

If you've never heard of it, Taizé is an ecumenical Christian monastic community in Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. Founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schutz, it is composed of about one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries around the world. The community's life is guided by The Rule of Taizé written by Brother Roger and first published in 1954. Taizé has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage, attracting over 100,000 young people each year for prayer, bible study, communal work, and shared reflection. Central to its contemplative atmosphere are meditative chants that support prayer and silence. These appealing Taizé chants are repetitive and easy to learn. The words, often derived directly from the Psalms, are intentionally simple to help individuals with busy minds and stressed bodies to quickly achieve a sense of God's presence.

The melodies, easy to pick up, are often haunting and poignant. They are written with parts, so people with different pitches of voice can join in and contribute to a rich harmony. And they are often supported with simple instrumentals featuring guitar, recorder, or violin.

Apart from the singing, there might be reflective silence, some simple prayers, and a chance to ask some questions and have a brief conversation around a bible reading.

Do come and try it out and also look out for further opportunities to participate in quiet evening worship as we introduce this in other locations around the Benefice.