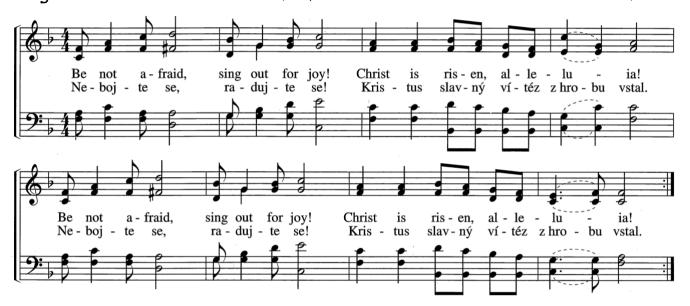
First United Methodist Church of Saginaw CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ April 3, 2024 7:00 p.m.

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

Sonq: "BE NOT AFRAID" – w/m by Jacques Berthier, c1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community.



Scripture: Romans 6:4-5

We've been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we've been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Reading: Because He is Risen - by Gerard Kelly, from "Spoken Worship"

Because He is risen
Spring is possible
In all the cold hard places gripped by winter
And freedom jumps the queue
To take fear's place as our focus
Because He is risen

Because He is risen,
My future is an epic novel
Where it was once a mere short story
My contract on life is renewed in perpetuity
My options are open-ended
My travel plans are cosmic
Because He is risen!

Because He is risen
Healing is on order and assured
And every disability will bow
Before the endless dance of his ability
And my grave, too, will open
When my life is restored
For this frail and fragile body
Will not be the final word on my condition
Because He is risen

Because He is risen
Hunger will go begging in the streets
For want of a home
And selfishness will have a shortened shelf-life.
And we will throng to the funeral of famine
And dance on the callous grave of war

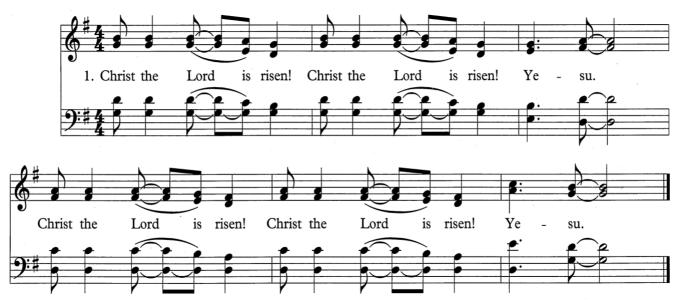
And poverty will be history In our history Because He is risen

And because He is risen
A fire burns in my bones
And my eyes see possibilities
And my heart hears hope
Like a whisper on the wind
And the song that rises in me
will not be silenced
As life disrupts this shadowed place of death
Like a butterfly under the skin
And death itself
Runs terrified to hide
Because He is risen

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN"

- words by Tom Colvin based on scripture, music Ghanian folk tune, c1969 Hope Publishing Co.



- 1) Christ the Lord is risen...
- 2) He has conquered death...
- 3) He is King of Kings...
- 4) He is Lord of Lords...
- 5) Hallelujah!...
- 6) Christ the Lord is risen...

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15: 55-57

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reading: Easter - by Steven Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

In the beginning,
God said Let there be light
and the light entered the darkness
and changed it forever.
The darkness is still dark,
but full of light;
and the darkness
cannot limit the light.
And now God has said Let there be life
and the life has entered death
and changed it forever.
Death is still death,
but full of life;
and death cannot limit life.

Christ has died and entered into our death and changed it forever. Christ is risen, risen into us, and we are changed forever, the Body of Christ. We are still ourselves, but full of Christ, and the self cannot limit the Christ in us. Christ is risen; we are risen indeed.

Song: "OUR DARKNESS" - by Jacques Berthier, c 1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France



Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "IN THE LORD REJOICING" – by Jacques Bethier, c 1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Comm. This song may be sung as a round.



Benediction: Sharing Alleluia - by Roddy Hamilton, "Listening to the Stones"

Alleluia is not just a word, it is a way of living...
How many ways can we share "alleluia!"?
When the bread is divided, alleluia
When the table is set, alleluia
When the hungry are fed, alleluia
When peace is celebrated, alleluia
When communities are brought together, alleluia

When neighbors love each other, alleluia

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