

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw
CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ
August 6, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "THE LORD WILL LISTEN"

w/m by John Bell, (c)2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of chords, with some eighth-note movement in the treble. The lyrics are: "The Lord will lis - ten, the Lord will lis - ten, the Lord will lis - ten to the bro - ken - heart - ed." The score concludes with a double bar line.

The Lord will lis - ten, the Lord will lis - ten, the

Lord will lis - ten to the bro - ken - heart - ed.

Scripture: Matthew 28:20

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Reading: *for when disaster strikes* – by Kate Bowler, from *The Lives We Actually Have*

The world is not lost,
but sometimes it seems so.
With trees and homes uprooted –
and people's lives alongside them.
With wars raging on and violence unceasing.
With the utter randomness of disaster and
tragedies that don't seem to discriminate.
With hunger, homelessness and pandemics.

Blessed are we who cry out:
How long, oh Lord?
The suffering we're witnessing is unbearable.
Come quickly. Bring swift relief
and sweet comfort to those in need.

Bless those who have lost everything.
Bless the helpers, the aid workers,
the first responders.

Bless the leaders and peacemakers
who are swift to act. Bless the rescue workers,
the shelterers, the neighbors.

And bless those of us who feel helpless
in the face of such evil.

Give us clear eyes and sharp minds
and courageous hearts
to know what little we might offer,
to ease pain where we are able,
to bear witness to what demands to be seen.

God, you know the need.
You are the beginning and the ending.
You have not left us alone.

*God, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Spirit, have mercy. Amen.*

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "YOUR WORD, O LORD, IS A LIGHT"

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

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Your word, O Lord, is a light. My God, en - light - en my". The second system also has a treble and bass staff, with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "dark - ness. O Lord, my — God, en - light - en my dark - ness. O". The third system has a treble and bass staff with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Lord, my — God, en - light - en my dark - ness. Your". There are "Last time" markings above the final notes of the second and third systems.

Scripture: Luke 9:58

Jesus said, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Reading: *Unpacking* – by Steven Garnaas Holmes, from www.unfoldinglight.net

Humble One,
to follow you I have to unpack
more than I carry;
not much fits in my little bag of faith.
Here is my sense of entitlement,
my expectation that I will belong
and be accepted and tended to.
I leave it behind.
Here is my attachment to comfort
and security, and my favorite things.
They don't fit.
Here's my expectation
that I'll accomplish great things.

Way too heavy.
And look – crammed in the bottom
of my overstuffed trunk,
my secret belief that I'm at the center,
that the children of Gaza or the immigrant
or the uncertain trans kid or the MAGA radical
are not mine – that I have a separate place,
a little nest, a safe foxhole. Nope. Gone.
All that fits in my little bag of faith is you,
and your passion for the whole world, all of it.
All that fits is trust, and kindness.
Ok. I've unpacked. I'm ready.

Song: "THIS WE SHALL DO" w/m by John Bell, (c) 2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, 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.

Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "LIVE IN CHARITY" w/m by Jacques Berthier, (c)1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love, live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Benediction – by Ruth C. Duck in *Touch Holiness*, 2nd Ed. pg. 271

And now the service begins. Go forth into the world in the knowledge that we are God's body, that hope for a new world is in the blood of our veins, that the struggle for justice is the heat to which our hearts respond, and that God's promise is the very stuff of which our bones are wrought. Go forth to praise the God from whom all blessings flow.

-----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 Sept. 3, 2025!
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. Aug. 12, 5:30-6:30pm
Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

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