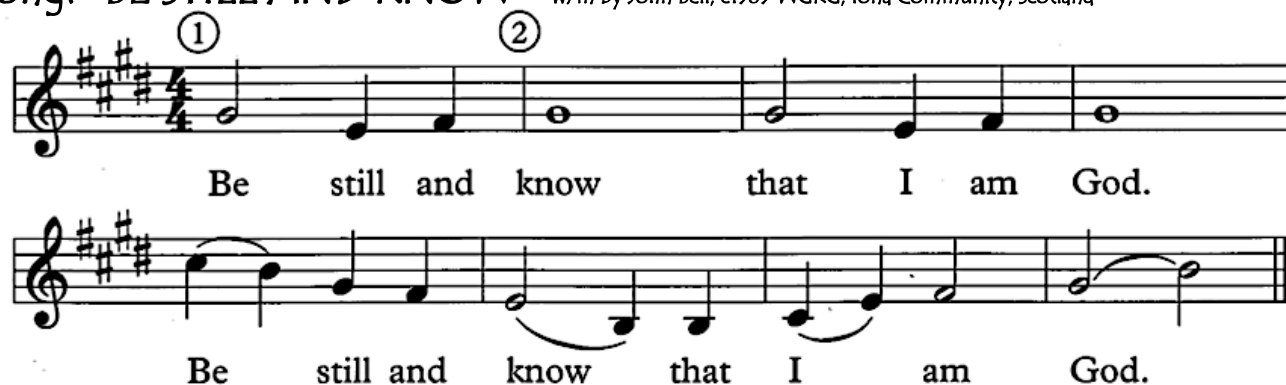


First United Methodist Church of Saginaw
CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ
July 3, 2024 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "BE STILL AND KNOW" -w/m by John Bell, c1989 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland



Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Scripture: Mark 4: 37-39

A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped... They said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!"

Reading – *STORM*, by Steven Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

The howling winds of political angst
scream in our ears,
and make it hard to hear each other,
hard to steady the world's rigging.
Our little paddles are nothing
against the tide of greed and fear.
The staggering seas
of a changed climate batter us.
Waves of fear of war and unrest,
nuclear threat, microplastics,
species loss and forever chemicals
swamp the boat of our future.
It's not unreasonable to think of catastrophe,
of collapse.
We are afraid we are perishing.

It is true, there is great urgency.
Jesus doesn't make sane our politics or cool the
earth, vanquish pollution or banish all war.
Rather, the Graceful One says, "Peace. Be still."
We are not perishing.
We are in the boat with Jesus – God's boat.
There is a greater goodness to which we belong;
not a scheme for saving us,
but a mystery in which already
we are abiding with God forever,
sharing in God's unfolding life.
Even in trying times we act with both urgency
and hope; both boldness and peace.
We are not perishing. We are facing the storm
with the Guide of the Universe.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "LORD OF ALL GOODNESS" -c1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

Lord of all good - ness, Son of the Fa - ther, may your peace sur - round us.

(hum)

The image shows a musical score for the song "LORD OF ALL GOODNESS". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a bass line. The lyrics are: "Lord of all good - ness, Son of the Fa - ther, may your peace sur - round us." There is a "(hum)" marking above the first measure of the treble staff. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

Scripture: Jeremiah 9: 23-24

Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things."

Reading – *THE DREAMING*, by John Ballenger

Our God, we pray on this occasion, remembering, in particular, our country.
We give you thanks for the good dreaming that envisioned a land of freedom and opportunity –
a land in which to grow respect for all its citizens.
We give you thanks for all who sacrificed in so many ways
to create and to sustain such dreaming.
We give you thanks for the many ways in which that dream has been,
and continues to be embraced and made manifest
as a better tomorrow is shaped for all –
all within these borders and all without them too.
We thank you for the call to let freedom shine,
to let celebration of the dignity of all resound.
But we also confess to you the many ways in which we fall short of our best dreaming –
fall into immaturity, and selfishness; into shortsightedness;
into too much of a focus on immediate benefits for some and a lesser tomorrow for all.
We confess to binding the dream –
we apparently sometimes want to claim in word only, but not in words made flesh.
Re-instill in us the dreaming, God.

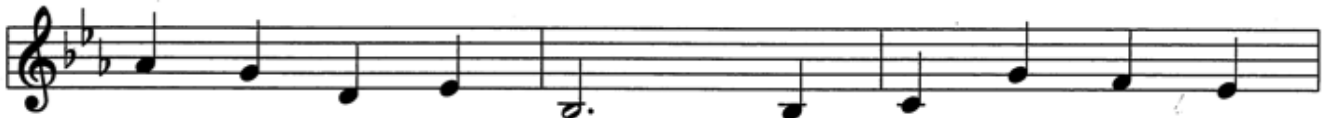
Guide us into the disciplines of love and grace
 that cultivate those ideals of discipline and sacrifice;
 of a commitment to our children and our children's children
 that theirs would be a better land than ours is now –
 with more mature leaders and citizens than we are;
 with greater opportunities than we have known –
 with even deeper respect for all its citizens –
 a more far-reaching vision – with richer examples of freedom and bravery
 because that's the way we dream it to be. Ah, may it be so. Amen.

Song: "I HAVE A DREAM"

-w Pamela J Pettitt, m Charles H H Perry, c2011 Abingdon Press



1. "I have a dream," a man once said, "where
 2. But in this world of bitter strife the
 3. Firece per - se - cu - tion, war, and hate are
 4. So dream the dreams and sing the songs, but
 5. Lord, give us vi - sion, make us strong, help



all is per - fect peace; where men and wom - en,
 dream can of - ten fade; re - al - i - ty seems
 rag - ing ev - ery - where; God calls us now to
 nev - er be con - tent; for thoughts and words don't
 us to do your will; don't let us rest un -



black and white, stand hand in hand, and all u - nite in
 dark as night, we catch but glimps - es of the light Christ
 pay the price through strug - gles and through sac - ri - fice of
 ease the pain: un - less there's ac - tion, all is vain; faith
 til we see your love through-out hu - man - i - ty u -



free - dom and in love, in free - dom and in love."
 sheds on hu - man - kind, Christ sheds on hu - man-kind.
 stand - ing for the right, of stand - ing for the right.
 proves it - self in deeds, faith proves it - self in deeds.
 nit - ing us in peace, u - nit - ing us in peace.

Prayer – *Pastor Amy Terhune*

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "THE KINGDOM OF GOD" – Taizé Community, c 2007 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

The musical score is written for voice and piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system contains the lyrics: "The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and". The second system contains: "joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and". The third system contains: "o - pen in us the gates of your - king - dom. The". Above the final measure of the third system, there are two instances of the instruction "(Last time ☺)".

Benediction – *FREEDOM, adapted from the Book of Common Prayer*

Gracious God, you have made all of the peoples of the earth for your glory.
You invite us to serve you in freedom and in peace.
Give to the people of our nation a zeal for justice and the strength for forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.
We ask this in the name of the one who welcomes all to be free indeed.
Inspire us to live and worship in your freedom and for the sake of your Kingdom. 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 Aug. 7, 2024!
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. July 9, 5:30–6:30pm
Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

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