

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ

January 1, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "RAISE A SONG OF GLADNESS"

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

May be sung as a two-part round

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Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to every heart!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to every heart!

Scripture: Matthew 2: 8-9

Herod sent the magi to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

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JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on Feb. 5, 2025!
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. Jan. 14, 5:30-6:30pm
Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org

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Reading: *The Magi* –Godfrey Rust

Will you study these signs
as carefully
as you study the prices
in the Christmas catalogues?

Will you seek out the manger
as diligently
as you search for the right scarf
or this year's toy?

Will you examine
your heart's pilgrimage
and be sure towards what stable
it carries its precious gifts?

Will you be a wise fool
to find and follow
the strange star of truth
in a sky full of glittering lies?

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

words by Ken Bible and George D Elderkin, music by George D Elderkin, c1998 Pilot Point Music

Leaders will sing verses between the singing of this chorus:

Refrain

Walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light; come where his love and his mer-cy are bright.

13

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the World.

Scripture: Matthew 2: 10-12

When the magi saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed 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: *Epiphany* –Steven Garñas–Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

I suppose it would have been no different had I followed a star
with kings or philosophers, consulted the heavens and the emperor.
I would have finally found an ordinary house in a little hill town with a kid and his mom.
I still would have paused and wondered if this were really the One, but then
not by the star overhead but the light within, wouldn't I have known anyway?
So it was that I saw her, maybe forty something, in the third aisle,
comparing red and kidney beans, no star above us but the cluttered grocery ceiling,
but the heavenly eye in me suddenly awakened,
the treasure chest in my chest slid open by no wisdom of my own, and I saw,
I saw the Near One, the Beloved, the Shepherding Presence,
here, in this one, now, radiant and divine in her perfect unknowing being,
God coming to flesh in unmistakable anonymity, as only God always does,
indivisibly near, in the holiness of the real her of her, and of all of us,
how hidden in the heart of things, how invisible and fleeting the light, how dependable.
And without any more sure sign than that I was changed, in numinous company,
and I went home by another road.

Song: "Love Is the Welcome"

Words by Kathy Galloway; music Loch Lomond (Scottish traditional), ©2003 Iona Community, Wild Goose Publications

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Love is the welcome that comes from the heart And opens its door to the stranger, Which makes of its house a resting-place for all, For the sake of the babe in the manger." The score uses various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and chords.

Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

Song: "TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM" w/m by John L Bell, c 1995 the Iona Community, Scotland

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.

Benediction –Jan Richardson, www.paintedprayerbook.com

May the path that Christ walks
to bring justice upon the earth,
to bring light to those who sit in darkness,
to bring out those who live in bondage,
to bring new things to all creation:
may this path run through our life.
May we be the road Christ takes.

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