Our Taizé Service will be a simple liturgy, interspersed with songs and times for prayerful petitions. In the tradition of Taizé, there will be a Song Practice at 6:30, to allow participants to learn the songs so that the Service may be a time for meditation through singing, which many believe becomes a way of listening to God. Neither the song practice nor the service are focused on performance—both are about participation in shared contemplation as a gathered community.

This Taizé Service is part of a four-day retreat at Woolman Hill, Celebrating Sabbath Together, Sharing Practices, in which participants are taking time away from daily life to (re)connect to Spirit and their own deep center and sharing the spiritual practices that help them prepare for such times of encounter with the Holy. The Service will be led by Stephen Cobb, a culinary and healing artist who has been singing Taizé in the local community for a decade.

The practice of Taizé Worship originated in the Taizé Community in the Burgundy region of France. The community is a brotherhood of more than 100 ecumenical monastics who live the vision that community life is a sign that God is love. The community aspires to include people and Christian traditions from all over the world, and over 100,000 people make pilgrimage to the Community each year to take part in the life of this beloved community. The songs of Taizé are sung in many languages and emphasize repetition of simple phrases, often from the Psalms or other parts of scripture. The worship service often includes chants and icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition.