

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

MARCH 4, 2026 7:00 p.m.

*On the way in, you should have received a small piece of paper.
On this piece of paper, write a few words representing something that you wish to let go of
in order to unburden your spirit. You will have the opportunity later in the service
to bring the paper forward and watch it dissolve in a bowl of water.*

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

Song: "COME AND FIND THE QUIET CENTER"

verse 1 only, words Shirley Erena Murray, music B. F. White, c1992 Hope Publishing Company

1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we
lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are
freed: Clear the cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can
see all the things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.

Scripture: Joel 2:13

Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Wholeness, the One, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

Reading: *Return* – by Stephen Garnaas-Homes, www.unfoldinglight.net

There is no journey to God.
You are there.
There is no goal of repentance
you must reach for.
It is within you.
For Lent, give up your striving.
Return to the truth of who you are.
Give up the spiritual trek.
Find your home here,
in trust in the grace of God.

Let go of your affair with a god
who judges you, who needs to be pleased.
Stay here with the One who already loves you,
who is already, and eternally, delighted with you.
Don't go off on a journey, go in.
Return to the peace at the center.
There is much to let go of,
but nowhere to go.
Broken as you are, you are in God.
That is enough. Be there.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "RETURN TO GOD" w/m by Marty Haugen, c1990 GIA Publications

Adapted from Joel 2:13–14

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the
Source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of
God. Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God. Re -

(Last time rit.) *(♩ Last time)*

(♩ Last time)

Scripture: Isaiah 43:18-19

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Reading: *Prayer For Letting Go* – by Ann Siddall, <https://thepastorsworkshop.com>

O God, help us to use this season of Lent to examine our attachments, and to sense where You invite us to live more simply and deeply. Shine the light of Your love into the private corners of our lives where we have acquired so much clutter that it has begun to restrict our freedom. Grant us the strength to free ourselves from appetites and needs that drive us into taking, having, and wanting more than we need or have time for. Teach us that in letting go we become free, rather than deprived, generous rather than covetous, and spacious rather than restricted. We offer You our Lenten observance, and today we place our feet on the road to Easter, and walk the Way that You have walked before us. Amen.

Song: "TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM" w/m by John L Bell, c1995 GIA Publications, Iona Community

During this song, please bring forward the piece of paper with the word or words you have written. Place it in the bowl of water and watch as it dissolves away.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major/D-flat minor). It consists of two systems of music. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. Chord markings are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me."

Chord markings for the first system: Db, Ebm/Db, Ab/Db, Db, Gb/Bb.

Chord markings for the second system: Absus, Ab, Gb, Ab/Gb, Db/F, Ebm, Absus, Ab.

Time of Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "SPIRIT OF CHRIST JESUS" *w/m by Jacques Berthier, c1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community*

Musical score for the song "Spirit of Christ Jesus". The score is written for voice and piano in 2/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of Christ — Je - sus, Spir - it of lov - ing kind - ness, con -". The second system continues the melody and accompaniment with lyrics: "firm your heart and keep it; con - firm your heart and keep — it." The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Benediction – by Pamela C Hawkins, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>

O God, who makes all things new: new stars, new dust, new life;
take our hearts – every hardened edge and measured beat – and create something new in us.
We need your newness, God – the rough parts of us made smooth;
the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.
And then, by the power of your Spirit, turn us toward Love again. Amen.

-----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 April 1, 2026!
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. March 10, 5:30-6:30pm
Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

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