

# Taize Prayer

(information from [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr))

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Everything began in 1940 when, at the age of twenty-five, Brother Roger left Switzerland, the country where he was born, to go and live in France. During a long illness, the call had taken shape in him to create a community where simplicity and kind-heartedness would be lived out as essential Gospel realities. When the Second World War started, he had the conviction that he should begin at once to offer assistance to people in difficult straits. In 1944, a few brothers had joined him, and they had begun a life together that continued in Taizé.

Gradually other young men arrived and joined the original group, and on Easter Day 1949, the first brothers committed themselves for their whole life to celibacy, to material and spiritual sharing and to a great simplicity of life. From its beginning the community has had a twofold intention: to seek communion with God through personal prayer and the beauty of community prayer, and also to be a leaven of peace and trust in the midst of humanity.

Today, the Taizé Community is made up of over a hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from more than twenty-five nations. By its very existence, the community is thus a concrete sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples.

Every week from early spring to late autumn, many young adults arrive on the hill of Taizé. They are searching for meaning in their lives, in communion with many others.



By going to the wellsprings of trust in God, they set out on an inner pilgrimage that encourages them to build relationships of trust among human beings.

A week in Taizé is a way of realising the intimate relationship between an experience of communion with God in prayer and personal reflection on the one hand, and an experience of communion and solidarity among peoples on the other. During the meetings, three times each day all those present gather for prayer, worshipping God together in singing and silence.

By meeting other young people from throughout the world in a climate of openness and listening, participants discover that roads to unity can be opened up amidst the diversity of cultures and Christian traditions. This provides a solid basis to be creators of trust and peace in a world wounded by divisions, violence and isolation.

In undertaking a "pilgrimage of trust on earth," Taizé does not organize a movement around the community. Each person is invited, after his or her stay, to live out in their own situation what they have understood, with greater awareness of the inner life within them as well as of their bonds with many others who are involved in a similar search for what really matters.

Coming to Taizé prayer is an opportunity to seek communion with God in prayer, silence and reflection. In inner peace it can be possible to rediscover "what life is for", renewing our strength for life at home. Please come to join and pray together at 7.30 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.