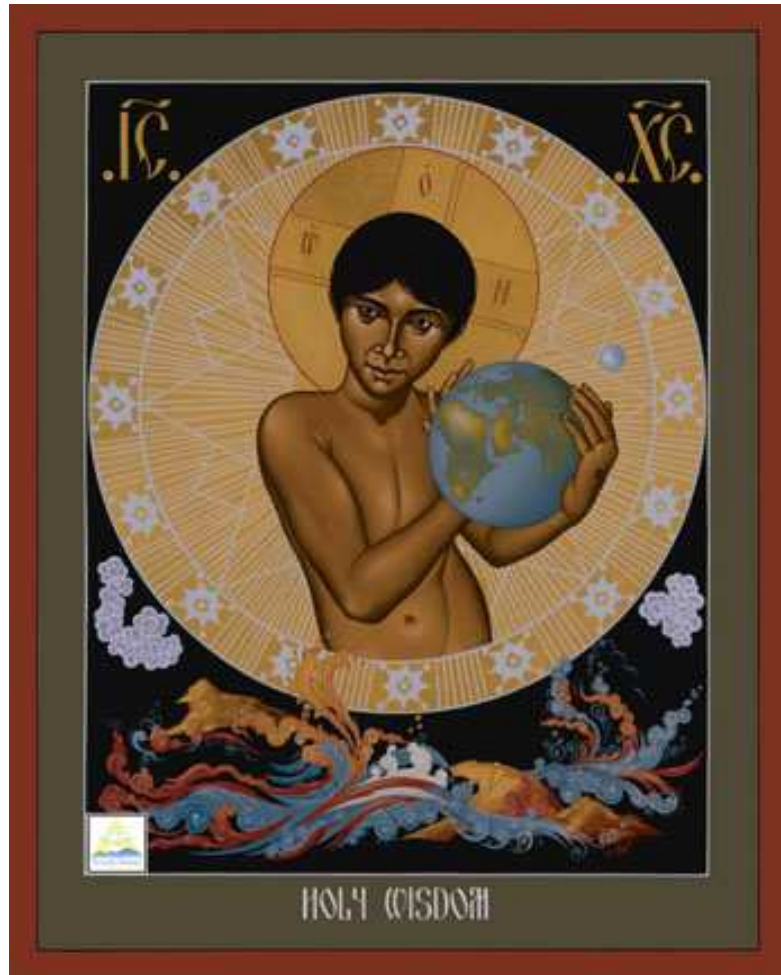


Saint Hilda's by the Sea Anglican Church

(Open arms, open hearts, open minds)

We welcome everyone.

Taizé Service - An inner journey



Icon for May

Holy Wisdom

Simplicity is the format for our hour long candlelight Taizé service. We begin a few minutes prior to 7:00 P.M. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Our Taizé service is comprised of six parts which often parallel the mystical meditative journey.

Part One - Preparation

We begin a few minutes before 7:00 PM. To the sounds of meditative music you are asked to place a lighted candle on the Taizé table in front of the altar. Then you are to find a comfortable place to sit and to try to focus on being intentional about what hopes you have for the meditation or contemplative period to come.

Part Two – The Journey Begins - Letting Go

Beginning with the bells of Taizé and the first chant the service begins. During this period you are invited to listen to several spiritual reflections. Following each spiritual reading you are encouraged to raise your voice in chant, in English or Latin to the simple Taizé songs presented. The meditative character of these beautiful, yet simple songs repeated over and over permit you to center yourself. An inner calming begins.

Part Three – Illumination

Illumination is a fifteen minute period of silence. Here you have an opportunity to silently pray, reflect, contemplate or meditate. For those who know Centering Prayer or any other meditative form using a sacred word or mantra this time allows the mind and heart to be open to the Presence and to receive that which may be given.

‘Silence means leaving to God what is beyond my reach and capacity.’

‘When words and thoughts come to an end, God is praised in silent wonder and admiration.’

Part Four – Union

Union begins after the period of silence has ended and the reflections and chanting resume. Any insights received or problems clarified are taken back out into the world. You may likely feel grounded and empowered and in communion with the Holy, for silence has calmed the agitated and restless mind.

‘The reasons not to love and not to forgive fade into insignificance. Inner peace leads to union with God and we take that love of God back out into the world.’

Part Five – Final Blessing

We wish each other and all creation peace, by chanting Shalom.

Part six – The Dismissal

The candles are extinguished.

We quietly go out into the night.

Taizé Songs for May 2010

I Am Sure I Shall See The Goodness ...	I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Yes, I shall see the goodness of our God. O come trust in the Lord.
Confitemini Domino	Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus. Confitemini Domino. (Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord are holy.)
With You, O Lord	With You, O Lord, is life in all its fullness, and in your light we shall see true light.
The Kingdom of God	The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

Silence*** Silence***** Silence***** Silence**

My Peace	My peace I leave you, my peace I give you, trouble not your hearts. My peace I leave you, my peace I give you, be not afraid.
Within our Darkest Night	Within our darkest night you kindle a fire that never dies away. Never dies away.
Let your servant now go peace	Let your servant now go in peace, O in Lord. (O Lord). Now go in peace, according to your word (to your word).
In manus tuas, Pater	In manus tuas, Pater, commendo spiritum meum. (Into your hands, Father, I commend my spirit.)

Meditative Music

Prefatory Music	Angus Dei	Selections from Angus Dei Edward Higgingbottom
Final Blessing	Shalom	Mantras and Chants Ivo Sedláček

**Icons Icons are traditionally used at Taizé services. Icons serve to provoke us to see, reflected in the persons or images depicted, the many facets of the face of God.*

May Icon

Holy Wisdom

The Byzantine East is filled with churches dedicated to Hagia Sophia -- Holy Wisdom. Holy Wisdom refers to Christ, a playful Christ at work in creation. "...when he laid down the foundations of the earth, I was at his side, a master craftsman, delighting him day after day, ever at play in his presence, at play everywhere in his world, delighting to be with the human race."

Proverbs 8:29-31

Wisdom is an androgynous Christ who embraces material creation. In Byzantine theology, all of creation has been called to be transfigured in Christ. Creation is actually groaning in anticipation of this, to use St. Paul's phrase. A world called to transfiguration is not a world for us to pillage and rape. Waste and pollution are moral issues at the heart of our faith.

The traditional Byzantine icon of Wisdom shows a winged androgynous figure flanked by St. John the Baptist and the Mother of God. The figure of Wisdom is bright red and wears imperial Byzantine robes. In this icon, Wisdom is a naked Third World child. The gold sphere represents eternity, and the brightly colored waves crashing wildly below represent the beginning of creation.

The concept of an androgynous Christ is important as we wrestle with issues of sexuality in our day. The Trinity is an essential part of our Christian faith, but its patriarchal matrix is not. As we begin to appreciate the feminine aspects of God, many of our other attitudes must also change. The image of Divine Sophia can assist us as we search.