

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw  
CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ  
DECEMBER 4, 2024 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "WITH YOU, O LORD"

w/m by Jacques Berthier, c 1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

With you, O Lord, is life in all its full - ness, and  
in your light we shall see true light. With you, O Lord, is  
life in all its full-ness, and in your light we shall see true light.

Scripture: John 1: 1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Reading: *How the Light Comes* – Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes.

What I know  
is that it is more ancient  
than imagining.

That it travels across  
an astounding expanse  
to reach us.

That it loves  
searching out  
what is hidden,  
what is lost,  
what is forgotten  
or in peril  
or in pain.

That it has a fondness  
for the body,  
for finding its way  
toward flesh,  
for tracing the edges  
of form,  
for shining forth  
through the eye,  
the hand, the heart.

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes,  
but that it does.  
That it will.  
That it works its way  
into the deepest dark  
that enfolds you,

though it may seem  
long ages in coming  
or arrive in a shape  
you did not foresee.

And so  
may we this day  
turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still  
to the blessed light  
that comes.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "WAIT FOR THE LORD"

w/m Jacques Berthier, c1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taïze, Taïze Community

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system is marked *p* (piano) and features a treble and bass clef with a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and also features a treble and bass clef with a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord: keep watch, — take heart!" The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 3-5

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Reading: *Prepare Your Way in Me* – by Stephen Garnaas-Holmes

Holy One, prepare your way in me.  
Give me faith, like the stable,  
to know your presence within me.  
Give me courage, like Mary,  
to let your life overwhelm mine.  
Give me strength, like Joseph,  
to protect what is holy, tender and growing.  
Give me patience, like the shepherds,  
to be still and listen.  
Give me humility, like the magi,  
to kneel before your presence.  
Give me trust, like the child,  
to let myself be borne into a new world.  
Give me joy, like the angels,  
to bring good news to the poor.  
Give me love, like the manger,  
to hold Christ within.  
Holy One, prepare your way in me.

Song: "PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD" (*may be sung as a round*)

w/m by Jacques Berthier, c1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff contains the first two phrases of the song, with circled numbers 1 and 2 above the first and second measures respectively. The second staff contains the next two phrases, with circled numbers 3 and 4 above the first and second measures respectively. The lyrics are: "Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -".

Prayer: *Your Coming* – John Van de Laar

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "VENI, VENI" words liturgical, music by John L Bell, c2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland

Ve - ni, ve - ni, ve - ni, ve - ni,

ve - ni, ve - ni Em - man - u - el.

Benediction: by Mary Lou Kownacki

The incarnation is no mystery, Jesus.  
You make it easy to understand.  
Because you walked our earth  
We are to see the face of the Divine  
in every person we meet:  
the friend who betrayed  
the family gathered for a meal  
the welfare mother  
the man on death row

the clerk in the store  
the teenager on the corner  
the person near me now.

Every time I love,  
the mystery of the incarnation happens.  
Every time I love,  
I birth you on earth, Jesus.  
I fall on my knees and beg you, Jesus  
to deepen my living of the incarnation.

-----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 at 7pm on Jan. 1, 2025!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. Dec. 10, 5:30-6:30pm  
Check out our website: [www.firstumcsaginaw.org](http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org)

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