

### **Introduction and Welcome**

The story of the origin of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is well known. Juan Diego was a quiet, humble man, a poor peasant. When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to tell the local bishop to build a church in her honor, Juan Diego became a very reluctant messenger. The bishop would not believe him. So, Mary filled Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak, with roses in December, and when he emptied out these beautiful flowers at the bishop's feet, there, imprinted on his tilma, was a wonderful image of the Virgin, dressed like a young Aztec woman.

Our Lady spoke to Juan Diego in his own language, with an appearance that reflected the indigenous people and their culture.

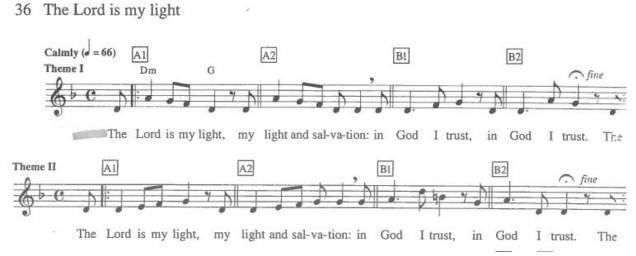
God could have chosen to become a full-grown, powerful man, but instead came as a little baby to an ordinary girl who said yes to God.

Like Mary, we also change the world a little bit every time we say yes to God and love others like Jesus taught us.

## Chant 5x: The Lord is my light

## Reading: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.



And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and

he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a

And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

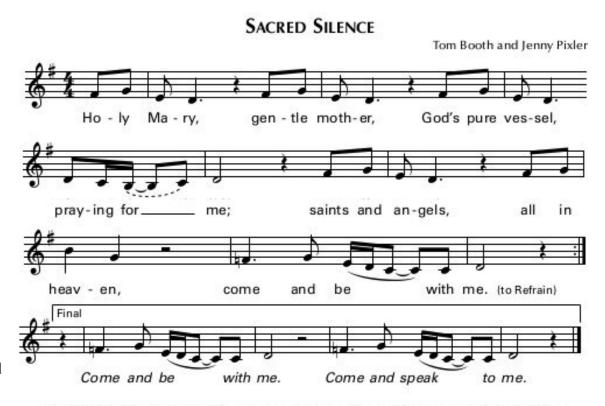
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

#### Chant 5x Sacred Silence

# Reading: A Meditation on Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Gospel passage we heard this evening invites us to reflect upon the nature of God. Why does God choose Mary to be the mother of



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his Son? God chooses a lowly virgin peasant girl to be the one who will bear the most precious gift of God's love, his very Son. If God had wanted, God could have been born among us in a very powerful and successful family. Or he could have manifested his divinity in a fully-grown human person. Instead, his grace rested fully upon one who had no standing within her community. As a faithful Jewish girl, Mary was attuned to the working of God within her life. She listened carefully to God's will. Mary spent

#### O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER



Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

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her life discerning his movement in her life and was well prepared to offer herself as the chosen ark for God's incarnation. Like Mary, we are invited to cooperate fully with God's will, giving our entire lives over in service of his kingdom.

We honor Mary because God favored her with a special grace, and her decision to cooperate with it has blessed humankind. Are we aware of the graces showered on us in Christ? How are we saying yes to God's will for our lives?

#### **Extended Silence**

#### **Petitions**

#### Chant 2x then once after each petition

- 1. For those who are with child, who are struggling with an unexpected pregnancy, or who are suffering from infertility or infant loss, we pray:
- 2. For people of the United States, that we may be united in the common purpose of building a society

in which everyone can live with dignity and hope, we pray:

- 3. For the members of this community, that we may find ways to help build a world of greater respect for human life and human dignity, we pray:
- 4. For those suffering from poverty and injustice, that the decisions made by our elected officials this coming year will lead to policies and programs that help build better lives, we pray:
- 5. For the earth, that our world's leaders will be inspired by God's Spirit to protect all of creation, we pray:
- 6. For our leaders around the world, that they might find ways to bring an end to war and violence, and promote peace and development for all nations, we pray:
- 7. You are invited to add additional prayer intentions, and light a votive candle.

We pray together the Lord's Prayer

## Chant 3x My Soul in Stillness Waits.

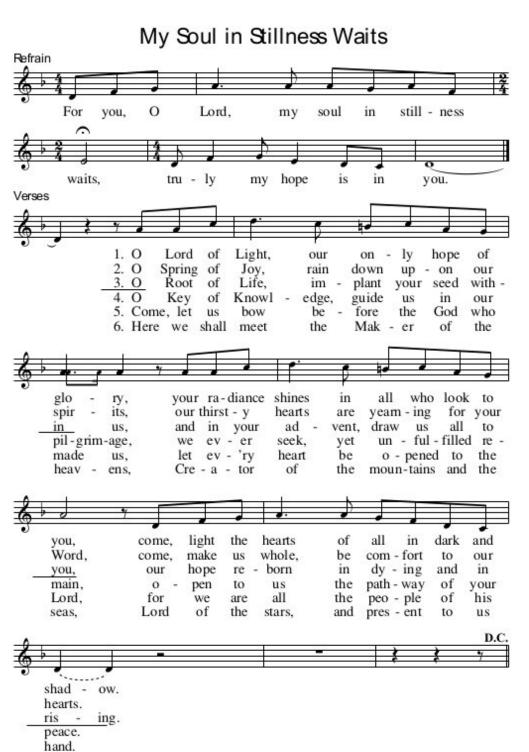
## **Closing Prayer**

Mary, Holy Mother of God,

We salute you and we honor you.

In this season of darkness,

As we await the coming Feast



now.

of the Birth of the Son of God, we do pray to you, Mother of the Lord of Light.

Hail to you,

Holy Sun Virgin, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.

We watch the winter sun, our source of heat and light, our calendar

maker, as it wains

and prepares for rebirth.

Holy sun, mystic mother of ages past, be for us a living sign.

Holy Virgin of Tepayac, with the sun as your mantel, you who are clothed in yellow light, with the moon under your feet and stars for your crown, we honor you. We ask this of you through the mystery of your Son, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and all those who have gone before us, forever and ever.

Amen.

Chant 5x: Wait for the Lord

## WAIT FOR THE LORD

Jacques Berthier



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Holy Earth Mother, Holy Lady of the Star-Filled Night, Mother of Candles and Lamps, we praise you.

We thank you for the protection of our land, for your loving kindness and many gifts.

Protect our home, guard our family, and watch over us forever.

Please take time to view the free video about Our Lady of Guadalupe: https://vimeo.com/304654352

## Please join us again, in person or live stream, on January 5, 2023

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#### What is Taizé?

Taizé prayer is practiced throughout the world. It is a meditative candle-lit form of community prayer that includes simple chants sung repeatedly, silence and prayers of praise and intercession. In prayer, we enter the silence, stilling the mind, opening the heart, surrendering to the action of the Spirit ever molding us into the image of Christ. The candles used in the service symbolize the presence of the risen Christ, who conquered darkness and sin and offers new life to all humankind.

Taizé Prayer comes from an ecumenical, monastic community in France and has spread to numerous spots around the world.

From the depths of the human condition, a secret aspiration rises up. Today many are thirsting for the essential reality: an inner life, signs of the Invisible. Nothing is more conducive to communion with the living God than meditative common prayer. When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols, when it is not smothered by too many words, then a common prayer awakens us to heaven's joy on earth.