

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw  
CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE  
December 16, 2020

*Employing Lament to move from Sorrow to Joy*

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

Song: "In the Quiet of This Moment"

from #3136 in *Worship & Song*, ©2011 Abingdon Press

In the qui - et \_\_\_\_\_ of this mo - ment \_\_\_\_\_ there is

5  
joy. \_\_\_\_\_ In the qui - et \_\_\_\_\_ of this mo - ment \_\_\_\_\_ there is

11  
hope. \_\_\_\_\_ In our doubt and in our fear, Ho - ly Spir - it now draw

16  
near; bring your com - fort and your cheer to long - ing hearts. \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture: Psalm 42:1-4, 11

<sup>1</sup> As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night,

<sup>4</sup> These things I remember, as I pour out my soul...

<sup>11</sup> 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.

## Reading: "Disquieted"

Disquieted. Is that what I am?

Is that why I lose time staring out the window, seeing nothing?

Is that why I seem to see you in a crowd, when you've been gone long years?

Or no time at all?

There's lights and music all around, blaring in every store.

It doesn't quite reach me for the disquiet within.

My house is a husk enclosing emptiness, or so it feels sometimes.

My evenings are quiet. So quiet. I turn the TV on for noise.

Why do I need noise when I'm already disquieted?

I remember time spent together, days gone by.

I remember being too young to appreciate the moment.

Later, I learned gratitude. I knew those times would not last.

And so it is. I'm grateful that I was grateful...in that moment.

I'm grateful for the time. And for the laughter.

And for honest conversations that strengthened my better angels.

But these day, I'm a lonely echo-chamber...sometimes

I've a thirst that won't entirely be quenched... sometimes

I am disquieted by my grief, by the way it ebbs and flows, always surprising.

For a while, my grief is where I spent my love for you.

Until I learned to be disquieted for not spending it on the world.

Silence (2 minutes)

## Song: "Shepherd Me, O God"

FWS #2057, c1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life. \_\_\_\_\_

WORDS: Marty Haugen (Ps. 23)

MUSIC: Marty Haugen

© 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

SHEPHERD ME  
Irregular

**Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6, 10**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Poem: "Gaudete!" (Rejoice!)** by Brad Reynolds, S.J., a photographer/artist-in-residence at Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA.

This poem is taken from *America; The National Catholic Weekly* (12/11/2006); <http://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/>

Because Christmas is almost here  
Because dancing fits so well with music  
Because inside baby clothes are miracles.  
Gaudete!

Because some people love you  
Because of chocolate  
Because pain does not last forever  
Because joy is deeper than sorrow  
Gaudete!

Because of laughter  
Because there really are angels  
Because your fingers fit your hands  
Because forgiveness is yours for the asking  
Because of friends and family  
Gaudete!

Because the blind see and the lame walk.  
Because lepers are clean and the deaf hear.  
Because the dead will live again and there is good news for the poor.  
Gaudete!

Because of Christmas  
Because of Jesus  
Gaudete! Rejoice!

# Song: "God Has Chosen Me"

©2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Slowly & quietly*

God has cho-sen me. — God has cho-sen me, — and in my life is plant-ed a seed.

— God knows that I need: its fruit shall be joy. —

(last time)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Slowly & quietly'. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of two systems. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line of lyrics. The piano part includes a 'last time' section at the end of the second system.

90

Words & music: John L. Bell. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland. GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.

## Prayer: "Deep Joy"

adapted from Joanna Harader, and posted on *Spacious Faith*, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Holy God of Joy,  
Even if we cannot be together to pray with one voice,  
you have given us grace to pray with one heart.  
Comfort, o comfort your people,  
And give us grace to rejoice in the reality of who you are.  
We live within the joy of your love for us.  
Our contentment comes and goes.  
Our happiness ebbs and flows.  
Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,  
our physical health, our brain chemistry.  
But our joy is deeply rooted  
in our identity as your beloved children.  
And we give you thanks. Amen.

Silence (8 minutes)

## Song: "Come, Rejoice In God"

from #2017 in *Worship & Song*, c2011 Abingdon Press

①  
  
Come, re-joice in God; praise him all the earth.

②  
  
Serve your God, serve your God, glad-ly serve your God!

③  
  
Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, glad-ly serve your God;

④  
  
hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, glad-ly serve your God!

## Benediction:

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

Be people of joy.

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

Share joy by seeing the good in each other.

Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.

Share joy by praying for our world.

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

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations,

share peace, love, and hope 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"

firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com – [www.firstumcsaginaw.org](http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org) – Find us on Facebook!