



Sharing Future

*Working together for tomorrow.
Sharing ideas of new solidarity.
Discovering God's presence.*

Graz

October 25 to 28, 2018

Practical information

common prayers

The common prayers are at the heart of the meeting in Graz. The midday and evening prayers will be held at **the cathedral “Dom”** [city-map, F7].

All participants receive a **song booklet** of the meeting at the welcome at Franziskanerkloster [F7]. Psalms, readings and intercessions can be found in this program (page 4). In some other languages they can be found as well.

20 minutes before the beginning of the prayers there is a **song practice** in which all are invited.

Place of Silence and personal prayer

On Friday and Saturday (2:30 - 6:00 pm), Leechkirche, Zinzendorfgasse 3 [G6] will be a place of silent prayer and reflection. There will be as well the possibility for a personal conversation or for confession.

Meals

On Friday and Saturday from 11:45 am – 12:15 pm at the seminary (“Priesterseminar”), entrance Bürgergasse 2 [F7] a hot lunch will be distributed, as well as a picnic for dinner. The picnic for dinner can be taken between 6:00 and 6:45 pm either together in the seminary (entrance Bürgergasse 2 – in front of Mausoleum, [F7]) or in case of lack of time on the way to the evening prayer. At the seminary, hot tea will be distributed during this time. Please always bring with you a bag, cup and spoon!

Public Transport

At the welcome all participants will receive a ticket for public transport during the days of the meeting. Everyone notes his name on the ticket. Please follow the instructions in the host communities. Sometimes walking might be the fastest. When you use the ticket for the **1st time** you have to **stamp it** once inside the bus or tram.

Austrian Armed Forces military exhibition on October 26th

Austria’s National Day is celebrated on October 26th and relates to the country’s neutrality. Every year on this day, the Austrian Armed Forces gather for a military exhibition, which will be held in and around the city center of Graz for the first time. Public transport services are therefore limited to replacement buses on National Day. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Info-Point.

Most of you won't be used to seeing the Armed Forces around Graz. As participants in the meeting we want to set an example for peace and reconciliation through our presence in the city.

Please note: Time change

We return to standard/winter time, so please make sure to set the clock one hour back by early Sunday morning. (By default, most mobile phones are set to automatically update the time as it changes.)

Workshops

All participants choose freely which workshops they would like to attend. For some workshops the number of visitors is limited. In this case you have to register personally in a list at the information point at the Franziskanerkloster. When visiting the workshops, please always take this printed program with you. In some places it may be needed for entry. The main language, depending on the workshop, will be english or german. If you need a translation, please say so directly at your arrival. If you can help with a simple translation for others, please also let us know when you arrive. Thank you!

Printed Papers

All participants receive:

- this **program** of the meeting: Please always have it with you for the morning program.
- a **map** of the city center
- the **song booklet**: To avoid waste, please bring it to all prayers.
- **meal ticket**: Please show the ticket at the meal distributions.
- **transport ticket**

Information Point

For participants, hosts, visitors and all who wish to participate in the afternoon program: in the **Franziskanerkloster** (access by the Franziskanerkirche, through the door to the cloister on the right side, [F7]).

Open: Thursday: 2:00 – 6:30 pm
Friday + Saturday: 12:00 – 12:45 pm | 2:00 – 2:45 pm
6:00 – 6:45 pm | 8:30 – 9:15 pm

Fotos

In order to share this meeting with others, some images or videos will be recorded from different parts of the program: prayers, workshops, meals, etc. Please do not disturb by filming or taking photos during prayers. Thank you!

Daily program of the meeting

Thursday, 25 October, 2018

From 3:00 pm arrival and welcome of registered participants at the “Franziskanerkloster” (entrance “Albrechtgasse”, [F7]).

The dinner will be distributed at the welcome in the form of a picnic.

7:30 pm **Common Prayer at the “Dom”**
(song practice, open to all from 7:10 pm)

From Psalm 27

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation, so whom should I fear? The Lord keeps my soul from harm, then why be afraid?
2. One thing that I ask of the Lord, the thing that I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
3. I will shelter beneath his tent when troubles arise and there, in his Temple, I hide, in safety on the rock.
4. Pay heed, O Lord, when I call, have mercy, reply! My heart repeats your words: seek God’s face.
5. I shall see God’s goodness, I know, in the land of the living; take heart, trust in God and believe, put your hope in the Lord.

Reading

Yes, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope. When you call to me and come and pray to me, I shall listen to you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord. (Jeremiah 29,11 – 13)

Intercessory prayers

1. For the Church throughout the world, for the unity of Christians, Lord, we pray.
2. For all those who love God, for the believers of all religions, Lord, we pray.
3. For those who are dying, for those who care for them or who accompany them, Lord, we pray.
4. For all who suffer from hunger, Lord, we pray.
5. For those who strive to make the world a place fit for all to live in, who work to reduce inequalities, Lord, we pray.

8:30 - 9:30 pm Welcoming of late arrivals and first journey to host churches and accommodation

Friday, 26 October, 2018

9:00 am Morning prayer in your host church

Song

From **Psalm 100** with *Alleluia* (N° 1)

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before God, singing for joy.
2. Know that the Lord is God, our Maker to whom we belong. We are God's people, sheep of the flock.
3. Enter the gates with thanksgiving, God's courts with songs of praise.
4. Give thanks to God and bless his name.
5. Indeed, how good is the Lord, whose merciful love is eternal; whose faithfulness lasts forever.

Reading

From the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your serenity be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Silence

Prayer

Jesus our joy, when we realize that you love us, something in us is soothed and even transformed. We ask you: what do you want from me? And by the Holy Spirit you reply: let nothing trouble you, I am praying in you, dare to give your life.

Intercessory prayers with *Kyrie* (N° 2)

1. For Christians, may they live out their calling with joy, Lord, we pray.
2. For children, for those who help them to have trust in God, Lord, we pray.
3. For those who strive to forgive, Lord, we pray.
4. For all those who are treated harshly, who are subject to humiliation, Lord, we pray.
5. For all those who give witness to you by the way they live, Lord, we pray.

Our Father

Songs

Discovering local communities and small-group meetings:

Joy

Once the small groups are formed, introduce yourselves. Then read the first proposal for the year 2018 as well as the Bible text for the morning prayer (Philippians 4:4-7). Then have a time of sharing using the questions below:

- *What makes me sad? What makes me happy?*
- *Is it naive, given life's difficulties, to "make a conscious choice for joy"? What does joy change in my personal life and around me?*
- *Why is joy so important for Christians?*
- *Have I already had, in trying situations, the experience of a "joy that resists discouragement"?*

11:45 am to 12:15 pm: lunch at the seminary ("Priesterseminar")

(entrance Bürgergasse 2, in front of "Schauspielhaus", [F7])

Distribution of hot lunch and picnic for supper:

Please bring a bag, cup and spoon!

1:00 pm

Midday Prayer at the "Dom"

(song practice, open to all from 12:40 pm)

From Psalm 138

1. I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart: you have heard the words of my mouth.
2. I give you thanks for your kindness and your truth, all your promises excel your renown.
3. When I called, you answered my prayer, you increased the strength of my soul.
4. You stretch out your hand and save me, your right hand will deliver me.
5. To your love, O Lord, there is no end, so continue the work you have begun.

Reading

From the Book of Revelation: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them." (Revelation 21:1-3)

Prayer

God of love, you know we are thirsting for the joy of life. Open our eyes to all you give us –the beauty of creation, of friendship, of human creativity. And when trials arise, you encourage us by your presence to go through them in trust. Yes, it is you who satisfies our deepest longings.

2:30 pm Workshops

Stages of Faith: A City Walk Through Protestant and Catholic History

Discover the "City of Reformation" caught between Reformation and Counter-Reformation and learn more about religious co-existence, conflict and cooperation in Graz.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the *Info-point*.

Meeting Point: Franziskanerkirche (Ecke Linzbichler), Franziskanerplatz 14, [F7]

The Call of God in My Life?

How can we seek and discover the call of God in our lives? Listening to an introduction by a Brother of Taizé with the opportunity to share thoughts and experiences with others.

Location: Evangelisch-methodistische Gemeinde, Wielandgasse 10, [F8]

Challenge Human Rights

In 2000, Graz was named the first European Human Rights City. It was not a title being awarded, but a commitment that the city chose to make. This workshop deals with the subject of human rights in the city of Graz. (In 2018, we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.) The workshop is based on the movie *Menschenrechtsstädte dieser Welt / Human Rights Cities of the World* (by Gernot Lercher and Michael Schaller for ORF Steiermark), portraying Graz and other Human Rights Cities like Rosario (Argentina), Korogocho (Kenia) and Edmonton (Canada). The movie was produced in 2008 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Location: Quartier Leech, Leechgasse 24, [H6]

Heavenly Sounds: Organ Tour in the Protestant Heilandskirche

Pipe organs are old, dusty instruments that can only be played by highly skilled persons – or maybe not? This workshop will open your eyes and ears to more than classical hymns (maybe even some tango). Yes, she really is the queen of all instruments. Come and have a listen!

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Location: Heilandskirche, Kaiser-Josef-Platz 9, [G7]

Place of Silence

A moment of silence and the opportunity for personal dialogue awaits you. If you wish, you can also receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Place of Silence can be visited from 2.30 to 6.00 pm.

Location: Leechkirche, Zinzendorfsgasse 3 (Zugang Zinzendorfsgasse), [G6]

Candle Making

While the burning of candles fosters meditative mood, candle making in the hand-crafted, traditional way is also a kind of meditation. Learn how to make and design your own candle – no previous knowledge necessary!

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

The workshop takes place at 4:30 pm as well.

Location: „Gruppenraum“ Heilandskirche, Kaiser-Josef-Platz 9, [G7]

Prison Life: Guilt and Responsibility

Life in prison is subject to great restrictions. Inmates need to find a way to spend their days (or years) within a challenging environment. Some succeed – others do not. After watching a twelve-minute clip, we talk about everyday life in a penal institution and how people and their behavior are shaped by imprisonment.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

The workshop takes place at 4:30 pm as well.

Location: Justizanstalt Graz Karlau, Herrgottwiesgasse 50, [G7]

Is It Really Possible to Be Loved Without Having to Prove Oneself? – Talk to the Little Sisters of Jesus About Anything and Everything

The pressure to perform, the next career move, the need to be seen vs. becoming small, passing unnoticed, descending instead of ascending: What lies behind all this? Is it our longing for love? – The Little Sisters of Jesus live where you don't expect a convent to be: by the side of vulnerable people on the margins of society. It is these people who can show us best what really matters in life: to be loved unconditionally without the need to make a name for oneself.

The workshop takes place at 4:30 pm as well.

Location: Kreuzkirche, Mühlgasse 43, [E6]

4:30 pm Workshops

Making Decisions: Shaping My Future

Significant or insignificant, we have to make decisions every single day of our lives. Having a major decision to make can sometimes feel overwhelming. The Christian treasure of experience offers tried and tested criteria to lead you through this process: Learn all about the spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Location: Quartier Leech, Leechgasse 24, [H6]

Sharing Music: Open Mic Session

This workshop is aimed at all musicians and music lovers who want to play (guitars, piano, cajón etc.) and sing together: Well-known songs from Taizé, pop songs or an impromptu jam session – we are open for your ideas! Everyone is welcome.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Location: Jugendzentrum Domino, Kaiser-Josef-Platz 8, [G7]

Sharing Future: Poetry Slam and More

Omar Khir Alanam was born in Syria in 1991. He fled the war and military service – first to Lebanon, then to Austria. Omar is a poetry slammer and currently training to be a social worker. Learn about his fascinating life story and take part in a poetry slam yourself. If possible, bring a short text on the topic of “Sharing Future” (3-5 minutes).

Location: Baptistengemeinde, Idlhofgasse 89, [E8]

Singing Together: Songs of Taizé

Immerse yourself in the different chants and songs of Taizé after an introduction from a Brother of the Taizé Community. All songs will be practiced, rehearsed and sung for several voices.

Location: Franziskanerkloster Franziskussaal, Franziskanerplatz 14, [F7]

6:00 to 6:45 pm: picnic in the “Priesterseminar”

(entrance Bürgergasse 2, in front of Mausoleum, [F7])

Distribution of tea and possibility to take the picnic together: *Bring a cup!*

7:30 pm

Common Prayer at the “Dom”

with “Prayer around the Cross”

(song practice, open to all from 7:10 pm)

From Psalm 16

1. Defend me, O God, my refuge and shield; I say to the Lord: You alone are my life.
2. I will bless the Lord who has guided my course, in the deep of night I wake up in joy.
3. I will keep the Lord before me all the day long, since God is at my right I shall not fall.
4. My heart rejoices and my soul is glad, my body too lies quiet at rest.
5. You will show me the path of life, before your face is fullness of joy, by your side, undying bliss.

Reading

Reading from the gospel according to Saint Matthew: Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matthew 14, 22—33)

Intercessory prayers

1. O Christ, gentle and humble of heart, on the cross you stretched out your arms over all humanity, Lord, we pray.
2. May we recognize you in the least of our brothers and sisters, Lord, we pray.
3. For those who have no resources, who have no one to support them, Lord, we pray.
4. For the victims of torture or abuse, Lord, we pray.
5. For Christians, that they may witness to God's kindness, Lord, we pray.

~ 9:00 pm Departure and return to the hosts

Saturday, 27 October, 2018

9:00 am Morning prayer in your host church

Song

From Psalm 68 with Alleluia (N° 1)

1. Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, rejoice before God.
2. God is a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows.
3. God sets the lonely in families, and leads out the prisoners with singing.
4. Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.
5. Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; sing praise to the Lord.

Reading

From the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: Jesus said in a parable: 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:35-40)

Silence

Prayer

You bless us, God of hope, and by your Holy Spirit you lead us to love and to say it with our lives.

Intercessory prayers with Kyrie (N° 2)

1. For peace in the world and for all those who strive for peace, Lord, we pray.
2. For all those who bear responsibilities in the public life of our countries, Lord, we pray.
3. For our region and for our town, for the Christians who live there, Lord, we pray.
4. For the elderly, for those who are ill, Lord, we pray.
5. For those seeking signs of God's goodness, Lord, we pray.

Our Father

Songs

Small-group meetings

“God awaits us in those who are poorer than we are.”

Read together the second proposal for 2018 as well as the Bible text for the morning prayer (Matthew 25:35-40). Then have a time of sharing using the questions below:

- Solidarity can take on different forms: “Going towards others with empty hands”, “changing structures of injustice”, “giving our time”. What can I do?
- “To simplify our existence.” What could this mean for me?
- Have I come across walls of hatred and indifference in my life? How have I surmounted them?

11:45 am to 12:15 pm: lunch at the seminary (“Priesterseminar”)

(entrance Bürgergasse 2, in front of “Schauspielhaus”, [F7])

Distribution of hot lunch and picnic for supper:

Please bring a bag, cup and spoon!

1:00 pm

Midday Prayer at the “Dom”

(song practice, open to all from 12:40 pm)

From **Psalm 143**

1. To you I stretch out my hands, O Lord; like parched ground my soul thirsts for you.
2. In the morning let me know your love for I put my trust in you.
3. Make me know the way I should walk; to you I lift up my soul.
4. Teach me to do your will for you, O Lord, are my God.
5. Let your good spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth.

Reading

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people. (Isaiah 43:18-20)

Prayer

Christ Jesus, when we are together in your name, you are in our midst. You suffered and rose from the dead: you give us peace, that peace we cannot give ourselves. You forgive and you make us free, free to love.

2:30 pm

Workshops

Stages of Faith: A City Walk Through Protestant and Catholic History

Discover the “City of Reformation” caught between Reformation and Counter-Reformation and learn more about religious co-existence, conflict and cooperation in Graz.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Meeting Point: Franziskanerkirche (Ecke Linzbichler), Franziskanerplatz 14, [F7]

Vinzidorf: Home for the Homeless

Father Wolfgang Pucher wanted to help and give home to unsheltered men suffering from alcohol abuse. For most of these men it is no longer possible to stay sober. They need a safe haven where they can live free of guilt and shame. Visit their new home Vinzidorf, the infirmary VinziMed and meet the residents and employees.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Location: Vinzidorf, Leonhardplatz 900, [I6]

Media and Power: How the Media Shapes Our Future?

How significant is the influence of media on society? Does serious journalism have to give way to sensationalism? Are Christian view points considered outdated within the media landscape? Josef Fröhlich, Head of Section at the largest regional Austrian newspaper “Kleine Zeitung” provides an insight into the current debate.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point and bring your ID to the workshop.

Location: Styria Media Center

Meeting Point: Foyer, 14:15 Uhr, Gadollaplatz 1, [G9]

The Call of God in My Life?

How can we seek and discover the call of God in our lives? Listening to an introduction by a Brother of Taizé with the opportunity to share thoughts and experiences with others.

Location: Evangelisch-methodistische Gemeinde, Wielandgasse 10, [F8]

Envisioning the Future: Improvisational Theatre

Get in touch – stay for a bit – leave – return. This is what acting is all about, an interaction of two or more people. Right now, or soon, or never. How do these encounters of the present affect our future? Try being present and creative by performing unplanned and unscripted theatre while envisioning the future. Join us if you feel like it. No prior improvisational skills required!

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Location: Schauspielhaus Graz

Meeting Point: Foyer/Haupteingang, Hofgasse 11, [F7]

Challenge Sustainability

A sustainable lifestyle is essential for the survival of humankind. This is why the United Nations keep working hard to promote sustainability: The Global SDGs or Sustainable Development Goals adopted a few years back are at the core of efforts to tackle social and economic development issues. While much of the responsibility lies with companies and nations, adopting a lifestyle guided by green principles is important as well. Learn how to take steps towards a (more) eco-friendly lifestyle in this workshop.

Location: Quartier Leech, Leechgasse 24, [H6]

About Dance and Pilgrimage

People dance for the most various reasons: to ask for rain, to find healing, joy, meditation, or rest. We dance with and within our bodies. It is a very personal, irreproducible experience of the here and now, of the moment as it is. People embark on pilgrimages for similar reasons, but unlike dance, a pilgrimage has a destination, a goal that marks the end of the inner and outer journey, where the pilgrim stops to enjoy the here and now.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Location: Oper Graz

Meeting Point: Portier der Oper Graz (unter der Glasbrücke), Kaiser-Josef-Platz 10, [G7]

Sing! – Experience Opera Up Close

An opera consists of different voices. We gain an insight into the daily lives of people whose working tool is their singing voice: Eri Scherling-Hidaka and Dominika Blazek tell us all about their routines before teaching us how to use our own voices. We will venture on famous choral parts from major operas – all onstage, to not only be heard, but also seen! At any rate, singing Carmen's Habanera in Seville or Dido's Fear no danger in Carthage will be great fun.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Location: Oper Graz

Meeting Point: Portier der Oper Graz (unter der Glasbrücke), Kaiser-Josef-Platz 10, [G7]

Prison Life: Guilt and Responsibility

Life in prison is subject to great restrictions. Inmates need to find a way to spend their days (or years) within a challenging environment. Some succeed – others do not. After watching a twelve-minute clip, we talk about everyday life in a penal institution and how people and their behavior are shaped by imprisonment.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

The workshop takes place at 4:30 pm as well.

Location: Justizanstalt Graz Karlau, Herrgottwiesgasse 50, [G7]

Candle Making

While the burning of candles fosters meditative mood, candle making in the hand-crafted, traditional way is also a kind of meditation. Learn how to make and design your own candle – no previous knowledge necessary!

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

The workshop takes place at 4:30 pm as well.

Location: „Gruppenraum“ Heilandskirche, Kaiser-Josef-Platz 9, [G7]

Is It Really Possible to Be Loved Without Having to Prove Oneself? – Talk to the Little Sisters of Jesus About Anything and Everything

The pressure to perform, the next career move, the need to be seen vs. becoming small, passing unnoticed, descending instead of ascending: What lies behind all this? Is it our longing for love? – The Little Sisters of Jesus live where you don't expect a convent to be: by the side of vulnerable people on the margins of society. It is these people who can show us best what really matters in life: to be loved unconditionally without the need to make a name for oneself.

The workshop takes place at 4:30 pm as well.

Location: Kreuzkirche, Mühlgasse 43, [E6]

Styrian Folk Dances and Traditions

Folk culture, dance and music speak a unique common language – joy in cultural exchange and peaceful communities. Learn all about local, national and international folk dances as well as traditional costumes. After opening up new perspectives on folk traditions, have a try at dancing waltz, polka or even Schuhplattler.

The workshop takes place at 4:30 pm as well.

Location: Pfarrsaal Münzgraben, Münzgrabenstraße 61, [G8]

4:30 pm Workshops

An Old yet Dynamic Church: Get to Know the Coptic Church in Graz

Get to know the Coptic Church and its language, tradition and history. Learn more about the Coptic "Prayer Book of the Hours" Agpeya and listen to reflections on the Sermon on the Mount.

Location: Kirche Johannes der Täufer, Wienerstraße 246, [C4]

Sharing Music: Open Mic Session

This workshop is aimed at all musicians and music lovers who want to play (guitars, piano, cajón etc.) and sing together: Well-known songs from Taizé, pop songs or an impromptu jam session – we are open for your ideas! Everyone is welcome.

Limited number of workshop participants – please register in advance at the Info-point.

Location: Jugendzentrum Domino, Kaiser-Josef-Platz 8, [G7]

Sharing Future: Poetry Slam and More

Omar Khir Alanam was born in Syria in 1991. He fled the war and military service – first to Lebanon, then to Austria. Omar is a poetry slammer and currently training to be a social worker. Learn about his fascinating life story and take part in a poetry slam yourself. If possible, bring a short text on the topic of “Sharing Future” (3-5 minutes).

Location: Quartier Leech, Leechgasse 24, [H6]

A Dialogue Between Contemporary Art and the Church

For many years, Bishop Hermann Glettler was assigned as a priest to the parish of St. Andrä, the “Church of Art” in Graz, where he initiated extraordinary projects and spectacular works of art. In this workshop he will talk about his personal experience as a priest, artist, art mediator and bishop, and the dialogue between contemporary art and the church.

Location: Kirche St. Andrä, Kernstockgasse 9, [E7]

Singing Together: Songs of Taizé

Immerse yourself in the different chants and songs of Taizé after an introduction from a Brother of the Taizé Community. All songs will be practiced, rehearsed and sung for several voices.

Location: Franziskanerkloster Franziskussaal, Franziskanerplatz 14, [F7]

6:00 to 6:45 pm: picnic in the “Priesterseminar”

(entrance Bürgergasse 2, in front of Mausoleum, [F7])

Distribution of tea and possibility to take the picnic together: *Bring a cup!*

7:30 pm

Common Prayer at the “Dom”

with “Prayer around the Cross”

(song practice, open to all from 7:10 pm)

From Psalm 25

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul in hope, for when we trust in you, we are not deceived.
2. Teach me, Lord, and show me your ways, O God, let me learn your paths.
3. Instruct me in your truth, for you are my Saviour and my God.
4. In you, all day long, I hope because of your compassion, O Lord.
5. Remember your kindness, O God, and your goodness, as ever of old.

Reading

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. My command to you is to love one another. (*John 15:11-17*)

Intercessory prayers

1. Christ, Son of God, you were before the world began, and you came to earth to save us all: make us witnesses of this Good News.
2. Sun of justice, you shone at the Father's side and illuminated the universe: give light to all who dwell in the shadow of death.
3. You became a little child and were laid in a manger: renew in us the simplicity of childhood.
4. King of glory, you accepted such an inconceivable humbling: give us hearts which are poor.
5. You became our living bread and gave us eternal life: gladden our hearts by your Eucharist.

~ 9:00 pm

Departure and return to the hosts

Sunday, 28 October, 2018

Morning	Sunday service in your host church
Lunch	Together with your hosts
Afternoon	Saying Goodbye and starting the journey home

Dig deeper into the wellsprings of joy

This is what the Lord says: I have loved you with an everlasting love, and so I have continued to show you my affection. (Jeremiah 31:3)

The Lord your God is with you. He takes great delight in you; he will renew you with his love; he will sing with joy because of you. (Zephaniah 3:17)

Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

Why is it that, every Saturday evening, the church at Taizé, illuminated by the small candles that everyone holds in their hand, takes on a festive air? It is because the resurrection of Christ is like a light at the heart of the Christian faith. It is a mysterious source of joy that our minds will never be able to comprehend fully. Drinking from this wellspring, we can “bear joy within us because we know that ultimately the resurrection will have the last word” (Olivier Clement, Orthodox theologian).

A joy which is not an inflated feeling, nor an individualistic happiness which would cut us off from others, but the serene assurance that life has meaning.

The joy of the Gospel comes from the confident trust that we are loved by God. Far from being a state of exaltation leading us to run away from the challenges of our day, it makes us more sensitive to the distress of others.

Let us find our joy first of all in the certainty that we belong to God. A prayer left by a witness to Christ from the fifteenth century can support us in this: “My Lord and my God, take from me all that keeps me far from you. My Lord and my God, give me all that brings me closer to you. My Lord and my God, take me out of myself and give me completely to you” (Saint Nicholas of Flue).

Our joy is nourished when we pray together in song. “Sing to Christ until you are joyful and serene,” Brother Roger proposed. Singing with others creates both a personal relationship with God and a communion among those who are gathered together. The beauty of the prayer space, of the liturgy and of the songs is a sign of resurrection. Praying together can awaken what the Christians of the East call “the joy of heaven on earth.”

We can also discover reflections of God’s love in human joys awakened in us by poetry, music, artistic treasures, the beauty of God’s creation, the depth of a love, of a friendship.

Second proposal
Hear the cry of the most vulnerable

Hear my prayer, Lord; let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. (Psalm 102:2-3)

Jesus, filled with joy through the Holy Spirit, said: I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, this was your heart's desire. (Luke 10:21)

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers for, in so doing, some have welcomed angels without realizing it. Remember those in prison as though you yourself were in prison with them. And remember those who are treated badly, as if you yourself were suffering. (Hebrews 13:2-3)

Why are so many people undergoing so many trials—exclusion, violence, hunger, sickness, natural disasters—and yet their voices hardly get a hearing? They need support—with shelter, food, education, work, and medical care—but what is just as vital for them is friendship. Having to accept help can be humiliating. A relation of friendship touches hearts, the hearts of those in need as well as those who show solidarity. Hearing the cry of someone who has been wounded, looking into their eyes, listening to or touching those who are suffering, an elderly person, someone who is ill, a prisoner, a homeless person, a migrant.... This personal encounter allows us to discover the dignity of the other and enables us to receive something from them, for even the most destitute have something to offer. Do not the most vulnerable people make an irreplaceable contribution to the building up of a more fraternal society? They reveal our own vulnerability, and in this way help us become more human.

We should never forget that, in becoming human, Christ Jesus was united to every human being. He is present in every person, especially those most forsaken (see Matthew 25:40). When we go towards those wounded by life, we come closer to Jesus, poor among the poor; they bring us into greater intimacy with him. “Do not be afraid to share in the trials of others, do not be afraid of suffering, for it is often in the depths of the abyss that a perfection of joy is given to us in communion with Jesus Christ” (Rule of Taizé).

Through personal contacts we are led to find ways of helping the destitute, not expecting anything in return, but nonetheless attentive to receive from them whatever they wish to share with us. In this way we allow our hearts to widen and become more open.

Our earth is also vulnerable. It is wounded more and more deeply by the ill-use that human beings make of it. We need to listen to the cry of the earth. We need to take care of it. We should seek, particularly by changing our way of life, to struggle against its progressive destruction.

Third proposal
Share trials and joys

Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. (Rom 12:15)

Happy those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemias 8:10)

After his resurrection, Jesus still bore the marks of the nails of his crucifixion (see John 20:24-29). The resurrection encompasses the suffering of the cross. For us who follow in his footsteps, joys and trials can coexist; they merge and become compassion.

Inner joy does not weaken solidarity with others; it nourishes it. It even impels us to cross borders to join those going through difficulties. It keeps alive in us the perseverance to remain faithful in committing our lives.

In privileged circles, where people are well fed, well educated, and well taken care of, joy is sometimes absent, as if some people were worn out and discouraged by the banality of their lives.

At times, paradoxically, the encounter with a destitute person communicates joy, perhaps only a spark of joy, but an authentic joy nonetheless.

We always need to rekindle our desire for joy, which is so deeply rooted in us. Human beings are made for joy, not for gloom. And joy is not meant to be kept for oneself alone, but to be shared, to radiate outwards. After she received the message of the angel, Mary set out to visit her cousin Elizabeth and to sing with her (Luke 1:39-56).

Like Jesus, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35), let us dare to weep in the face of human distress. We can carry in our hearts those who are afflicted. By placing them in God's hands, we do not abandon them to the fatality of a blind and merciless fate; we entrust them to the compassion of God, who loves every human being.

Remaining alongside those who suffer, and weeping with them, can give us the courage, in an attitude of healthy revolt, to denounce injustice, to reject what threatens or destroys life, or to try to transform an impasse.

Among Christians, rejoice in the gifts of others

God made known to us the mystery of his will. It was what he had planned through Christ, to be put into effect when the times have reached their fulfillment: to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, Christ. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

*How good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to live together in unity!
(Psalm 133:1)*

God sent Christ into the world to gather into one the whole universe, all creation, to recapitulate all things in him. God sent him to bring humankind together into a single family: men and women, children and the elderly, people from all backgrounds, languages and cultures, and even opposing nations.

Many people long for Christians to be united so they no longer veil, by their divisions, the message of universal fellowship brought by Christ. Could not our unity as brothers and sisters be a kind of sign, a foretaste, of unity and peace among human beings?

As Christians of different Churches, we should have the audacity to turn together towards Christ and, without waiting for our theologies to be completely in tune, to “put ourselves under the same roof.” Let us listen to the call of a Coptic Orthodox monk who wrote: “The very essence of the faith is Christ, whom no formulation can circumscribe. So it is necessary to begin our dialogue by welcoming Christ, who is one.... We must begin by living together the essence of the one faith, without waiting to reach agreement about the expression of its content. The essence of faith, which is Christ himself, is founded on love, on the gift of self.” (Father Matta el-Makine, 1919–2006.)

To enter at once into this process, we can begin by thanking God for the gifts of others. During his visit to Lund (Sweden) on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Pope Francis prayed, “Holy Spirit, enable us to recognize with joy the gifts that have come to the Church through the Reformation.” Inspired by this example, let us be attentive to recognize in others the values which God has placed in them and which we may be lacking. Can we try to receive their difference as an enrichment for us, even if it includes aspects that initially put us off? Can we find the freshness of a joy in the gifts of others?

host church / accomodation

Phone number for urgent questions:

+43 676 / 8742 - 2387

Details for practical help during the meeting

1st help meeting on: _____ **at** _____ **o'clock**

place: _____

contact: _____