

TAIZÉ STYLE PRAYERS

In Remembrance of Judith Bruder (1934-2026)

A Founder and Pioneer of Weekly Taizé-Style Prayer in New York City.



Thursday, September 17, 2026

6:30 PM

Organized by the French Church group in NYC that prays
every Thursday with Taizé songs.

Please, switch all your electronic devices to silent mode

WELCOME — BIENVENUE — BENVENUTI

Taizé is an ecumenical Christian community in France, founded in 1940 by Brother Roger. It is known for its peaceful atmosphere, simple prayer services, meditative chants in multiple languages, and focus on reconciliation. People from around the world, especially young adults, gather there to reflect, pray, and live in community.

♪ IN THE LORD ♪



PSALM 71

*Before the first verses, and after each one, we sing:
(Alleluia.)*



In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me.

♪ ALLELUIA ♪

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.

♪ ALLELUIA ♪

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth.

♪ ALLELUIA ♪

My lips are filled with your praise,
with your glory all the day long.
When my strength fails do not forsake me.

♪ ALLELUIA ♪

READING

Judith 16:1-2,5-9,11,13-14

Judith sang: "Strike up a song to my God with tambourines, sing to the Lord with cymbals; Improvise for him a new song, exalt and acclaim his name. For the Lord is a God who crushes wars; he sets his encampment among his people; he delivered me from the hands of my pursuers. The Lord Almighty thwarted them, by the hand of a female! Not by youths was their champion struck down, nor did Titans bring him low, nor did tall giants attack him; But Judith, the daughter of Merari, by the beauty of her face brought him down. She took off her widow's garb to raise up the afflicted in Israel. She anointed her face with fragrant oil; fixed her hair with a diadem, and put on a linen robe to beguile him. Her sandals ravished his eyes, Her beauty captivated his mind. When my lowly ones shouted, and my weak ones cried out, The enemy was terrified, screamed and took to flight. I will sing a new song to my God. O Lord, great are you and glorious, marvelous in power and unsurpassable. Let your every creature serve you; for you spoke, and they were made. You sent forth your spirit, and it created them; no one can resist your voice."

♪ NADA TE TURBE ♪

Na - da te tur - be na - da te es - pan - te; quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta.

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te: só - lo Dios bas - ta.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "NADA TE TURBE". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system also ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

SILENCE

8 MINUTES

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Cantor sings Kyrie once through. The assembly does the same after the cantor. Then cantor sings the following intercessions. In between each intercession the assembly sings Kyrie Eleison.



May your peace shine among us and your love set us free.

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

Keep us persevering in faith and set in our hearts the desire for your Kingdom...

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

Guide your Church along the way of the Gospel; may your Holy Spirit keep her welcoming...

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

We pray for the leaders of the nations; may they have the will to promote justice and freedom...

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

O Christ, you have take our weaknesses upon yourself and taken charge of our illnesses;
support those who are going through trials...

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

For those who work with the oppressed, with foreigners and with the lonely, Lord,
we pray.

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

We entrust to you our families and friends, all who have asked for our prayers and who pray for us...

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

For our country, our region (village, town...),
that the Christians there may be witnesses to truth and creators of unity.

♪ KYRIE ELEISON, ELEISON ♪

OUR FATHER

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your name. Your king - dom come. Your will be done,
on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins
as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Keep us from temp - ta - tion,
and de - li - ver us from e - vil. A - men!

God of all loving, we praise you for the life of our sister and friend Judith. Her kindness, capacity for understanding and constant availability gave hope to so many people in the course of a long life. She was indeed a woman of reconciliation. Now that she is reunited with her beloved husband Frank in the heart of God, we can count on her prayers. Christ of compassion, keep us together so we may continue to walk on the road on which they always tried to walk—the way of joy, simplicity and mercy.

As we continue to sing, we gather in small groups around the cross and entrust to Christ the burdens of all those who suffer, remembering that the Risen Christ walks with each one of us and carries our burdens with us.

♪ BLESS THE LORD ♪

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in-to life.

♪ TU SEI SORGENTE VIVA ♪

Tu sei sor-gen-te vi - va, tu sei fuo-co, sei ca-ri - tà.

Vie - ni Spi-ri - to San - to, vie - ni Spi-ri - to San - to.

♪ ADORAMUS TE CHRISTE ♪

A-do-ra-mus te Chri - ste be-ne-di-ci-mus ti - bi, qui - a per cru-cem tu - am

re - de - mi - sti mun-dum, qui - a per cru-cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun-dum.

♪ VOICE DIEU QUI VIENT À MON SECOURS ♪

Voi - ci Dieu qui vient à mon se - cours, le Seig - neur a - vec ceux qui me sou - tien - nent. Je te
chan - te, toi qui me re - lè - ves. Je te chan - te, toi qui me re - lè - ves.

(See, God comes to my aid, the Lord, together with those who support me. I sing to you, for you raise me up. / Oto Bóg przychodzi mi z pomocą, Pan z tymi, którzy mnie wspierają. Śpiewam Tobie, Tobie, który mnie podnosisz. / Ecco, Dio è il mio aiuto, il Signore con quelli che mi sostengono. Ti canto, perché mi risollevi. / He aquí Dios que viene en mi ayuda, el Señor con aquellos que me sostienen. A ti te canto, tu me liberas. / Gott ist mein Helfer, der Herr beschützt mich. Ich will dir singen, denn du hast mich wieder aufgerichtet. Ps 54, 6 et Ps 30, 2)

♪ JUBILATE COELI ♪

(1) Ju - bi - la - te cœ - li, ju - bi - la - te mun - di, — Chris - tus Je - sus
(re.) (2) Ju - bi - la - te cœ - li, ju - bi - la - te mun - di, — Je - sus
Solo: A - men! A - men! A - men!
Finale sur - re - xit ve - re. Ju - bi - la - te cœ - li. A - men!
Chris - tus sur - re - xit ve - re. A - men! A - men!

Judith Bruder (1934–2026)

A Founder of Weekly Taizé-Style Prayer in New York City

It was during the cold winter at the end of January 1978 that the Brothers of Taizé arrived in New York City. They first stayed for a few days on Long Island, where they were welcomed by friends of Fr. Robert Smith, a chaplain at SUNY Stony Brook for many years. Fr. Smith was a Catholic priest and a close friend of the Brothers.



Judith's spiritual search began from her Jewish roots, and she felt a growing convergence with the Christian faith. Her commitment to Christian life grew stronger after she became friends with Bob Smith, who introduced her and her husband, Frank, to a small community of the Brothers of Taizé on Long Island.

Eventually, the Brothers settled in an apartment in Hell's Kitchen, a poor neighborhood of Manhattan, populated mostly by Spanish and Irish immigrants, as well as some African Americans.

Frank and Judith became very regular participants in the prayers at the Brothers' house and developed a close friendship with the Brothers. Their home in Roslyn, Long Island, was often a place of friendship and rest for the Brothers. After September 11, 2001, and following Frank's retirement, they decided to move to Massachusetts.

Fr. Smith baptized Judith in early 1980, and soon afterward she became a chaplain at Fordham University's Lincoln Center campus in Manhattan, not far from where the Brothers lived. Judith organized a weekly prayer at the Fordham Chapel, in which the Brothers also participated.

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For Judith's 50th birthday in 1984, the Long Island community of friends of Taizé offered Frank and Judith the opportunity to travel to Germany and participate in the first European meeting of the Taizé Community, held in Cologne from December 28, 1984, to January 1, 1985.

They had never considered traveling to Germany; given their background, it was a place they felt they should not go. After much reflection, however, they decided to accept the challenge, inspired by Taizé's spirit of reconciliation and its call to a "pilgrimage of trust." Unexpectedly, they were hosted by a Jewish family. A deep friendship developed and continues to this day, with the two families traveling between their countries whenever possible.

Frank and Judith became strong supporters of the meetings and prayers organized by the Brothers in New York City, Long Island, and other locations.

In 2001, the Brothers organized various prayer gatherings in churches of different denominations throughout the city, including in the downtown area near Ground Zero. Judith and Frank were very active in these gatherings. Coming from a Jewish background, they felt deeply welcomed by the ecumenical and open spirit of the Taizé Community.

After more than twenty years in New York City, and as Hell's Kitchen was undergoing significant transformation, the Brothers returned to Taizé. A group of friends continued the prayer at the French Church, and they continue to do so to this day.

This group has remained in contact with the Brothers. Whenever the Brothers return to the United States for meetings with young people, they always visit them. Some members of the group also travel to Taizé, France, whenever they can. Through them, the Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth continues in New York City.



THE FRENCH CHURCH THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:30 PM

AT THE FRENCH CHURCH DU SAINT-ESPRIT, ON 60TH ST BETWEEN LEXINGTON AND PARK AVENUES.

THE TAIZE PRAYERS ARE ALSO LIVESTREAMED

[YOUTUBE.COM/@FRENCHCHURCH](https://www.youtube.com/@FrenchChurch)

