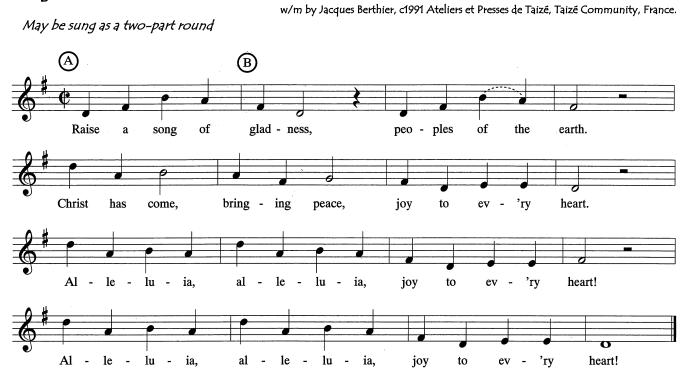
# First United Methodist Church of Saginaw CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ January 1, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

## Song: "RAISE A SONG OF GLADNESS"



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.

All songs reproduced by permission. CCLI License #1003593 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

Saginaw First United Methodist Church 4790 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638 Phone: (989) 799–0131 Email: firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com Find us on Facebook @firstumcofsaginaw Reading: The Magi -Godfrey Rust

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

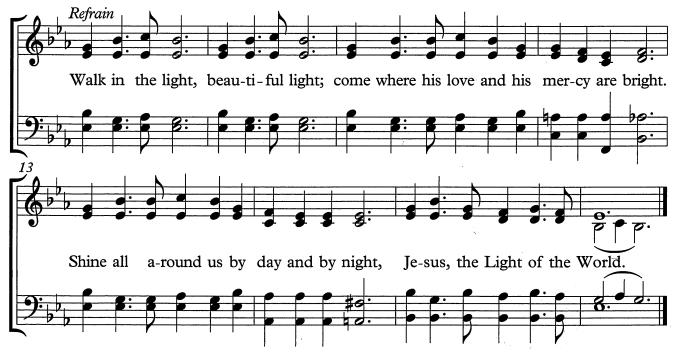
Will you seek out the manger as diligently as you search for the right scarf or this year's toy? Will you examine your heart's pilgrimage and be sure towards what stable it carries its precious gifts?

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:



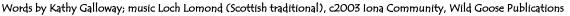
Scripture: Matthew 2: 10-12

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 Garnaas-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"





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



## 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.-----