

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Advent Taizé Worship

December 3, 2023

5:00 P.M.

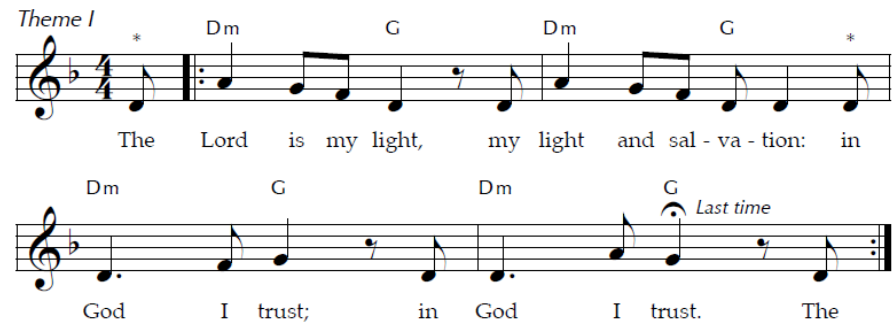
### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR GATHERING

*Bless the Lord*

### WELCOME

**SONG** *The Lord is My Light* Text: Psalm 27, Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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Theme I



The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in  
God I trust; in God I trust. The

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: The darkness at this time of year can be overwhelming.  
And it only increases our craving for light.*

**People: Longing can sap our strength. Until turning  
towards truth becomes the most difficult of tasks.**

*Leader: All too often, the light we long for is delayed and we  
are left to contemplate the darkness.*

**People: We are still together, but we are also alone. We  
are still hopeful, but we are also unsure.  
We are still. Still in darkness.**

### MEMORY AND EMOTION

As we gather together tonight, we invite you to reflect on  
the darkness together. How do you feel in the dark?  
Does it spark a memory? Do you feel scared? Nervous?  
Safe? Hidden?

As a family, grab a black piece of foam board and a neon  
marker and write your feelings about the darkness on  
your foam board. When finished, we invite you to clip  
your board to one of the strings around the table.

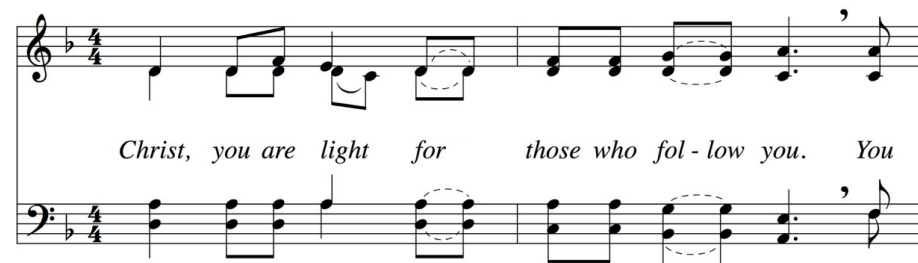
### SONG, Latin

*Christe Lux Mundi*

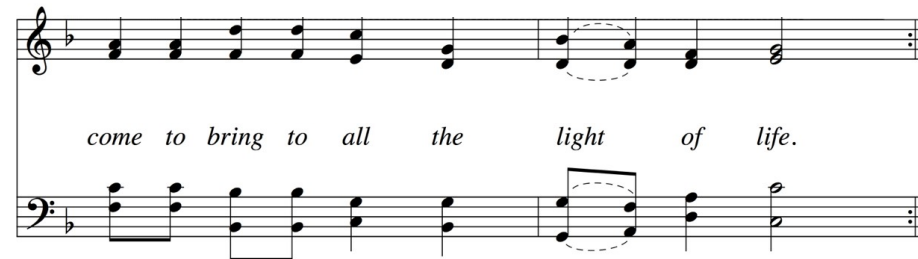
Text: Taizé Community

Tune: Taizé Community

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*Christ, you are light for those who fol - low you. You*



*come to bring to all the light of life.*

### READING

*We Do Not Choose the Darkness*

We do not choose the darkness,  
And few are comfortable within it.  
In the absence of light  
Our hearts whisper their secrets,  
And loss and pain  
Seep from the corners  
To disquiet our minds.

And yet,  
All life begins in darkness.  
In the womb, the cocoon,  
Life grows, and waits, and gathers strength.  
For those who find the courage to dwell there  
The darkness can hold treasure  
And truth.

And so we wait,  
Listening to the stories of our hearts,  
Knowing that we are held safe  
In a deeper story of Love,  
In which the Light  
Will always return.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 42:1-4

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Leader: Our longing can feel inadequate,*

**People: It is not.**

*Leader: Our cries may feel insignificant.*

**People: They are not.**

*Leader: We may so easily grow faint.*

**People: Christ will not.**

*Leader: Our strength may be weak, our light may be dim,*

**People: But a bruised reed he will not break and a  
dimly burning wick he will not quench.**

*Leader: The light flickers, but it will endure:*

**People: Until he has established justice on the earth.**

*Leader: So come, add your wick to the light of the world.*

1. All who long for justice
2. All who feel left out
3. All who need a friend
4. All who endure hatred
5. All who feel they have little to offer

*Leader: Friends, alone we falter, but together we blaze.*

**People: We follow the light we have, and pray for more  
light.**

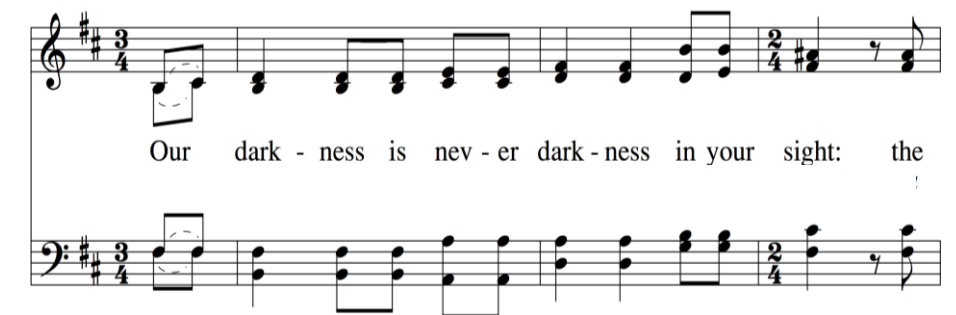
### SONG

*Our Darkness*

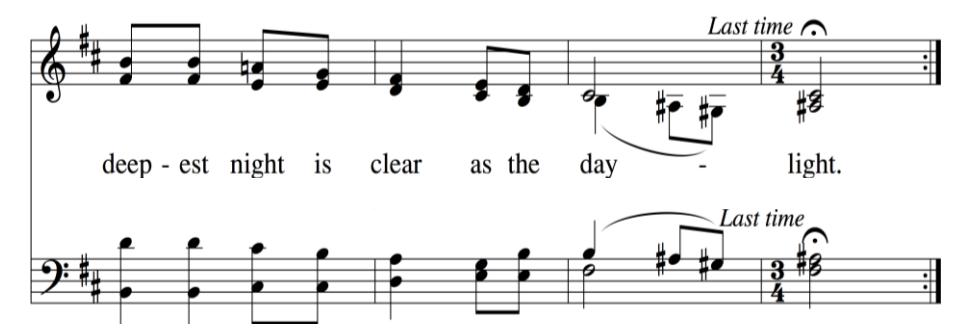
Text: Taizé Community

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Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the



deep - est night is clear as the day - light.

## BLESSING AND SENDING

*Leader: It is dark outside, but we carry into the night the light of Christ.*

**People: May the light of Christ shine in our midst,  
Keeping away all that would seek harm,  
Establishing all that god's love demands,  
This night and always.  
Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### Invitation

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Pastor: Lift up your hearts.*

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**People: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

### Words of Institution

### Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Communion Closing Prayer

**Taizé Musicians:** Jon Frost, acoustic guitar; Mindy Bowman, flute; Jacqui Rothera, oboe; Victoria Howard, cantor

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Pastors Leah Hrachovec, Jennie Clark, Jon Frost, Ann Hatfield



## WORSHIP INFORMATION

### WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### *Sanctuary*

9:30am – Traditional worship

11:00am – Contemporary worship with band

#### *Wednesday Morning in the Chapel*

9:10-9:30am – Prayer and Communion worship

**PHONE MINISTRY - Calling in for Worship** is offered for those who want to listen to the 9:30 am service by phone. Contact Nancy Christy at 610-696-3284 for dialing instructions.

**A REMOTE TV MONITOR** is in the Quiet Room (just outside the sanctuary in the west hallway) to view and hear worship in progress for those with restless children or who need to leave the sanctuary.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** are available for worship at the Information Center in the Narthex. Additionally, the sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system that transmits to hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils. **PEW CUSHIONS** also available at the Information Center.

**PRAY GROUNDS ARE LOCATED** along the sides of our Sanctuary and are geared towards young children to engage in items from the cart during worship. This allows a space more suitable for them to be a part of the worship service.

**LIVE STREAMING** of our services is offered over the internet. A service bulletin for worship may be found through the link on our website or in the weekly update. We invite you to join us at [westminsterpc.org](https://westminsterpc.org) when not able to attend worship.

**TEXT GIVING** is available. Text keyword “egivewpc” and then your donation amount to 73256 on your mobile device. Click the response link, make selections, hit continue, and add payment information. Contact Sandy Kurek at [skurek@westminsterpc.org](mailto:skurek@westminsterpc.org) for more information.

**TAIZÉ PRAYER** and contemplative worship occurs various times throughout the program year. Visit our website or call 610-399-3377 for dates and times.

**PRAYER MINISTRY** members receive a weekly list of prayer requests via email and members include them in their conversations with God. To have a prayer request included in the Prayer Ministry or to become a member, contact Janet Gauger at [gauger.janet@gmail.com](mailto:gauger.janet@gmail.com) or the church office.

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION** is celebrated the first Sunday of every month in all services. If you desire or know of someone desiring **HOME COMMUNION**, please contact Ann Hatfield, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at 610-399-3377 ext. 114.

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** is celebrated the **third Sunday of every month**. Our **BAPTISM CLASS** is offered the last Sunday of each month, except December, at 10:30 a.m. Contact the office to register for the baptism class.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Knowing Christ....Making Christ Known

December 3, 2023  
5:00 P.M. Taizé Prayer  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent



*“Waiting in Darkness”*