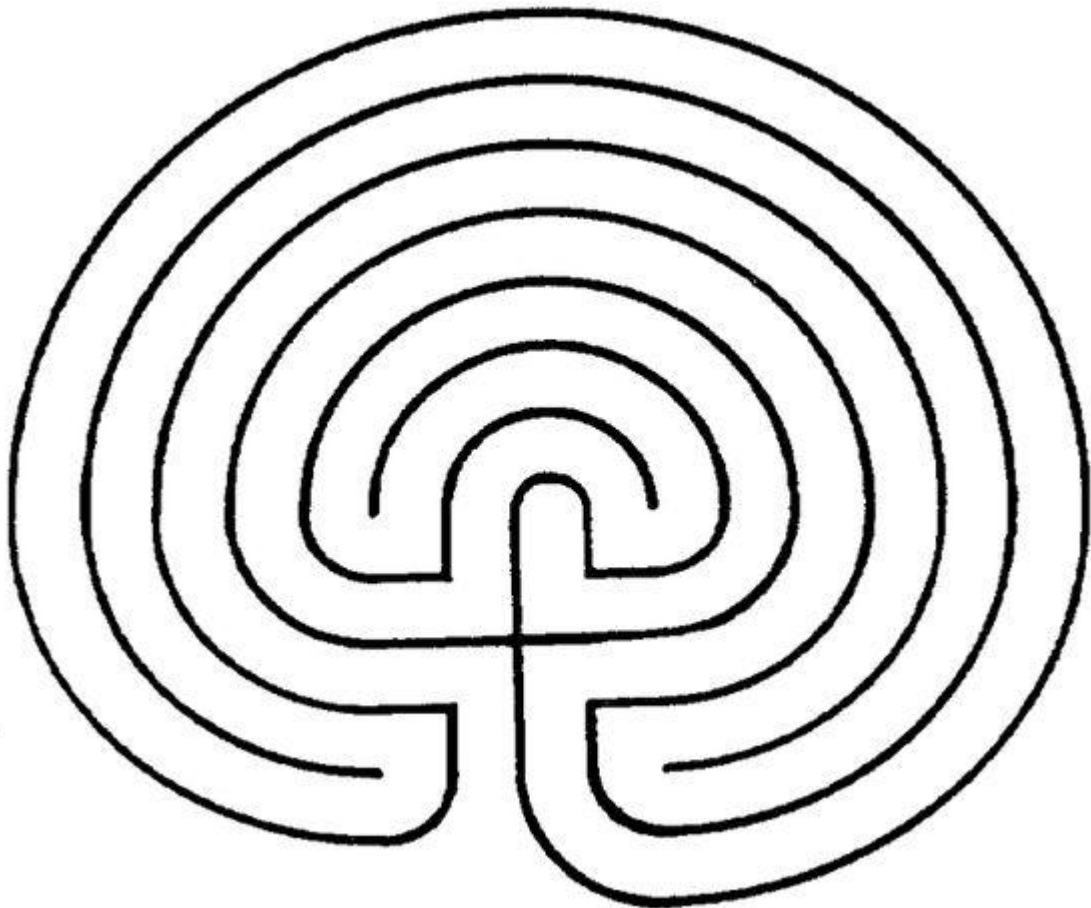




INVERNESS
CATHEDRAL

Evening Prayer
in the style of Taizé
for the Season of Creation
Sunday 13th September 2026



This service of Evening Prayer includes songs from the Taizé community in Burgundy, a community which welcomes people from all denominations and cultures – those who have a faith and those who struggle to believe. They come from all around the world responding to an invitation to ‘search for communion with God through community prayer, song, and silence’.

In this service, you are invited to come and sit a while with Bible readings, silence and singing. Taizé chants are designed to be easily learned as they are repeated again and again, using just a few words. Don’t worry if you get lost or don’t know the tune, as you’ll soon pick it up.

The chants are separated by short silences – where we rest in God’s presence; where we listen by waiting on Him. When we reach prayers for others, there will be a longer silence as we pray to God from the stillness of our own hearts.

We hope that you will enjoy the silence as an opportunity to rest and relax in the presence of God. If it is helpful, you may wish to focus your attention on a word or a phrase contained in our liturgy this evening; on the finger labyrinth on the front page; on an object which you can see nearby; or to close your eyes and listen to nearby sounds, your breath, your heartbeat. All these things can be a symbol of our desire to be in God’s presence. You will notice your mind wandering. Thoughts are a normal part of silent prayer and to be accepted. By gently returning to your chosen word, object or sound you bring your attention back to God in an act of love.

In addition to songs from the Taizé community, this service incorporates prayers from the Scottish Episcopal Church service of Evening Prayer, Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community, and prayers of the Iona Community.

Welcome

In the beginning, when it was very dark,
God said 'Let there be light'
And there was light.

The sign of light— a candle is lit

Let the darkness of night surround us, let light and warmth gather us
and let God's people say Amen. **Amen.**

Let the tools be stored away, let the work be over and done
and let God's people say Amen. **Amen.**

Let the winds blow wild around us, but let hearts be glad and minds be calm
And let God's people say Amen. **Amen.**

Chant

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo-nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, Al-le-lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu - ia!

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace
For you alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!**

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Silence

‘But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.’

Silence

God the Maker,
maker of colour, sound, texture, quietness,
and restless beauty in living things.

We bless you, God.

God, God our Maker,
maker of granite and mustard seed,
of grey cloud and starlight,
of earthquake and heartbeat.

We bless you. God.

God our Maker,
maker of all that is unseen,
of all that has been,
of all that words could never capture.

We bless you. God.

God our Maker,
we, the children of your love,
the creatures of your kindness,
the guardians of creation, bless you.

**We bless you for your making,
your trusting,
your loving,
your never-ending goodness, Amen.**

Silence

Chant



Veni Sancte Spiritus (*repeat in harmony*)

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A liturgy of the night¹

On the first night, God said: 'Let there be darkness.' And God separated light from dark, and in the dark, the land rested, the people slept, and the plants breathed, the world retreated. The first night.

And God said that it was Good.

On the second night God said: 'There will be conversations that happen in the dark that can't happen in the day.' The second night.

And God said that it was Good.

And on the third night, God said: 'Let there be things that can only be seen by night.' And God created stars and insects and luminescence. The third night.

And God said that it was Good.

And on the fourth night, God said: 'Some things that happen in the harsh light of day will be troubled. Let there be a time of rest to escape the raw light.' The fourth night.

And God said that it was Good.

And on the sixth night, God listened. And there were people working, and people crying, and people seeking shadow, and people telling secrets and people aching for company. There were people aching for space and people aching for solace. And God made twilight, and shafts of green to hang from the dark skies, small comforts to accompany the lonely, the joyous, the needy and the needed. The sixth night.

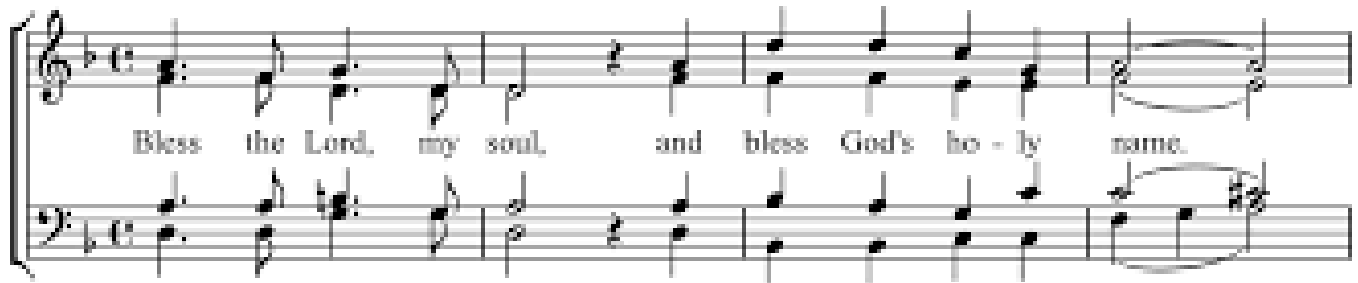
And God said that it was Good.

¹ From 'Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community', Padraig O'Tuama

And on the last night, God rested. And the rest was good. The rest was very good.

And God said that it was very Good.

Silence



Bless the Lord, my soul and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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Silence

A reading from Meditations with Julian of Norwich²

I saw that God was everything that is good and encouraging.

God is our clothing
that wraps, clasps and encloses us
so as never to leave us.

God showed me in my palm
a little thing round as a ball
about the size of a hazelnut.

I looked at it with the eye of my understanding
and asked myself: 'What is this thing?'
And I was answered: 'It is everything that is created.'

I wondered how it could survive since it seemed so little
it could suddenly disintegrate into nothing.

The answer came: 'It endures and ever will endure,
because God loves it.'

And so everything has being because of God's love.

Silence

In the beginning, **God was.**

Here and now, **God is.**

In the future, **God will be.**

We hold a longer silence as we pray for the world.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not bring us to the time of trial, but deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Chant



Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -
Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord. Sing



da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num!
prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord!

**Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum! /
Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord!**

In the beginning, when it was very dark,
God said 'Let there be light'
And there was light.

Lord God almighty, come and dispel the darkness from our hearts, that in the radiance of your brightness we may know you, the only unfading light, glorious in all eternity. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please know that your participation with us this evening has been a blessing.



Inverness Cathedral, dedicated to St. Andrew
The Mother Church of the United Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness
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