

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

May 3, 2023 7:00 p.m.

This service is in observance of Earth Day, which was April 22.

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

Song: "GLORY AND GRATITUDE"

w/m by John L Bell, c2003 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland



Glo - ry and gra - ti - tude and praise now let earth to
Glo - ry and gra - ti -
hea - ven raise. Glo - ry and gra - ti - tude and
- tude and praise
praise: these we of - fer to God.
these we of - fer to God.

Scripture: Genesis 1: 1, 31

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

God looked upon everything that had been made, and, indeed, it was very good.

Reading: *Earth Day Prayer* – by Steven Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

Dear Mother Earth, gift of God, we thank you, for you are our life, our breath, and our blood.
You bear us in your arms and receive us at our death, and will never refuse us.
The rolling sea in our heart, the mountains in our bones, the wind in our lungs,
the flowing rivers in our blood, the many-splendored creatures living within us
all sing praise to God and remind us we are of you.

Dear Mother Earth, we confess: though the forest and desert are our own flesh, we've wounded you,
we have treated you selfishly, as "the least of these."
We have betrayed our oneness with the grasses and the hawk, the beetle and the whale.
Even as we use you, we repent; even as we torture you you forgive us.

Dear Mother of Life, as you renew the earth in spring, restore our mercy;
return us to our place in the great circle of life;
give us the generosity of your fields, the humility and wisdom of your small creatures.

Dear Mother God, hear our praise and our confession, and renew in us the beauty of the earth,
for the sake of all life. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "SING PRAISES" – w/m Jacques Berthier, c1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The lyrics for the first system are: "Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord. Sing". The second system ends with a *fine* marking and a fermata over the final note. The lyrics for the second system are: "prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord! Sing".

Scripture: Psalm 19: 1-4

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Reading: *The Peace of Wild Things* – by Wendell Berry

When despair grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life
and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water,
and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives
with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Song: "IN GOD ALONE" – w/m Jacques Berthier, c1991 Aterliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

The image shows a musical score for the song "IN GOD ALONE". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music has the lyrics: "In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace_ and joy." The second system of music has the lyrics: "On-ly in God my soul can find its rest,___ find its rest_ and peace. In". Both systems end with a "fine" marking. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Time of Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (8 minutes)

Song: "THIS IS GOD'S WORLD"

w/m by John L Bell, c 2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "This is God's world, giv-en on loan; no oth-er earth shall be our home; so let us bless, hon-or and tend what God in love cre-a-ted." The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Benediction — by Henry Horton, from *Life Prayers*

Our Mother, whose body is the Earth,
Sacred is thy being. Thy gardens grow.
Thy will be done in our cities,
as it is in nature.
Thanks be this day for food, and air, and water.
Forgive us our sins against the Earth,
as we are learning to forgive one another.

And surrender us not unto extinction,
but deliver us from our folly.
For thine is the beauty, and the power,
and all life, from birth to death,
from beginning to end. Amen. So be it.
Forever.
Blessed be.

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

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JOIN US for the next contemplative service on June 7, 2023!
JOIN US for worship on Sundays at 10am!
Find us on Facebook! @ firstumcofsaginaw

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