

# First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

## CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

September 6, 2023 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "GOD HAS CHOSEN ME" w/m by John L Bell, c2008, WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God has cho-sen me. God has cho-sen me, and in my life is plant-ed a seed." The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God knows that I need: its fruit shall be joy." The second system includes a repeat sign and the instruction "(last time)".

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Reading: Passages from *On Work* – by Kahlil Gibran

When you work,  
    you are a flute through whose heart the whispering of the hours turns to music.  
And when you work with love,  
    you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God.  
And what is it to work with love?  
It is to weave the cloth with threads drawn from your own heart,  
    even as if your beloved were to wear that cloth.  
It is to build a house with affection,  
    even as if your beloved were to dwell in that house.  
It is to sow seeds with tenderness and reap the harvest with joy,  
    even as if your beloved were to eat the fruit.  
It is to charge all things you fashion with a breath of your own spirit,  
    and to know that all the blessed dead are standing about you and watching.  
Work is love made visible.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "LORD, BE GLORIFIED" w/m by Bob Kilpatrick, ©1978 Prism Tree Music

In our lives, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.

In our lives, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.

Scripture: Matthew 20: 25-28

Jesus called the disciples to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you. Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Reading: *A Prayer For Workers* – The United Church of Christ

Loving, Working God,  
we ask your special blessing on all people who labor,  
either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school.  
We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs  
and for those whose inadequate pay  
does not allow them to live the full life you intended for each of us.  
Creator God, help us build a new world in the midst of the old –  
a world where all workers are valued,  
a world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in,  
a world where those who grow food can afford to eat their fill,  
a world where those who serve and care for others are, themselves,  
also served and cared for.  
We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere  
share in the abundance that you have given us.  
We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength  
to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace,  
as well as in the sanctuary. Amen.

Song: "THIS WE SHALL DO" w Micah 6:8, m by John L Bell, c2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland

just-ly, love mer-cy, walk  
This we shall do, oh, this we shall do: act just - ly, love mer - cy, walk  
humb-ly with our God. This we shall do, oh, this we shall do: act  
just - ly, love mer - cy, walk  
just - ly, love mer - cy, walk humb - ly with our God.

Time of Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "THE KINGDOM OF GOD" w/m Jacques Berthier, c2007 Ateliers de Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and  
joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and  
o - pen in us the gates of your - king - dom. The  
(Last time ☺)

Benediction – Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren, [www.rockhay.tripod.com](http://www.rockhay.tripod.com)

Remember that no curtain separates us  
from the presence of the Lord.  
Therefore, every table  
at which you will sit this week,  
be it a school desk,  
a work bench,  
a lunch counter,  
a meeting room table,

an office desk,  
a board across sawhorses,  
your own dining room table;  
every table is God's altar.  
So boldly pray, hold fast to hope,  
and encourage and provoke one another  
to put love into action.  
Amen.

-----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 October 4!  
JOIN US for worship on Sundays at 10am!  
Find us on Facebook @firstumcofsaginaw

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