

What is a Taizé Worship?

“Contemplation is nothing more than one’s whole person being seized by the reality of God’s love.” — Brother Roger of Taizé

Taizé is a monastic community in the village of Taizé, France. The community was founded in 1940 by a Christian monk from Switzerland named Roger Schütz, who is commonly referred to as Brother Roger.

As a response to the horrors of war, Brother Roger wanted to help “those most discouraged, those deprived of livelihood” by creating “a place of silence and work.” He also wanted to bring different denominations together, particularly Catholics and Protestants.

Taizé worship—which was born from Brother Roger’s ecumenical idea—uses singing and chanted prayers repeated over and over, short scripture readings and psalms, and meditative silences that may last as long as ten minutes. The chanted prayers and songs are often short and simple, such as:

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.

Today, services based on Taizé worship are held in hundreds of churches throughout the world.