

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE

December 23, 2020

Employing Lament to move from Restlessness to Peace

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

Song: "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

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

The image shows a musical score for the song "Come and Fill Our Hearts" in 3/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system includes the lyrics: "Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly." The second system includes the lyrics: "Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia! Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!"

Scripture: Psalm 143:1, 6-8

¹ Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.

⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

⁷ Answer me quickly, O Lord; for my spirit is restless.

Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

⁸ Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust.

Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Reflection: "Joseph"

by Steve Garnaas Holmes, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/reflections/3yp345asd2ygmctznwztxmdjszhh8>

The question is not whether you love her.
The question is whether you will marry her.

You have been given only glorious ambiguity,
darkness marbled with starlight,
possibility breathed in silence.
You seek assurance; none is given.

Your life will not be as you wish it.
Those you love will let you down.
This world is full of flaws and disappointment.
It is also full of the Mysterious One.

Give yourself without knowing.
Betrothed, beloved, to uncertainty,
pledge your loyalty to this one you cannot know.
Do not pray to understand:
pray to be present, to be faithful, to be loving
when you cannot know what will come of it.

Do not be afraid to take this life... and marry it.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "In God Alone"

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

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system includes the lyrics: "In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace_ and joy. Mon â-me se re- pose en paix sur Dieu seul: de lui vient mon_ se - lut." The second system includes the lyrics: "On- ly in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest_ and peace. In Oui, sur Dieu seul mon â- me se re- po- se, se re- pose_ en paix. Mon". Both systems conclude with a "fine" marking and a repeat sign.

Scripture: Luke 1: 47, 49, 52-55

⁴⁷ "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors.

Reflection: "Mary"

by Steve Garraas-Holmes, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/reflections/3914>

Mary, can I sit with you?
Let me come close to your stillness,
sit in the warmth of your Spirit,
listen with you.
Teach me how to do this,
to be so receptive
to the favor of God,
to the voice of delight.
To admit such life.
To let something in me grow
without my control,
To let God in me swell my being,
change my balance.
To let something in me
dilate so greatly,
To be so open to what I receive
and what I release.
Breathe with me,
through the change,
through the pain
through the world shifting within me.

Breathe with me,
with the life birthing itself in me,
the world issuing from me.
Can I sit with you and learn
how to bring forth love
in the midst of chaos and darkness,
How to be so fiercely tender
in a rough place?
Show me how to push forth this love,
how to nurse this light,
How to let this issue of my heart
go out into the world
and smile back at me.
Mary, can I sit with you,
as the love of my love
walks out of my arms,
into this world
toward its cross
and beyond?
Can I sit with you
and learn to say yes?

Song: "Bless the Lord, My Soul"

#3 from *Taizé: Songs for Prayer*, ©1998 Ateliers de Presses de Taizé

The image shows a musical score for the song "Bless the Lord, My Soul". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score is written in a standard musical notation with a treble clef for the vocal line and a bass clef for the piano accompaniment.

Prayer: "House of Bread"

by Kate Compston; <http://www.bread.org/help/church/worship/prayers/christmas-prayers-about-hunger/kate-compston.pdf>

Thank you,
Scandalous God,
For giving yourself to the world,
Not in the powerful and extraordinary,
But in weakness and the familiar:
In a baby; in bread and wine.

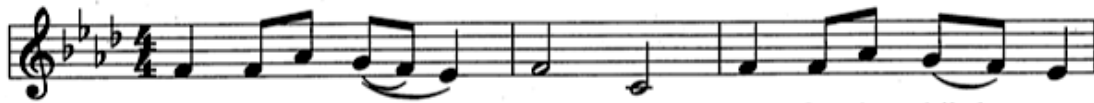
Thank you
For offering, at journey's end, a new beginning;
For setting, in the poverty of a stable,
The richest jewel of your love;
For revealing, in a particular place,
Your light for all nations.

Thank you
For bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread,
Where the empty are filled,
And the filled are emptied;
Where the poor find riches,
And the rich recognize their poverty;
Where all who kneel and hold out their hands
Are unstintingly fed.

Silence (8 minutes)

Song: "Peace for the Children"

#3125 in *Worship & Song*, c2011 Abingdon Press



1. Peace for the chil-dren, peace, peace. Peace for the chil-dren we
2. Peace in our fam-i-lies, peace, peace. Peace in our fam-ilies we
3. Peace for the na-tions, peace, peace. Peace for the na-tions we



pray. Fol-low-ing the path of One of peace, we
pray. Fol-low-ing the path of One of peace, we
pray. Fol-low-ing the path of One of peace, we



work for heal-ing, we work for peace; peace for the chil-dren to-day.
work for heal-ing, we work for peace; peace for our fam-ilies to-day.
work for heal-ing, we work for peace; peace for the na-tions to-day.

WORDS: Doreen Lankshear-Smith

MUSIC: Doreen Lankshear-Smith

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PEACE FOR ALL

Irr.

Benediction:

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

Be people of peace.

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

Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear.

Share peace by listening to all sides of the story.

Share peace by praying for our world.

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

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

share peace, joy, 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"

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