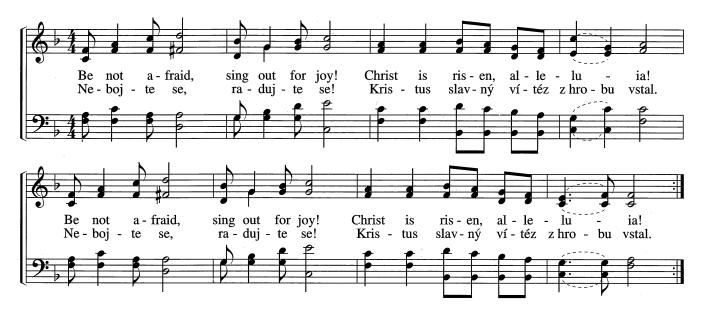
First United Methodist Church of Saginaw CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ May 7, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "BE NOT AFRAID"

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



Scripture: Luke 24: 5

The women at the tomb were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

Reading: Believe the Wonder - Roddy Hamilton

God, empty tombs and risen lords stones that have rolled and resurrection,

for some it is easy to believe for others it is just daft but for most we wonder, we wonder what might be possible

and God, if love is the greatest power in the universe we wonder what might be possible

if love chooses to carry on loving even those who try and kill it what might be possible and if love decides to give of itself for the sake of others what might be possible

so in our wonder and our longing for such a love as this that changes things may we dare to believe in what seems impossible and dare to live impossible lives that hope beyond death but believe in life before death

may we live this kind of love that dares to work for justice and the fullness of life for everyone that dares to work for peace and the fullness of peace for everyone because we believe in love which has become the most powerful thing in the universe because it gives of itself

God,

may we make time this season of renewal and life to wonder and wonder what love might make possible in us. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes)



Christ the Lord is risen
He has conquered death
He is King of Kings
He is Lord of Lords
Hallelujah!
Christ the Lord is risen

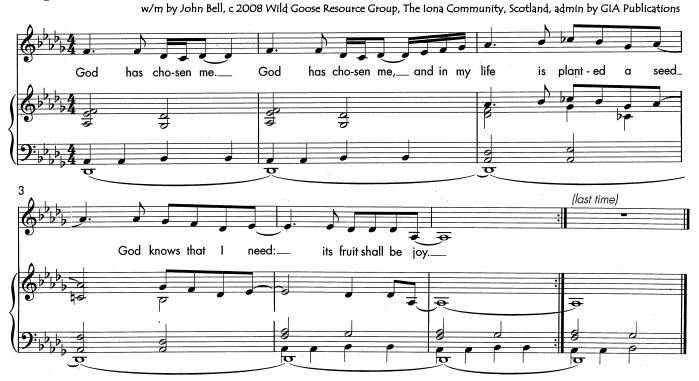
Scripture: 1 John: 18-19

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

Reading: I Will Not Die an Unlived Life - Dawna Markova

I will not die an unlived life, I will not live in fear of falling or catching fire. I choose to inhabit my days, to allow my living to open me, to make me less afraid, more accessible to loosen my heart until it becomes a wing, a torch, a promise. I choose to risk my significance; to live so that which came to me as seed goes to the next as blossom, and that which came to me as blossom goes on as fruit.

Song: "GOD HAS CHOSEN ME"

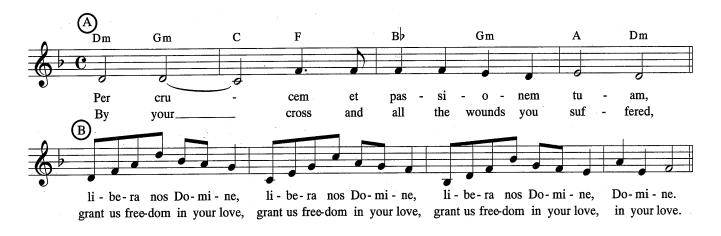


Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "BY YOUR CROSS"

w/m Jacques Berthier, c 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France

may be sung as a round



Benediction - Ruth C. Duck

Because the tomb is empty, your life can be full. So go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God. Be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed. Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you. Alleluia and Amen!

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

All songs reproduced by permission. CCLI License #1003593 JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on June 4, 2025! ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am! ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. May 13, 5:30–6:30pm Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org Saginaw First United Methodist Church 4790 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638 Phone: (989) 799–0131 Email: firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com Find us on Facebook @firstumcofsaginaw