



The Power of Paradox



Risking Safety

Do you know where this stained-glass window is located?

Is there a safety risk?

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Menomonie, Wisconsin

January 22, 2023

Welcome

Prelude/Candle-lighting

“Les Barricades Mystérieuses”
(F. Couperin)

Evelyn Rohrbach

Ringing of the Bell

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

All: Why should we be afraid?

Leader: The Lord is the stronghold of our life!

All: What have we to fear?

Leader: Let us shout with joy to God!

All: Let us sing and make music before our God.

*Opening Prayer (unison)

God our stronghold, the psalmist reminds us that we don't need to fear—but we find ourselves afraid at times, anyway. Afraid for our own or our loved ones' health. Afraid of the way political winds are blowing. Afraid of violence. Afraid of the unknown. We struggle with when to take necessary risks and when to choose a path that promises more safety. You call us to be both bold and wise. And you remind us that even in unsafe moments, you are with us and our lives are in your hands. Thank you for the risky safety you promise us. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“The Summons”

SoF #135

Readings

Ps. 27:1, 4-9

Matthew 4:12-23

from “I've Been to the Mountaintop” by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Marilyn Winsor

Anthem

“Depend On You”

Senior Choir

Sermon

The Mountaintop and the Promised Land

Rev. Kathleen Remund

Transitional Hymn

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

SoF #87

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Stewardship Moment

Tom Schmelzle

Offering/Offertory

“Be Not Afraid”
(B. Dufford)

Evelyn Rohrbach

***Doxology (in unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all people here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

O God, we have seen your glory, felt the touch of your love, and felt your presence with us. With joyful hearts, we offer you our gifts. Having heard your call, we take the risk of offering you our lives and our service. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

Hymnal #339

***Benediction**

Leader: God is our light, our hope, our all in all:
All: Blessed be God, now and forever!
Leader: Christ is our home, our life, our joy:
All: Blessed be God, now and forever!
Leader: Our worship concludes; our service continues.
All: Blessed be God, now and forever!
All: Amen.

***Sung Benediction**

God, be with you till we meet again;
By their counsels guide, uphold you;
With their sheep securely fold you;
God, be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

“Prelude in D Major”
(J.S. Bach)

Evelyn Rohrbach

***The flowers today are from Naomi Cummings in memory of her mother Dorothy Hardin,
who passed away Tuesday, the day before her 98th birthday.***

**The stained-glass window featured on the bulletin this week, is from the door of the 3rd floor classroom.
You can see it from the sanctuary by looking above the pulpit.
The two images are from the same window.**

- The Call to Worship was written by Mary Petrina Boyd and posted on *Ministry Matters: Worship Elements*, <https://www.ministrymatters.com>
- The Prayer of Dedication was adapted from one written by Mary Petrina Boyd and posted on *Ministry Matters: Worship Elements*, <https://www.ministrymatters.com>
- Benediction comes from one posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways Archive*, <http://www.ucc.org/>
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