

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw  
CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ  
JANUARY 7, 2026 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW"

*Words by Edward Caswell, music by Sir John Goss, c2012 Musicnotes, Inc.*

*Please sing this refrain and repeat after each verse is sung by the leaders:*

The musical score consists of two staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The top staff features a soprano vocal line with chords G, Am/G, G, D/F#, G, D, G/B, C, G, Am, G/B, and D. The lyrics for this section are: "Hail! Thou ev - er bless - ed morn! Hail, Re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!" The bottom staff features a bass vocal line with chords Em, A7, Bm, G6, A, D7, G/B, C, Am, G/D, D7, and G. The lyrics for this section are: "Sing thro' all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."

- 1) See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below;  
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. REFRAIN
- 2) Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies;  
He, who throned in height sublime, sits among the cherubim! REFRAIN
- 3) Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? REFRAIN
- 4) As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing 'Peace on Earth,' told us of the Savior's birth. REFRAIN
- 5) Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine;  
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! REFRAIN
- 6) Teach, o teach us, Holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee in thy sweet humility. REFRAIN

## Scripture: Luke 2: 10-11

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see, I bring you good news of great joy for all people: Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

## Reading: *Savior* — *Steven Carnaas-Holmes, <https://unfoldinglight.net>*

On a cold night, bundled in our fears,  
tired from taking care of ourselves,  
we come, curious:  
maybe there's something here for us.  
Angels promised a savior,  
but this is no one who could bail us out:  
a mere infant, who could never fight for us,  
or overwhelm our enemies,  
sneak us out of the trouble we're in  
or take for us the lashes we have coming.  
This is no one  
who could strike a bargain for us.

How could this one save us from the failure  
of the lives we were meant to live?  
He gazes up at us serenely  
with utter trust, and, somehow it seems,  
all the love of heaven and earth.  
We are struck. Without our willing it,  
something in us shifts. Opens.  
A deep river, long frozen, thaws out  
and begins to flow,  
a love beyond our command,  
that frees us from all we fear or desire.  
By his grace we love, and are saved.

## Silence (2 minutes)

## Song: "THE LORD IS MY LIGHT" — *w/m Jacques Berthier, c1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community*

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

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## Scripture: Matthew 2: 9b-12

The Magi set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star they had seen at its rising. Finally, it stopped over the place where the child was, which overwhelmed them with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## Reading: *For Those Who Have Far to Travel* – Jan Richardson, <https://paintedprayerbook.com>

If you could see the journey whole, you might never undertake it;  
might never dare the first step that propels you from the place you have known  
toward the place you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road:  
that we see it only by stages as it opens before us,  
as it comes into our keeping step by single step.

There is nothing for it but to go, and by our going take the vows the pilgrim takes:  
to be faithful to the next step;  
to rely on more than the map;  
to heed the signposts of intuition and dream;  
to follow the star that only you will recognize;  
to keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path;  
to press on beyond distractions, beyond fatigue,  
beyond what would tempt you from the way.

There are vows that only you will know; the secret promises for your particular path;  
each choice creates the road that will take you to the place  
where at last you will kneel to offer the gift most needed –  
the gift that only you can give –  
before turning to go home by another way.

### Song: "OUR EYES ARE TURNED" – w/m by Jacques Berthier, c1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

The musical score consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The top staff is for the voice, and the bottom staff is for the piano. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piano part features a simple harmonic progression with chords on the piano keys.

Our eyes are turned to the Lord Je - sus Christ.  
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our Sav - ior.

### Time of Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

## Song: "LET YOUR SERVANT NOW GO IN PEACE"

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

Let your ser - vant now— go in peace, O Lord, now—  
Lord, O Lord,  
go in peace ac - cord - ing to your word, *Last time*  
*Last time* Let your  
(to your word.)

## Benediction: *Epiphany Prayer* — Steven Garnaas-Holmes, adapted for Benediction

Beloved, you have revealed yourself to the world in Christ.

Now reveal yourself in us.

May your grace shine in us.

May our love be a guiding star for others.

May our words and deeds show forth the reign of your mercy and justice.

With humility and generosity, may we offer the gifts you have given us.

The treasure chest of our souls we open to you and to the world. Amen.

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