

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

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris - en, al - le - lu - ia!
Ne - boj - te se, ra - duj - te se! Kris - tus slav - ný ví - téz z hro - bu vstal.

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris - en, al - le - lu - ia!
Ne - boj - te se, ra - duj - te se! Kris - tus slav - ný ví - téz z hro - bu vstal.

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)

Song: "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN"

words Tom Colvin, music Ghanian folk song, c1969 Hope PUBLISHING Co.

1. Christ the Lord is risen! Christ the Lord is risen! Ye - su.

Christ the Lord is risen! Christ the Lord is risen! Ye - su.

- 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 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"

w/m by John Bell, c 2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community, Scotland, admin by GIA Publications

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in both treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "God has cho-sen me. God has cho-sen me, and in my life is plant-ed a seed. God knows that I need: its fruit shall be joy." The score includes a first ending and a second ending marked "3" and "(last time)".

God has cho-sen me. God has cho-sen me, and in my life is plant-ed a seed.

God knows that I need: its fruit shall be joy.

Prayer – Peg Wilken

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

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff, labeled 'A', contains the melody and lyrics: 'Per - cru - cem et pas - si - o - nem tu - am, By your cross and all the wounds you suf - fered,'. Above the staff are the chords: Dm, Gm, C, F, Bb, Gm, A, Dm. The second staff, labeled 'B', contains the melody and lyrics: 'li - be - ra nos Do - mi - ne, li - be - ra nos Do - mi - ne, li - be - ra nos Do - mi - ne, Do - mi - ne. grant us free - dom in your love, grant us free - dom in your love, grant us free - dom in your love, in your love.'

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.-----

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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

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