

for immediate release  
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## French Prayer Tradition Offered in Oakville

Special Service on September 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Trafalgar  
Presbyterian Church

# Media Release

### **Trafalgar Presbyterian Church**

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Every week from early spring to late autumn, people from different continents arrive on the hill of Taizé, France. They are searching for meaning in their lives, in communion with many others. Some weeks in the summer months, more than 5000 individuals from 75 different countries visit the religious community that teaches sung, meditative prayer and the importance of silence.

“I know that people of all kinds long to find meaning in their lives”, says minister Reverend Kristine O'Brien, minister of Trafalgar Presbyterian Church. “By offering this French tradition of prayer and silence to Oakville, we hope that many will benefit”. This will be the first service of its kind held at the church.

Taizé, in the south of France, is the home of an international, ecumenical community, founded in 1940 by Brother Roger. Today, the community is made up of over a hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, from more than twenty-five nations. Thousands of pilgrims of all ages journey to Taizé to take part in the meditative musical services that offer a time for prayer and inner reflection.

When Rev. O'Brien first experienced Taizé worship, she was struck by the deep simplicity of the music and prayers. Short phrases are set to music and repeated by musicians, singers, and the congregation. They are accessible to those who do not read, speak different languages, or who come from varying religious backgrounds. “It makes sense to explore this tradition here in Oakville because people come from such a vast background of global and ecumenical experiences”, she says.

Worship Enlivener Andrew Donaldson encountered this form of music and prayer at a Hymn Society conference in Maryville, Kentucky. “Our community, which enjoys the gifts of many excellent musicians, is already familiar with many of the Taizé songs”, he says. “We hope to offer this with those who are searching for a quiet, meditative spiritual experience.”

The Taizé Prayer Service takes place on Sunday, September 23 at 7:30 p.m., Trafalgar Presbyterian Church, 345 Upper Middle Road East.

Press photos and media info available at [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

