

## Kimberly Fraser's story



### Lighting a candle for worship, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

*When I light a candle in prayer I am often reminded  
of a Taize prayer that repeats the phrase  
In our darkness kindle the fire that never dies away*

When I was 21, I was travelling aimlessly through Europe by myself. As was usual, I had no credit cards, little money and no plan. I had heard of Taizé, and was in the region, so I made a booking to stay for a week and took the train there the next day. When I got there late at night it quickly became apparent that you generally shouldn't make a booking and then rock up the next day. Despite this, they were instantly welcoming, making sure I had a hot meal before completing any paperwork or paying the nominal fee for the week. When they realised I didn't have a sleeping bag they piled me with blankets from lost property and showed me to a huge communal tent in their overflow field. I didn't realise until prayer time the next morning that I was sleeping in a field of tents because there were 8,000 people there that week.

Each week, during the three daily prayer times they sing the same songs, so that after the first few days you know all the prayers by rote. I can still remember all the prayers from both times I went to Taizé, but still have no idea what language some of them are in. This one, sung in French during the week I was there, particularly stood out to me:

*Dans nos obscurités  
Allume le feu qui ne s'éteint jamais  
Qui ne s'éteint jamais*

*In our darkness  
Kindle the fire that never dies away  
That never dies away\**

With this phrase I was reminded that it often takes stumbling around in the darkness to appreciate the small light of a newly lit fire. This phrase has stuck with me and brought comfort over the years since that first visit to Taizé.

The last time I visited Taizé, I bought an enamel pendant that is a black disc with a small red flame. I wore it for many years to remind me of the small fire that never dies away.

Kimberly Fraser, 8/11/2020

\*There are different translations but this one is my favourite.