First United Methodist Church of Saginaw CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ February 5, 2025 7:00 p.m.

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

Song: "GOD WELCOMES ALL"

words John L Bell, music traditional South African, c2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland



Scripture: John 13: 34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

All songs reproduced by permission. CCLI License #1003593 JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on March. 5, 2025	Saginaw First United Methodist Church 4790 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638
Note: this will be our Ash Wednesday Service of Worship	Phone: (989) 799–0131
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am! Page 1	astor Amy Terhune / Bryan Latimer, Organist
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL - Tues. Feb. 11, 5:30-6:30pm	Email: firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com
Check out our website: www.firstumcsaginaw.org	Find us on Facebook @firstumcofsaginaw

Reading: Shantideva Prayer, Adapted - Karen G. Johnston, https://www.uua.org.

May I be a quard for those who need protection; when I seek protection, may I find it and share it. For those who wish to cross to a further shore, may I be a boat, a raft, a bridge. May I be open to the companionship of others as I make my way to places still before me. May I be a lamp in the darkness for all who seek it; May that light never be extinguished from my own sight and my own heart. May I be a resting place for the weary and be healing medicine for all who are sick; May I know the salve of others for my own afflictions, whether of the body or of the mind, or of the heart. Where others see scarcity, may I see a vase of plenty, a tree of miracles. As part of the boundless multitudes of living beings, May I bring sustenance and awakening, freedom from sorrow, and may I delight in our common existence. Holding most tenderly those with broken hearts, let us sit together in stillness.

Silence (2 minutes)



Song: "LIVE IN CHARITY"

Scripture: Micah 6:8

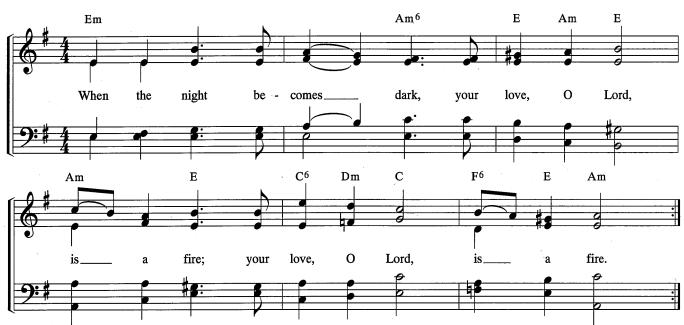
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Reading: Inauguration - Steven Garnaas-Holmes, https://unfoldinglight.net.

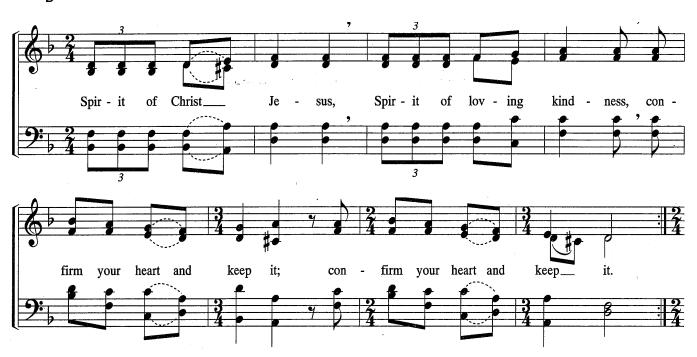
Today, God, you create me anew; today I inaugurate a new life. By the power invested in me by the Holy Spirit I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute your call in my life, and will to the best of my ability uphold your commandments. I will act with love and gentleness, with reverence and forgiveness toward all people. I will practice humility, generosity, and truthfulness. I will honor and delight in the diversity of the human family, respecting the true unity of all people and the oneness and sacred worth of all living things. I pledge to live, speak, and act for justice and peace. I accept the power you give me to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. I will stand against all violence, disrespect, and bullying. I will speak out against meanness, give voice to those who are silenced, and include those who are outcast. I acknowledge that I shine with your light, O God, that my life is not mine but yours. This day I pledge to do your will, not mine, for your sake and the sake of the healing of the world. I understand that this pledge will often set me against my culture, and that the culture will resist me. With your help and those of like mind and heart, I will persevere. I give you thanks. I ask your blessing. I trust your grace. Amen.

Song: "WHEN THE NIGHT BECOMES DARK"

w/m Jacques Berthier, c 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community



Silence (10 minutes)



Song: "SPIRIT OF CHRIST JESUS"

w/m Jacques Berthier, c 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

Benediction - Mary Jo Bowman, https://re-worship.blogspot.com

How shall we worship our God? We have heard what the Lord requires of us. Leave empty talk and pride behind. We must walk the walk. Prepare to step out in faith, even into troubled waters. Only God knows where we might need to go. Don't be afraid. Jesus will guide our steps along the way, Teaching us to walk humbly, To love boldly, To serve God with body, soul, mind, and strength. Let us pray for the humility and courage To follow where the Spirit leads.

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