

Lenten Vespers at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

7 pm

The congregation is invited to remain seated throughout the service.

Prelude

Welcome and Call to Worship

Peace on each one who comes in need.

Peace on each one who comes in joy.

Peace on each one who offers prayers.

Peace on each one who offers song.

Peace of the Maker, peace of the Son,

Peace of the Spirit, the Triune One.

Opening Song 90

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Prayer (unison)

God, give me the freedom to be able to tell the truth to myself, and the gift of someone who will listen to it. But God, when I have to say hard truths to someone, help me slow it down and prepare them, invite them. God, let my truth come gently. Amen.

A Reading from Scripture

Romans 12:9-15

Ask

Think of a time when you were able to truly “weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice.” Think of someone who was able to do the same for you in a time of need. Thank God for the gift of being able to give and receive this kind of presence and compassion.

Reflect

The Taize song we will sing shortly represents the presence that brings comfort. “Stay with me” were the words of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when he asked his friends to stay with him while he prayed about the cross he would soon suffer. Think of a time you needed this same kind of loving presence from people in your life – or when you were asked to provide it.

Silent Reflection

A Blessing

Closing Song 204

Stay With Me

Stay here with me; remain here with me;
watch and pray. Watch and pray.

Benediction

Postlude