

# First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

## CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

### APRIL 1, 2026 7:00 p.m.

*Please be seated at one of the tables up front. If you are not comfortable sitting at a table, you may be seated in one of the front pews.*

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

#### Song: "GATHER ROUND THE TABLE"

chorus only, w/m by Mary Kay Beall, c2009 Hope Publishing Company

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4) followed by a quarter note (C5), a quarter note (Bb4), and a quarter note (A4). The lyrics under the first system are: "Gath - er 'round, gath - er 'round; gath - er 'round\_\_ the ta - ble. Gath - er". The second system continues the melody with a quarter note (G4), a quarter note (F4), a quarter note (E4), and a quarter note (D4). The lyrics under the second system are: "'round, gath - er 'round, 'round the ta - ble of the Lord." There are triplets of eighth notes at the end of both systems.

#### Scripture: Mark 14: 18-19

When they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me. They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I!"

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JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on May 6, 2026!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL - Tues. April 14, 5:30-6:30pm  
JOIN US for Holy Thursday worship 4/2/26 at 7pm  
at Swan Valley 4-Points UMC, 9265 Geddes Road, Saginaw 48609  
JOIN US for Good Friday worship here 4/3/26 at 7pm

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Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

Reading: Seat of Honor – by Stephen Garnaas-Homes, [www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

Those times when I feel as guilty as Judas,  
Jesus reassures me.

Jesus, as host, has seated Judas next to him  
The seat next to the host of a dinner,  
sharing the bowl with him,  
is the seat of honor, the highest place.

This is the depth of Jesus' love, his absolute forgiveness.

Even as Judas' heart unravels and he plots evil,  
Jesus honors him, seeks friendship with him, and offers grace.

When you feel like Judas, remember  
you are affirmed, welcomed, honored – cherished, even – as you are.

You are invited to share the bowl with Jesus.

You are invited to enter into a closeness  
that doesn't depend on what's in your heart,  
or your past, or even your future,  
determined solely by Jesus' perfect love.

There is no test. There are no rankings.  
Jesus knows you, knows you are more screwed up  
than you think you are, and still says warmly,  
"Come sit with me."

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE"

w/m by Barbara Hamm, c2008 Barbara Hamm

6  
11

## Scripture: Matthew 26: 26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Reading — by Allen P Happe, from *Touch Holiness: Resources For Worship*, Ruth C Duck and Maren C Tirabassi, c2012 Duck-Tirabassi

Ever gracious God,  
we gather this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago.  
We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world.  
We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits.  
Remind us in the breaking of the bread of our need and of your sufficiency.  
Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness.  
Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service  
and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving.  
As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us  
in Jesus Christ, our friend and redeemer. Amen.

## Blessing of the Elements and Instruction for Communion

### Song: "EAT THIS BREAD"

w/m by Jacques Berthier, c1984 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Time of Prayer — Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

# Song: "LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU"

music by W H Monk, words from John 13:34, music c1989 United Methodist Publishing House

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Love one another as I have loved you; love one another as I have loved you; This is the new commandment I give you."

## Benediction – by Roddy Hamilton, from *Mucky Paws* website

We believe the time is now (with the taste of bread fresh on our lips)  
to go into the world and face the darkness

We believe the moment is right (with the bitterness of the wine sharp in our mouths)  
to face the powers of the world with the love of heaven

We believe the place is here (with the sound of covenant echoing in our ears)  
to endure the suffering love calls us to

We believe the path is before us (with the crumbs of heaven still scattered across the table)  
to side with truth in a deafened world

We believe the hour is come (with the table conversation a turmoil in our minds)  
to conspire with Christ and move against injustice

We believe the gospel is this (with bread lying broken and a goblet left empty)  
love is betrayed but death shall not have the final word

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