Taizé is an ecumenical monastic community found in France, in a town by the same name. The community was founded in the 1940s by Brother Roger Schutz and today is composed of over a hundred monks. Each year the community hosts over 100,000 pilgrims of mostly young people. They journey to spend time together in work, Scripture study, and prayer. Since its founding the style prayer engaged in the Taizé community has spread and gained popularity among many Christians and today many churches can be found holding prayer services in the Taizé style.

What is Taizé prayer?
Taizé prayer focuses on simplicity. While prayer services in this model do not follow any strict rubric, they all contain the same essential elements. Short, repetitive chants are woven together with brief readings from Scripture and periods of silence. Often candlelight, darkness, and religious imagery are used to create a meditative environment and offer a visual accompaniment to the aural experience.

Why should we participate in a Taizé service?
Taizé is focused on helping worshippers enter a contemplative state. The simplicity and repetition in the sung chants allow people to focus on praying without having to worry about the words or the music. The short Scripture readings invite people pull out a word or phrase that speaks to them. The periods of silence offer time and space to experience the Lord. In a hectic and chaotic world, the experience of Taizé can be quiet calming. According to Brother John, one of the monks in the Taizé community, “It is a time to rest in God, to let the words listened to and sung penetrate one’s being.”
Taizé Reflection

Family Last Name: ________________________________

First Names of Adult Participants: ___________________ ___________________ ___________________

First Names of Youth Participants: ________________________________ ________________________________

What were your impressions of the Taizé Prayer Service?

______________________________________________________________________________________

Was there a particular chant or reading that stood out to you? If yes, please explain.

______________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________

Did Taizé help you to connect with God and/or our parish community? If yes, how? If not, why not?

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What is one thing about Taizé that you would like to share with others?

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