

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE

December 9, 2020

employing Lament to move from Loneliness to Love

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

Song: "Holy Spirit, Come to Us"

#24 from *Taizé: Songs For Prayer*, c1998 Ateliers de Presses de Taizé

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus, tu - i a - mo - ris i - gnem ac - cen - de. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, kin - dle in us the fire of your love.—". The second system continues the melody and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus, ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us." The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo), and phrasing slurs. There are also some decorative elements like a dashed circle around a note in the first system.

Scripture: Psalm 102:1-2, 5-7

¹ Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.

² Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress.

Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.

⁵ Because of my loud groaning, my bones cling to my skin.

⁶ I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places.

⁷ I lie awake like a lonely bird on the housetop...

Poem: "Alone" by Maya Angelou

<https://poets.org/poem/alone>

Lying, thinking, last night
How to find my soul a home
Where water is not thirsty
And bread loaf is not stone
I came up with one thing
And I don't believe I'm wrong
That nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

There are some millionaires
With money they can't use
Their wives run round like banshees
Their children sing the blues
They've got expensive doctors
To cure their hearts of stone.
But nobody, no, nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Now if you listen closely
I'll tell you what I know
Storm clouds are gathering
The wind is gonna blow
The human race is suffering
And I can hear the moan,
'Cause nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "Love Is The Welcome"

from the Iona Abbey Music Book, c2003; Wild Goose Publications

Love is the wel - come that comes from the heart And o - pens its
door to the stran - ger, Which makes of its house a
rest - ing - place for all, For the sake of the babe in the man - ger.

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:2-4, 6

² Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; ³ when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴ Again I will build you up, O beloved Israel... ⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels will call out in the hill country: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

Reading: "Stay Close to the Cracks"

by Christine Sine, on *Godspace*, <http://godspace-msa.com>

Stay close to the cracks,
To the broken places,
where people weep
and cry out in pain.

Stay close to the cracks,
where God's tears fall,
and God's wounds bleed
for love of us.

Stay close to the cracks
where the light shines in,
and grass pushes up
through concrete.

Stay close to the cracks
where wounds
open doorways
to healing and wholeness
and life.

Song: "Live In Charity"

#49 from *Songs and Prayers From Taizé*, c1991 Ateliers de Presses de Taizé

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - stead - fast mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. There are some decorative elements like dotted lines and circles around certain notes in the piano part.

Prayer: "Waiting"

adapted from Ann Siddall, <http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/>

Holy One, we have waited through many a long night for your coming:
Like those of old our eyes have been red from weeping,
our minds numb from anxiety, and our hands held out in longing.

And this Advent season sees us waiting again, alongside our own struggles,
and alongside a world torn apart by greed and need,

When will You come to us? When will we see a star we can trust?
When will wise ones rise up in our midst? When will humble workers see angels?
How long, O God, must we wait for the promises to be fulfilled?
How long will You keep us waiting?

So as once more we play the waiting game,
Unable, perhaps, to bring about the sweeping changes we seek,
unable to put an end to society's pain, unable to appease all the hunger.
Help us to be tenacious in love anyway, steadfast in our work for the Kin-dom
and unyielding in our expectation and hope, through Emmanuel. Amen.

Silence (8 minutes)

Song: "Shalom to You Now"

from #666 in the United Methodist Hymnal c1989

The image shows a four-line musical score for the hymn "Shalom to You Now". Each line consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Sha - lom to you now, sha - lom, my friends. May God's full mer - cies bless you, my friends. In all your liv - ing and through your lov - ing, Christ be your sha - lom, Christ be your sha - lom."

Benediction:

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

Be people of love.

Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet.

Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community.

Share love by loving those you do not know.

How do your actions affect the rest of God's creation?

Share love by praying for our world, and for the lonely

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope and love
with those you meet. 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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