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Review of Santos' "A Community Called Taizé: A Story of Prayer, Worship and Reconciliation"

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Santos has written a pilgrim’s guide to the ecumenical community of Taize. He writes in a knowledgeable, conversational way about his own journey to the hill country of Burgundy, France, where each summer for the past 30 years up to 6,000 young people per week are introduced to a common life shared with the brothers, arranged around common worship three times a day. As any visitor to Taize knows, the simplicity, beauty and spiritual challenge experienced there is not soon forgotten.

In addition to providing historical background, Santos offers suggestions and cautions for those eager to “import” Taize back to our local communities, including suggestions for making one’s own pilgrimage. Of special interest to the Friends tradition is Santos’ reflections on the use of silence during worship.

As someone who has taken three student groups from George Fox University to Taize, and who plans to take another this coming year, I found this book an insightful, refreshing read, gently guiding pilgrims to the sources of faith, well in keeping with the spirit of Taize itself.

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