

# First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

## CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

October 1, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

### Song: "LET THERE BE LIGHT"

words Frances W Davis, adapted, music Robert J B Fleming c 1989 United Methodist Publishing House



Let there be light; Let there be un - der - stand - ing.

Your peo - ple live to - geth - er; your king - dom come on earth.

### Scripture: John 1: 1-5

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 overcome it.

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JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on Nov. 5, 2025!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. Oct. 14, 5:30–6:30pm  
Check out our website: [www.firstumcsaginaw.org](http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org)

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Reading: *Blessed are you who bear the light* – Jan Richardson, [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)

Blessed are you  
who bear the light  
in unbearable times,  
who testify  
to its endurance  
amid the unendurable,  
who bear witness  
to its persistence  
when everything seems  
in shadow and grief.

Blessed are you  
in whom  
the light lives,  
in whom  
the brightness blazes—  
your heart  
a chapel, an altar  
where, in the  
deepest night

can be seen  
the fire that  
shines forth in you  
in unaccountable faith,  
in stubborn hope,  
in love that illumines  
every broken thing  
it finds.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT"

w/m Jacques Berthier, c 1991 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 key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is in the treble staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a -". The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the". The third system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est". The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *pp* (pianissimo), as well as a *fine* marking at the end.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind.

## Reading: *for courage when you don't feel very brave*

—Kate Bowler, from *"The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings For Imperfect Days"*

God, I have no idea what courage is  
or how to muster it,  
but I know I need it.  
Fear is taking up too much space  
and I have so little bandwidth left.  
God, if courage is a gift, then please give it.  
And if it is a thing for me to learn,  
then show me how.

For blessed are the brave.  
Those who perform big bold acts of sacrifice.  
Those who move toward fear and danger  
so the rest of us feel a little more safe.

May we also learn bravery  
in small acts of great love.  
We who grieve, even if we feel like  
we are doing it all wrong.

We who have received the bad news and take  
the next right step toward what must be done.  
We who sit in the shards of a life  
that has come undone.  
We who hold another's hands  
on their hardest days.  
We who serve and pour out and keep loving,  
no matter the cost.  
We who live still,  
brave and scared at the same time.

Perhaps fear is not something to be vanquished,  
but rather that strange friend who tell us  
who we love, and what we can't live without.

So bless us, God.  
In our fear. In our shaky hope.  
Because brave looks like that too, sometimes.

## Song: "GOD TO ENFOLD YOU"

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

God to en - fold you, Christ to up - hold you, Spi - rit to

keep you in hea - ven's sight; so may God grace you,

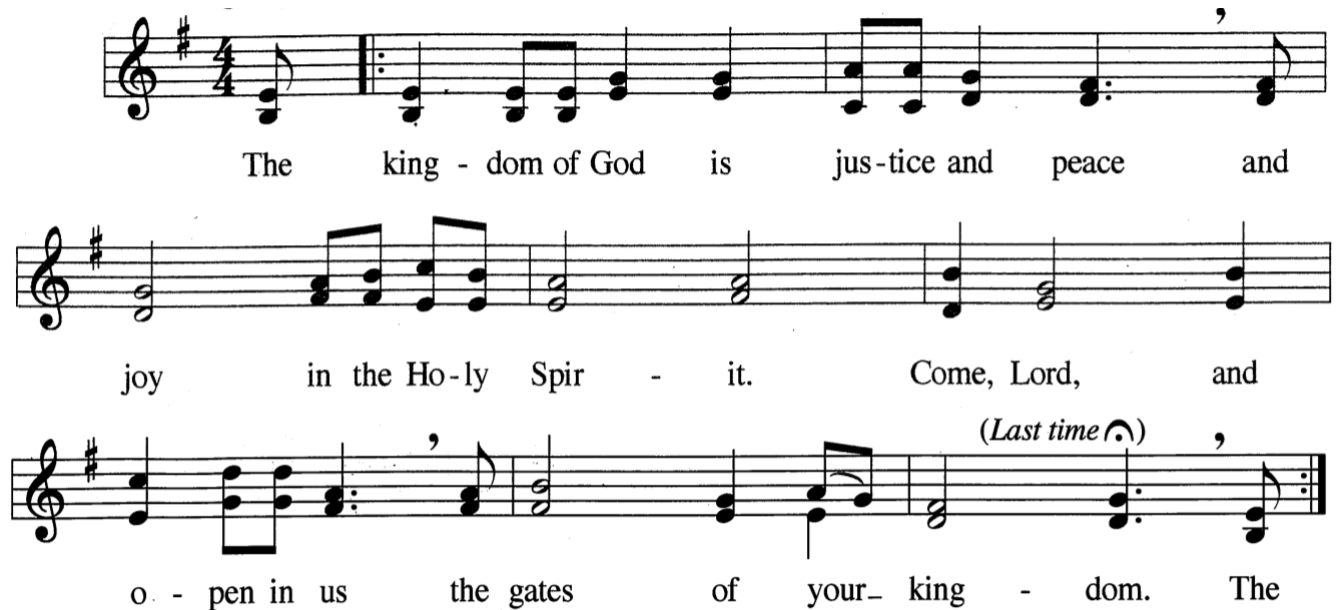
heal and em - brace you, lead you through dark - ness in - to the light.

Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

w/m Jacques Berthier, c2007 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France



The king - dom of God is jus-tice and peace and  
joy in the Ho-ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and  
(Last time :))  
o - pen in us the gates of your\_ king - dom. The

Benediction – Darcy Roake, <https://www.uua.org/worship>

There is too much hardship in this world to not find joy  
every day.

There is too much injustice in this world to not right the balance  
every day.

There is too much pain in this world to not heal  
every day.

Each of us ministers to a weary world.

Let us go forth now and do that which calls us to make this world more loving,  
more compassionate, and more filled with the grace of divine presence  
every day.

Amen.

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