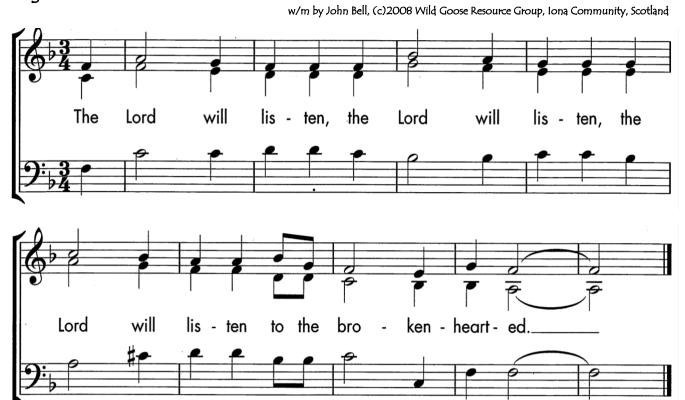
First United Methodist Church of Saginaw CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ August 6, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "THE LORD WILL LISTEN"



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"



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.

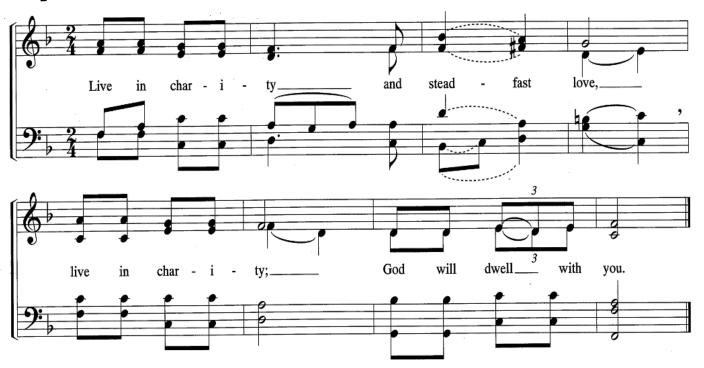
And look – crammed in the bottom
of my overstuffed trunk,
my secret belief that I'm at the center,
that the children of Gaza or the immigrant
or the uncertain trans kid or the MAGA radical
are not mine – that I have a separate place,
a little nest, a safe foxhole. Nope. Gone.
All that fits in my little 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



Silence (10 minutes)

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



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.-----