

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

January 6, 2021 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "JESUS CALLS US" folk tune, words by John L. Bell and Graham Maule, c2003, WGRG, Iona Comm.

Capo 3

The musical score is written for guitar in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system has 8 measures with chords: D, Em7, D, Em7, F#m7, Bm7, Em, A. The second system has 8 measures with chords: D, Am, D, Bm, Em7, F#m7, Em7, A. The third system has 8 measures with chords: D, Em7, D, Em7, F#m7, Bm7, Em7, D. The lyrics are: "Je - sus calls us here to meet_ him as, through word and song and prayer, we af - firm God's pro - mised pre - sence where his peo - ple live and care. Praise the God who keeps his pro - mise; praise the Son who calls us friends; praise the Spi - rit who, a - mong_ us, to our hopes and fears at - tends."

Je - sus calls us here to meet_ him as, through word and song and prayer,
we af - firm God's pro - mised pre - sence where his peo - ple live and care.

Praise the God who keeps his pro - mise; praise the Son who calls us friends;

praise the Spi - rit who, a - mong_ us, to our hopes and fears at - tends.

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Reading: *Prayer of the Magi* by Steve Garraas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

God of truth, open my eyes to your light.
and give me faith to follow,
to seek signs of your grace, to notice,
in nature, in dreams, in people.
Give me devotion to seek your presence,
to come close to you, to draw near.
Give me faith
to forsake all else that glitters
and follow the light of your love alone.
Give me resolve to leave the familiar
and make of my life a holy pilgrimage.
Give me humility to ask directions,
to seek help from other seekers.
Give me steadfastness to seek

and not turn back, despite challenges
of distance and strangeness.
Give me courage to stand against Empire
and its desire to use me.
Give me generosity to give of my gifts.
Give me insight to bow to holiness
in whomever I may see it.
Give me wisdom and readiness
to go by a new road.
May all I do today honor you.
God of love, may this day be a new life,
guided by the light of your presence,
led by wonder, trust, and love.
Amen.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "THE LORD IS MY LIGHT" Jacques Berthier, c1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

Calmly (♩ = 66)

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

Scripture: Luke 2: 25-28

There was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

Reading: *Rock the Child* by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

The Christ child
 is no longer in the manger.
 The Holy Infant is in your heart now –
 beloved, full of God's possibilities,
 warm with God's gentle presence,
 God's tender newness within you.
 Love the Christ child.
 And how do you do that?
 Sit there, mostly.
 Hold the child.

Let the mystery of love flow
 between your heart and the child's.
 Like a new parent,
 let this become part of your routine.
 Give time to simply sit
 and hold the divine child in your heart.
 Rock the child...
 Rock the child...
 Rock the child...
 Rock the child.

Song: "ROCK-A-BYE MY DEAR LITTLE BOY"

Czech carol, trans. by Jaroslav J. Vajda, c1987 Jaroslav J. Vajda
verse 1 and 2, repeat verse 1

1. Rock - a - bye, my dear lit - tle boy, dear lit - tle boy,
2. Lit - tle Je - sus, In - fant Di-vine, In - fant Di-vine,

won - der of won-ders, my bless - ing and joy; slum - ber as I
one with the Fa - ther, yet born to be mine; as I rock you

gen - tly hold you, let my ten - der love en-fold you; gift of God to
calm-ly sleep-ing, an-gel guards their watch are keep-ing; pre-cious child, one

me and the world, here in my arms lies so peace-ful - ly curled.
day we shall see what love has des-tined for you and for me.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Time of Prayer *Pastor Amy Terhune*

Silence (8 minutes)

Song: "WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME"

Scottish folk melody, words John L. Bell and Graham Maule, c2003 WGRG, Iona Community

Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?

— Will you go where you don't know and ne - ver be the same? — Will you

let my love be shown, — will you let my name be known, —

— Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me? —

Benediction by Jan Richardson, www.paintedprayerbook.com

May the path that Christ walks
to bring justice upon the earth,
to bring light to those who sit in darkness,
to bring out those who live in bondage,
to bring new things to all creation:
May this path run through our life.
May we be the road Christ takes. Amen.

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

All songs reproduced by permission. CCLI License #1003593

JOIN US for the next contemplative service on February 3!

JOIN US for a contemplative Ash Wednesday Service on February 17.

JOIN US for worship on Sundays at 10am!

Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

ALL SERVICES live-streamed at our Youtube Channel: Saginaw First UMC

Saginaw First United Methodist Church

4790 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638 (989) 799-0131

Find us on Facebook!