

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

MAY 6, 2026 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "IN THE LORD REJOICING"

(may be sung as a round)

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



The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of a sequence of notes: C4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), B5 (quarter), C6 (quarter), B5 (quarter), A5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). Above the staff, circled letters A through F indicate the starting notes for a round: A (C), B (F), C (G), D (B), E (C), and F (D). Below the staff, the lyrics are: "In the Lord re - joic - ing! Christ is ris - en from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia!"

Scripture: John 20: 1

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

Reading: *Seen* by Jan Richardson

You had not imagined that something so empty could fill you to overflowing,
and now you carry the knowledge like an awful treasure
or like a child that curls itself within your heart:

how the emptiness will bear forth a new world
you cannot fathom but on whose edge you stand.

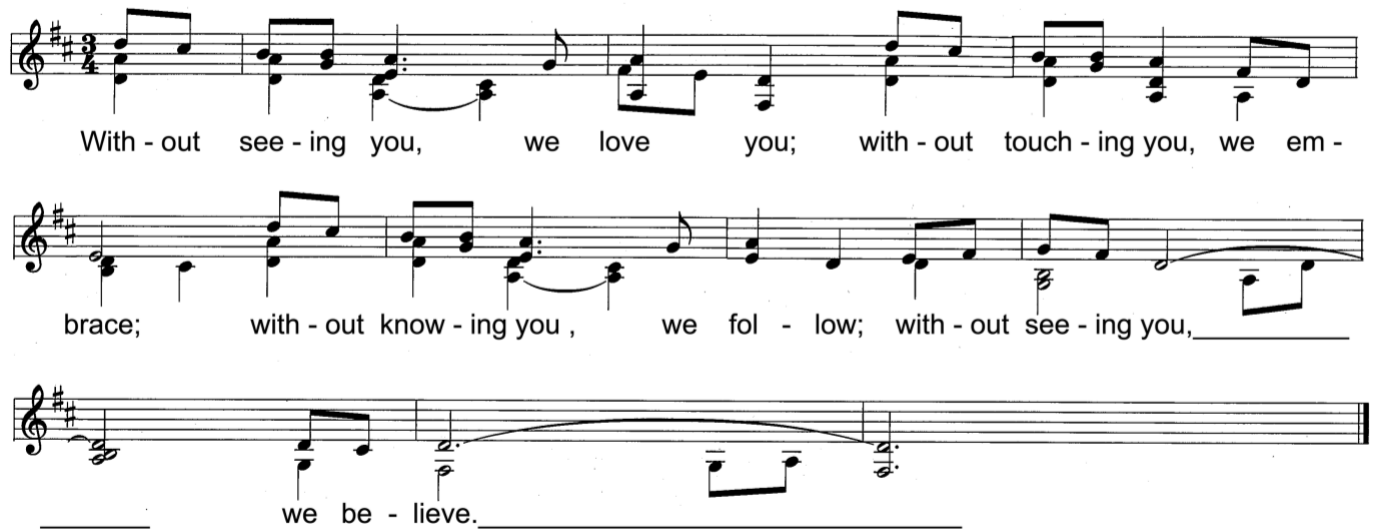
So why do you linger?
You have seen, and so you are already blessed.
You have been seen, and so you are the blessing.

There is no other word you need.
There is simply to go and tell.
There is simply to begin.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "WITHOUT SEEING YOU"

w/m by David Haas, c1993 GIA Publications, FWS #2206



With - out see - ing you, we love you; with - out touch - ing you, we embrace;
with - out know - ing you, we fol - low; with - out see - ing you, we be - lieve.

Scripture: John 20: 25

The other disciples told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Reading: *For Thomas* by Stephen Garraas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

It was not enough for Thomas to be told.
He needed to experience resurrection embodied.
So it is for those around us now.
For many it's a story that's not true.
How then might it be true in our lives?
What might it be about our lives
that seeing them would make people believe
that Christ has indeed been raised?
Maybe to trust love. To care fearlessly.
To risk for the sake of justice and mercy.
To trust God's presence
in suffering and bewilderment.

Nothing heroic, just trusting
in God's presence and power in us
and around and beneath and among us.
Maybe if some poor Thomas can sense
how the wounds of love have given us life,
how through our failures,
our powerlessness,
mercy and justice are still alive in us,
how they themselves are
embraced and forgiven,
in that moment, as if never before,
Christ would be raised from the dead.

Song: "I'M GONNA LIVE SO GOD CAN USE ME"

African American Spiritual, this arrangement c2000 Abingdon Press

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "I'm gon - na live* so (live* so) God can use me _____ an - y - where, Lord, _____ an - y - time! (an - y - time!) I'm gon - na live* so (live* so)) God can use me _____ an - y - where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time! (an - y - time!)". The asterisks in the lyrics indicate where the singer should work, pray, or sing.

**work ... *pray ... *sing ...*

Time of Prayer

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "BE NOT AFRAID"

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

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris - en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris - en, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the song "Be Not Afraid" in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris - en, al - le - lu - ia!". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Benediction: *Resurrection (a responsive reading)* by Sharlande Sledge

One: When others dismiss your story as an idle tale, who will you be?

ALL: RESURRECTION PEOPLE WITH EASTER IN OUR HEARTS.

One: When the world seems to be crumbling around you, remember who you are:

ALL: RESURRECTION PEOPLE WITH EASTER IN OUR HEARTS.

One: When despair would seem to squelch all hope, believe in who you have become:

ALL: RESURRECTION PEOPLE WITH EASTER IN OUR HEARTS.

One: When it is hard to persevere against all odds, trust in God who names you:

ALL: RESURRECTION PEOPLE WITH EASTER IN OUR HEARTS.

One: As we follow Christ into the world, may God help us remember who we are...

ALL: RESURRECTION PEOPLE WITH EASTER IN OUR HEARTS.

-----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 June 3, 2026!
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. May 12, 5:30–6:30pm
Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

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