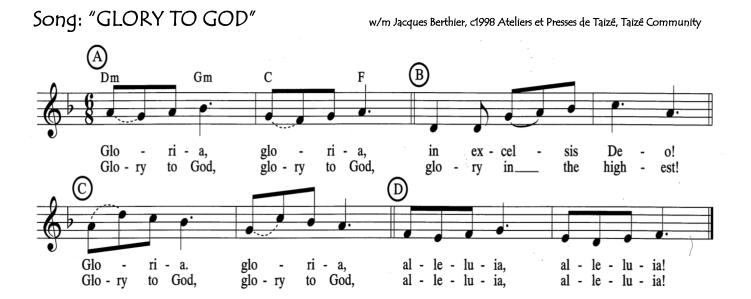
First United Methodist Church of Saginaw CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ JANUARY 4, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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



Scripture: Matthew 2: 8-12

Herod sent the wise men 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 that the star had stopped, 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 - Stephen Garnaas-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, quided by the light of your presence,

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM"

w/m John Bell, c 1995 the Iona Community, Scotland, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.

led by wonder, trust, and love. Amen.



Scripture: Isaiah 43: 18-19

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Reading: The Year as a House - by Jan Richardson, www.paintedprayerbook.com

Think of the year as a house:
door flung open in welcome,
threshold swept and waiting,
a graced spaciousness
opening and offering itself to you.

Let it be blessed in every room. Let it be hallowed in every corner. Let every nook be a refuge and every object set to holy use.

Let it be here that safety will rest. Let it be here that health will make its home. Let it be here that peace will show its face. Let it be here that love will find its way. Here let the weary come, let the aching come, let the lost come, let the sorrowing come.

Here let them find their rest and let them find their soothing and let them find their place and let them find their delight.

And may it be in this house of a year that the seasons will spin in beauty, and may it be in these turning days that time will spiral with joy.

And may it be that its rooms will fill with ordinary grace and light spill from every window to welcome the stranger home.

Song: "THE LOVE OF GOD COMES CLOSE"

w?m by John L Bell, c1998 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland







Time of Prayer -Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR LIGHT SHINES"



Benediction: by Kris, www.revgalblogpals.org

Radiant Morning Star, you are both guidance and mystery.

Visit our rest with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions.

Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom bearing profound and unusual gifts. Amen.

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