

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE

December 30, 2020

Employing Lament to move from Darkness to Light

The beginning of the service will be denoted by the ringing of a bell.

Song: "Our Darkness"

#14 from *Songs and Prayers From Taizé*, ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

deep - est night is clear as the day light. Our
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè re. La té -

Last time

Scripture: Psalm 43:3-5

³ O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Poem: "Solstice Blessing"

adapted from a poem by Roddy Hamilton

posted on the **New Kilpatrick Parish Church** website: <https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy>

Sorrow not, the world is wrapped in sleep no longer
Sorrow not, the darkness has length no more
Sorrow not, the light is slowly creeping back
Sorrow not, birth is soon and very soon

Rejoice now, night will soon folded away
Rejoice now, the shadows will turn and shorten
Rejoice now, the time of dark is over
Rejoice now, light is coming into the world

Be now, light within the world
Be now, the catalyst that has closed the darkness
Be now, the release of life as light returns tomorrow
Be now, the birth place of the child of light

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "With You, O Lord"

#31 from *Taizé: Songs for Prayer*, c1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "With you, O Lord, is life in all its full - ness, and in your light we shall see true light. With you, O Lord, is life in all its full-ness, and in your light we shall see true light." The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Scripture: Luke 2:25, 27b-32

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him... When the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Reading: "My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation"

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/reflections/p8kens4f65yabkbzyx7fczz4exgsgk>

The forces of evil rise,

chaos running in their veins.

The armies of injustice and their corporations

are arrayed in power and might.

They are already in the streets and alleys,

their wardens and traffickers at work,

their war machines hulking in the dark.

The Eternal One announces their doom.

Heaven's blacksmiths set to their dark labor,

hammering through the night on swords and shields.

The forges spume.

But God walks past them all

out into the darkness.

out into the darkness.

The One who creates stars,

who spreads the earth out like a blanket,

the One who Sees,

stands and gazes at the devil's troops

and smiles.

"Peace.

I've got this."

And a newborn baby cries.

Song: "Let Your Servant Now Go In Peace"

#16 from *Taizé: Songs for Prayer*, c1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

The image shows a musical score for the song "Let Your Servant Now Go In Peace". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a fermata over the word "ne,". The second system ends with a fermata over the word "ce,". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

Nunc di - mit - tis ser - vum tu - um Do - mi - ne, se -
Let your ser - vant now - go in peace, O Lord, now -
ne, Do - mi - ne,
Lord, O Lord,
cun - dum ver - bum tu - um in pa - ce, Nunc di -
go in peace ac - cord - ing to, your word, Let your
(Do - mi - ne.)
(to your word.)

Prayer: "Logos Prayer"

by Pat Bennett, from *Hay and Stardust*, Wild Goose Publications, 2009. Posted at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Inspiring Word,
move over the chaos within me,
calling forth form and order,
that I may know you in my shaping,
and in the shaping, surrender my life to yours.

Illuminating Word,
pierce the darkness within me,
calling forth insight and understanding,
that I may know you in my seeing,
and in seeing, follow the way of your kingdom.

Incarnate Word,
indwell the life within me,
calling forth passion and purpose,
that I may know you in my living,
and in living, embody you for the world.

Silence (8 minutes)

Song: "Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines"

#3137 in *Worship & Song*, c2011 Abingdon Press

Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us.

Let not my doubts nor my dark-ness speak to me. Lord Je - sus Christ, your

light shines with-in us. Let my heart al-ways wel - come your love.

The image shows a three-system musical score for the song "Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines". Each system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us. Let not my doubts nor my dark-ness speak to me. Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with-in us. Let my heart al-ways wel - come your love." The score ends with a double bar line.

Benediction:

adapted from <https://www.liturgylink.net/2015/11/23/benedictions-for-advent/>

Be people of Light.

Celebrate God-with-us in Jesus' birth by letting your light shine in a needy world

Let us continue to live lives of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Share God's love with the lowly gathered in the night

Let the communion of the Holy Spirit fill your heart with glad tidings like the angels.

Let the Prince of Peace be born again in you, both comforting and challenging you
as you seek to live as one of his disciples. Amen.

The conclusion of the service will be denoted by the ringing of a bell.

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JOIN US for each Wednesday in December of 2020 for a contemplative Service in the style of Taizé

Saginaw First United Methodist Church – 4790 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638 – (989) 799-0131

JOIN US for worship on Sundays at 10am! Livestreamed on Youtube at "Saginaw First UMC"

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