# First United Methodist Church of Saginaw CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ April 2, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

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

### Song: "HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT"



Scripture: Romans 12: 4-5

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

All songs reproduced by permission. CCLI License #1003593 JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on May 7, 2025! ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am! ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. April 8, 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: Do Not Be Alone Right Now - Karen G Johnston

Do not be alone right now. Gather together.

Gathering together grows courage: in ourselves and in others who see the numbers swelling. It is a small thing, but right now it is an important thing.

Great sources of wisdom remind us: just because you cannot stem the tide of *all* hate, it is still right to do the thing you can do. These things add up: your one thing and my one thing; his one thing and their one thing and her one thing. Together it becomes a BIG thing.

Do not be alone right now. Any liberation—all liberation—is collective liberation. My freedom is bound with yours and yours with mine. Inextricably.

Let us together cast our lots doing this BIG thing: bending the moral arc of the universe towards justice.

#### Song: "DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN" words John Wesley, music by Edward Bonnemere, arr Cynthia Wilson, c2011 Abingdon Press E۶ Fm7 C7 by all the means you can, \_\_\_\_ Do all the good you can, \_\_\_\_\_ Bb7/F Bb7/F Fm7 - 3 all the all the plac-es you can,\_ in ways you can, in G<u>m7\_</u>3-Cm7/Eb Fm7/Eb D7 all the times you can, to all the peo-ple you can,\_\_ at 13 Bb7 Fm7/Eb E۶ Bbm/C Fm7 as long as er you can. ev

# Silence (2 minutes)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:16

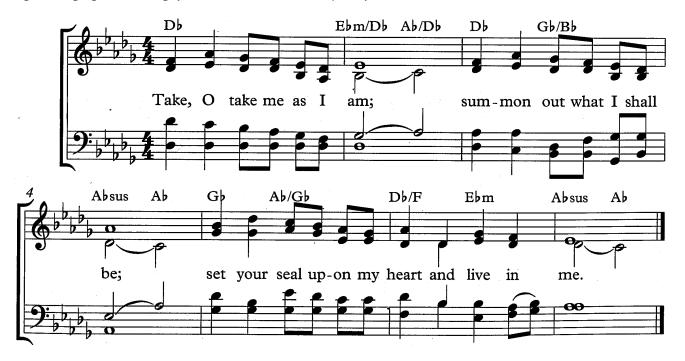
From Him, the whole body, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love through the work of each.

### Reading: Small Stones - steven Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

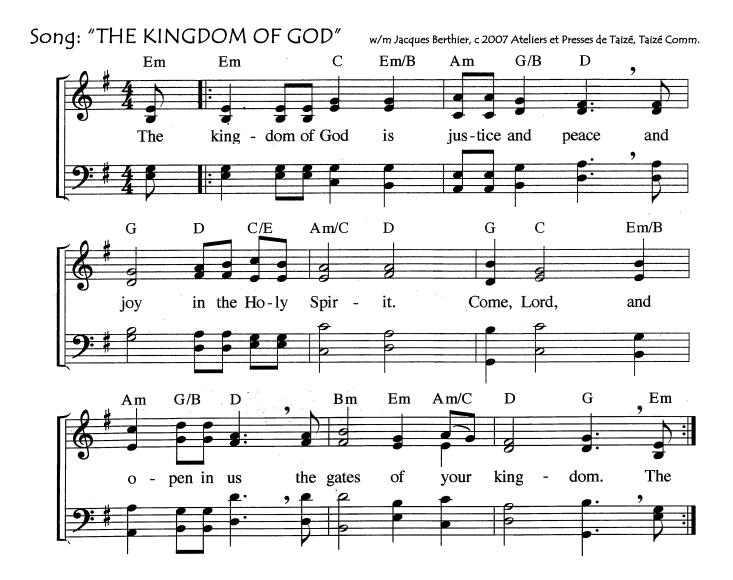
There are times, beholding the wounds of the world, we feel inadequate. We haven't done enough. Yes, there are those who give their blood on the ramparts, who are tireless in their work for justice and healing. It is only together that we are they. Remember you are not asked to save the world, or even a single creature. You are asked to listen, to hear what you are called to do, great or small, and to do that. In the stone wall I walk past every morning there are small stones that hold the great ones in place. In the chorus you only sing one part but when you change your note you change the whole chord.

### Song: "TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM"

w/m by John Bell, c 1995 The Iona Community, Scotland, admin by GIA Publications During the singing of this song, you are invited forward to place your stone in the bowl of water.



Prayer - Peg Wilken



Benediction - Dr. Derek Browning

Generous God, here are our gifts of time; here are our gifts of talents; here are our gifts of treasure; building stones for Your Kingdom, awaiting shaping and placing within your loving purpose. Amen.

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