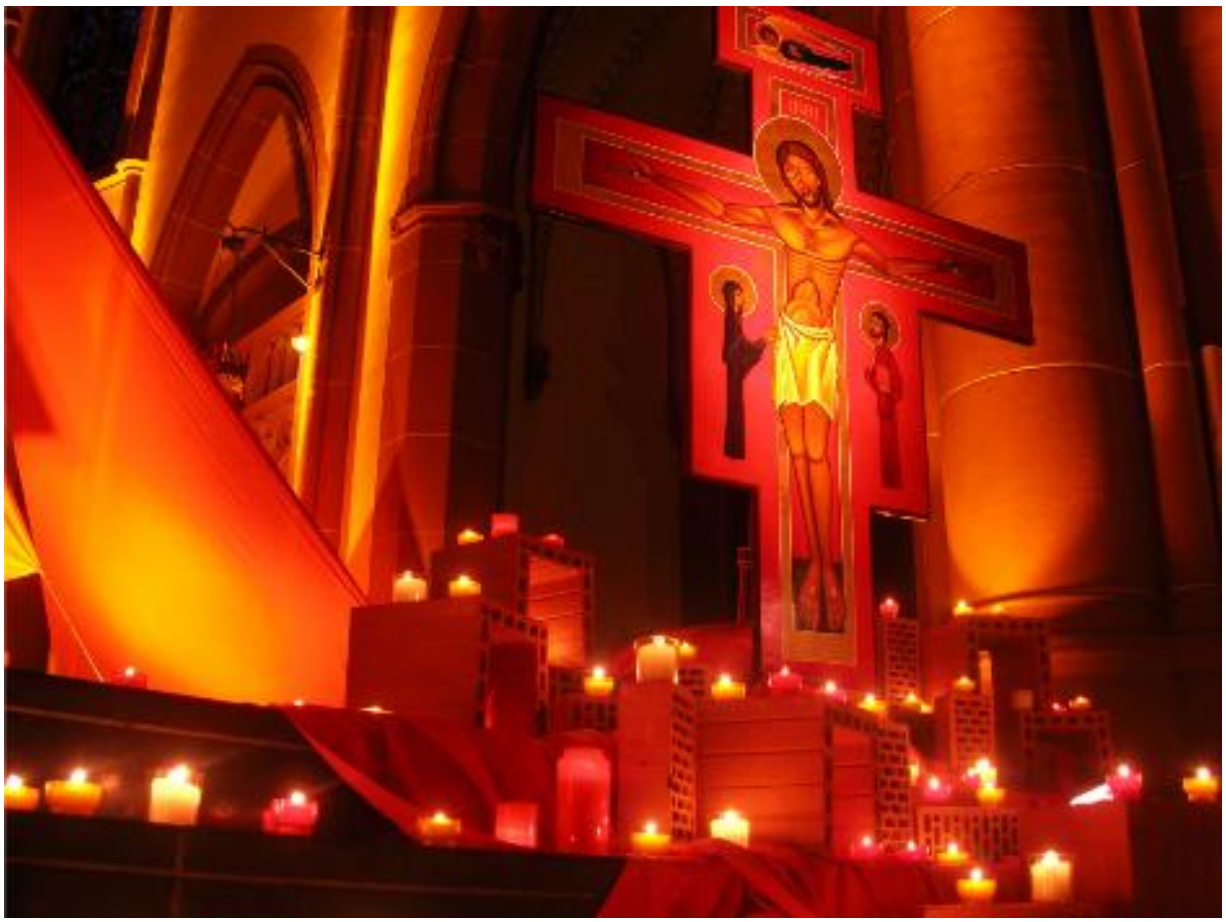
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**



CLOSING SONG | Nunc Dimittis

1st time in Latin, all following repetitions in English.



Thank you for joining us today!



FIRST WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP'S

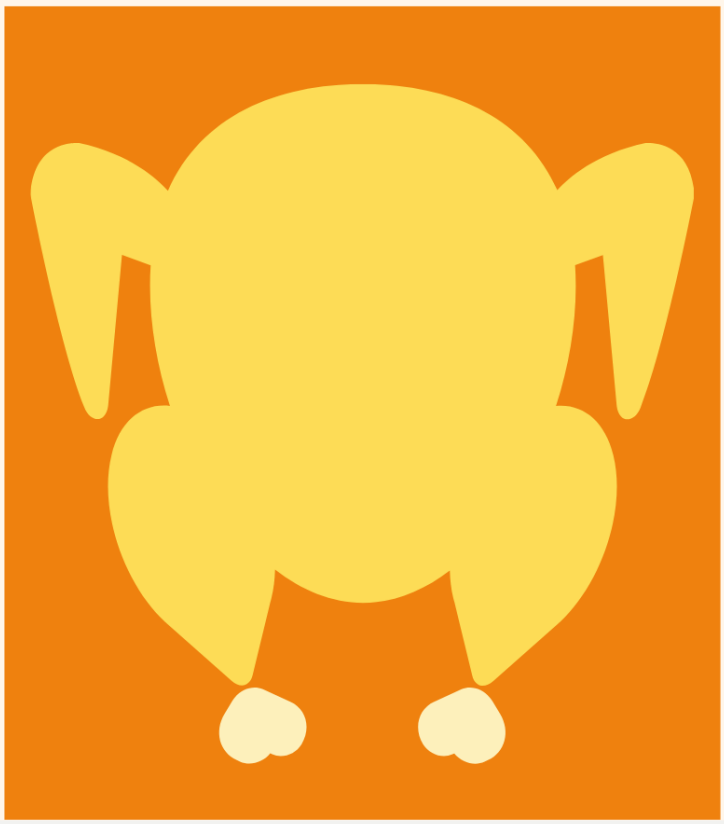
FRIENDSGIVING DINNER

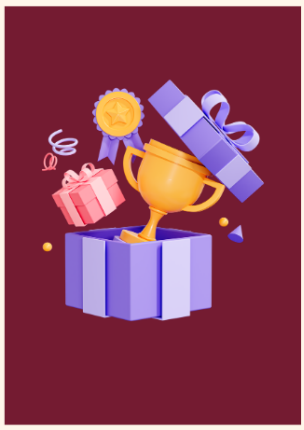
FOR EVERYONE!

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings.

We provide the turkey - you provide the fixings & desserts!

We will make treat bags to benefit LEMS,
and have games and fun for all!

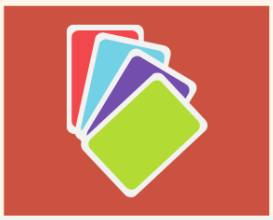












JOIN US THIS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of New Brick

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