

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

November 5, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "WHEN WE ARE LIVING"

Verse 1 only, words anonymous, trans. Elise S Eslinger, music traditional Spanish, c1989 United Methodist Publishing House

1) When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus, and when we're
dy - ing, it is in the Lord. Both in our liv - ing,
and in our dy - ing, we be - long to God, we be - long to God!

Scripture: Romans 8:38-39

I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on Dec. 3, 2025!
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. Nov. 11, 5:30–6:30pm
Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

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Reading: *All Saints Day*— by Steven Garraas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

This All Saints' Day,
Sing praise for the unnamed,
The unknown saints,
The quiet faithful
Who kept the flame alive,
Mothers who gave life,
Grandmothers who said prayers,
Fathers who taught their sons
The courage of gentleness.
Thank God for all
Who have worked for justice,
Who have offered healing and hope,
Who have practiced generosity and courage,
Who have kept the candle burning.
Praise God for all those who have suffered,

Who have borne the light when it was hard,
The victimized and exploited,
Who yet remain God's beloved.
And thank God for those
Who did nothing special at all,
Who were simply the children of God,
Made holy by god's love in them,
Made saints by being created in God's image,
Who shone by being themselves,
Who honored the light of God within them,
Living their lives instead of others' demands.
Praise God for that flame in you,
Burning right now, steady and bright,
Giving light to those who follow.
Give thanks, and pass on the light.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "IN GOD ALONE"

w/m by Jacques Berthier, c1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

The musical score for "IN GOD ALONE" is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment, with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and

joy. On - ly in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, 12-13

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will come to an end. As for tongues, they will cease. As for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part. But when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part, but then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reading: *When I Die* – Merrit Malloy, Reformed Jewish liturgy, optional reading before Kaddish.

When I die, give what's left of me away to children and old men that wait to die.
And if you need to cry, cry for your brother walking the street beside you.
And when you need me, put your arms around anyone
and give them what you need to give me.
I want to leave you something, something better than words or sounds.
Look for me in the people I've known or loved, and if you cannot give me away,
at least let me live in your eyes and not in your mind.
You can love me best by letting hands touch hands,
and by letting go of children that need to be free.
Love doesn't die, people do.
So, when all that's left of me is love, give me away.

Song: "SET ME AS A SEAL" words Song of Songs 8:7, music John Bell, c2008 WGRG, Iona Community

During this song, in honor of someone having gone before, you may come forward to light your candle and place it in the sand.

Set me as a seal up - on your arm, as a seal up - on your heart...

Set me

Love is strong as death; love is strong as death,

Love is strong as death; love is strong as death, nor can floods sweep it a - way. —

Prayer – Peg Wilken

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "LORD, JESUS CHRIST"

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

Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us.

Let not my doubts nor my dark-ness speak to me. Lord Je - sus Christ, your

light shines with-in us. Let my heart al-ways wel - come your love.

Benediction – Jan L Richardson

God of the generations,
when we set our hands to labor,
thinking we work alone,
remind us that we carry
on our lips, the words of prophets,
in our veins, the blood of martyrs,
in our eyes, the mystics' visions,
and in our hands, the strength of thousands. Amen.

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