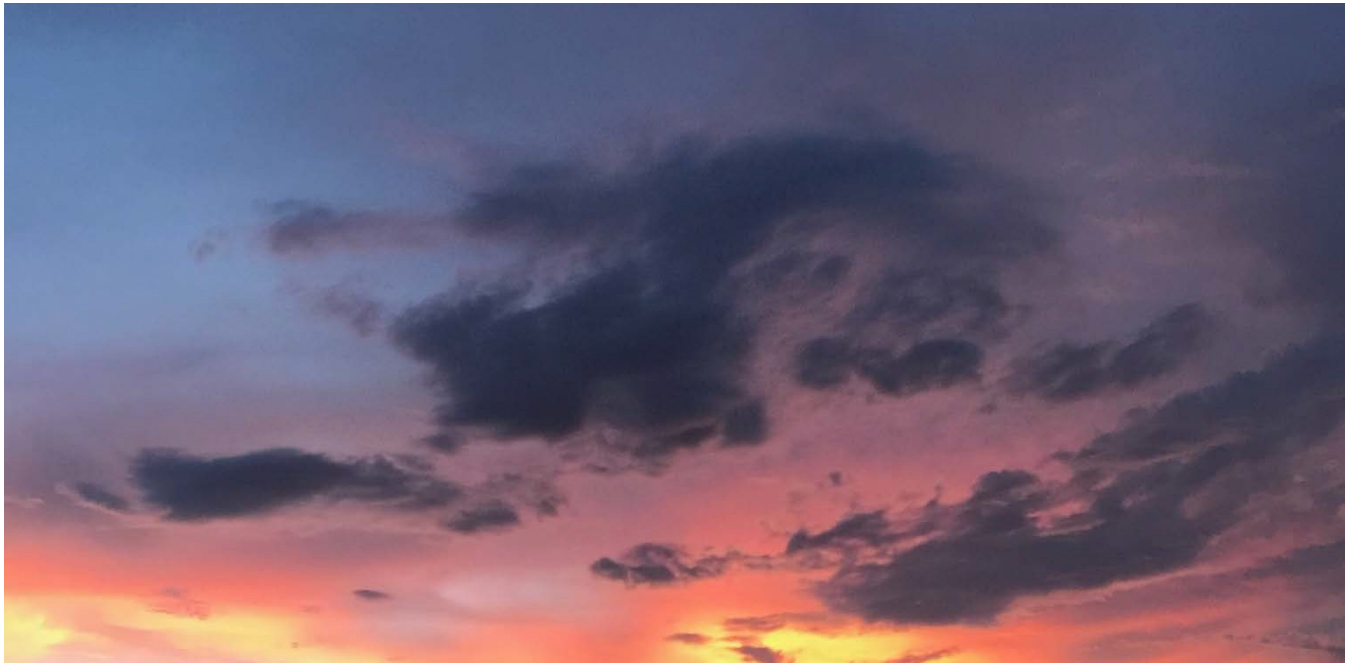




# *Taizé Prayers*

*By Jane E. Shurtleff*

*Updated on 9/12/2023*



## Loving

Dear God, your unfailing love gives us strength.

When you shine your never-ending light on us, we're inspired by the warmth of your devotion.

When you open our hearts to forgiveness, we find the love in ourselves and others.

When you bless us with your undying compassion, we truly feel beloved.

Lord, help us feel the depth of your love and let it open our hearts to a greater understanding of the world around us and our purpose in it.



## **Thankful**

The first time I saw you were with me,  
your light cast out the darkest of all my fears.  
You gave me hope in a time when I was lost  
and helped me find myself in your endless compassion.  
When I had hate in my heart, you showered me with your  
love, so I could love myself again.  
When I felt lost and alone, you found me and through you,  
I found others just like me.  
O Lord, the life you have given me is not easy, but it is a wonderful  
gift for which I am everthankful.  
Because you are always there in the ones that I love.



## **Blessings**

Lord,

Grant me comfort in a world where I cannot control the madness that touches us.

Give me respite from the discord that continuously swirls around us.

Guide me toward the good that exists in the world and its people, so that I may see there is still hope among us.

Grow my faith to believe that we can rise above those things that are causing so much unhappiness and pain within us.

Grace me with your all-encompassing, all-inclusive love and compassion, so that I too may shine your light through my daily thoughts, deeds and interactions.

I pray for these things knowing that no matter what, your blessings are always with us.



## **Miracles**

Lord, our faith was born out of a miracle,  
but with each day, personal worries and the troubles of the world  
continuously test our faith  
and at times, our entire belief system.

Dear God, we enter this Advent season, looking for miracles again.

The Hope that all your people will live freely and without hunger,  
homelessness or harm.

The Peace that eludes our world but is a constant goal for all humanity to  
survive.

The Joy that overcomes us when we see your miracles in our daily lives and  
the lives who touch us.

The Love from you that surpasses all expectation and is passed through us  
onto others.



Lord, the Light you brought into the world to dispel all darkness still shines in us.

In times of joy and celebration, your Light shines like a beacon; so, we pray that you teach us how to share your Light with others who cannot see beyond the darkness.

At times of sorrow and grief, we may hide your Light from ourselves and our loved ones; so, we pray that you show us how to let your Light act as a guide out of the darkness.

Dear God, help us see all your miracles with your everlasting Light. And keep it lit within all of us who pray with you tonight.





## Joy

Our hearts are open to you dear Lord.  
In our waking and sleeping hours,  
In our joys and sorrows,  
In our deepest fears and greatest loves,  
We seek to find you within us.

Fill us with a sustaining hope.  
Calm us with a never-ending faith.  
Heal us with an everlasting love.  
Surround us in the joy of knowing you are always with us.



## **The Eternal Circle**

My circle of life may have begun at my birth,  
but dear Lord you promise so much more.

I see the eternal line connecting me with you, Christ and the Holy Spirit,  
and I know I am part of so much more.

My life is a colorful tapestry of threads intertwined with those who have enriched my soul,  
and I know that I have so much more.

My heart has broken the chains of fear, doubt and hate,  
and I know that I can do so much more.

The circle of life is never ending, because you are here with me,  
and I will love forever more.



## Look for the Light

In this time of separation, Lord,  
We look for your light.  
We see it in the small kindnesses all around  
us.  
The friends and family who reach out.  
The children who make us laugh.  
Our church community who holds us in prayer.

In this time of scarcity, Lord,  
We look for your comfort.  
In the solace that comes from people and  
places.  
The creativity in the arts, music and humor.  
The beauty the desert Spring lays before us.

In this time of fear, Lord,  
We look for your love.  
In the warm smile of a stranger behind a mask.  
Silent kisses blown behind a pane of glass.  
Loving faces in a video frame.

In this time of intolerance, Lord,  
We look for your compassion.  
Though it is hard for us to see it,  
we seek your humanity among those  
who work toward a peaceful resolution to inequity and civil unrest.

In this time of uncertainty, Lord,  
We look for your light to guide us.  
Your comfort to calm us.  
Your love to protect us.  
And your compassion to enlighten us.  
Amen

(Written during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and time of civil unrest)





Photo of St. Andrews, Scotland by Paul Shurtleff

## **Waiting**

We are forever waiting.  
Waiting for the next big thing.  
Waiting for the next shoe to drop.  
Waiting for our lives to change.

But in our waiting, are we really living?  
Or have we put our lives on pause in endless anticipation.

Change that anticipation into action.  
Move forward, letting God guide the way.

*These prayers were written by Jane E. Shurtleff for the Casas Adobes Congregational Church Taizé services.*

*Photos by Jane and David Shurtleff*