

# Welcome to Worship

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Communion Sunday  
Second Sunday in Lent  
March 5, 2023

Welcome

Prelude/Candle-lighting

“Lamb of God”  
(L. Larson)

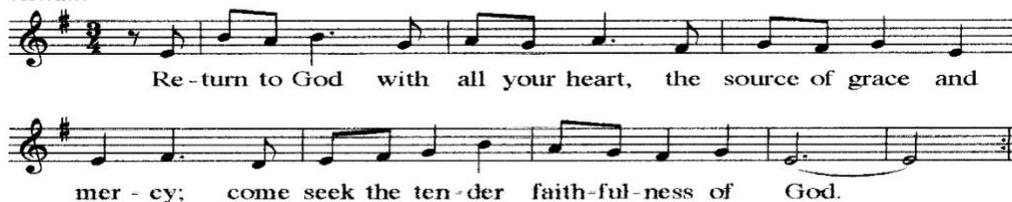
Evelyn Rohrbach

Ringing of the Bell

Lenten Chant (Sing through twice)

## Return to God

Refrain



**\*Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 121)

Leader: Lift up your eyes, people of God!

All: **We look to the hills, we stare into the desert, we gaze at the horizon—  
where is our help?**

Leader: Our help is from the God who made heaven and earth.

All: **We will lift up our eyes, and follow God’s way.**

Leader: We will, turn and we will return to God.

**\*Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**Blow, wind of God—blow away the tight rules that hold us back from trusting, risking, loving. Blow away our fears, our brokenness, whatever may block us from encountering our neighbors. Ready us for birth; prepare us for risk. Equip us with courage and vision for the new thing that waits around the corner. May we return, again and again, to the new birth, the beginner’s mind, the clean slate, the possibility of new life. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Hymnal #316

<b>Readings</b>		Toby Ellison
Ps. 121		
John 3:1-9		
from "The Process of Being Born-ed" by Bruce		
<b>Anthem</b>	"Bring Us to Spring" (Marcus/Schram)	Chancel Choir
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>Laboring Towards A New Birth</i>	Rev. Kathleen Remund
<b>Transitional Music</b>	"Parce Domine" (composer/arranger?)	Evelyn Rohrbach
<b>Prayers of the People</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	"O Sacred Head Now Wounded" (D. Hustad)	Evelyn Rohrbach

**\*Doxology**

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

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

Now we set aside the common for an uncommon purpose as we prepare for Holy Communion, the family meal of Christ's people. In this meal, we remember the life, teaching, witness, and death of Jesus. We celebrate his continued life among us. We remind one another that we are called to participate in Jesus' Way of extravagant welcome and service

Come prepared to be blessed. Come because God has food for you. Come because Jesus invites you...just as you are.

**Great Thanksgiving**

Leader:God be with you.

**People:And also with you.**

Leader:Lift up your hearts.

**People:We lift them up to God.**

Leader:Let us give thanks to God.

**People:It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Lord's Prayer**

(paraphrase from the Pendle Hill Community)

**Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother, holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come; we pray that your good will be done. Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need; give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one to each one. Lead us to a holy innocence, beyond the evil of our days. Come swiftly, Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the mercy and the glory. Forever your name is all One. Amen.**

**Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine**

Please join me in the words of institution over the bread:

**All:**

**When he was among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you."**

*The deacons will pass the bread through the congregation. As you take a piece of bread, hold it until everyone has been served. We will eat the bread together, recognizing that God calls us to life in community.*

**Distribution Hymn:**

"We Come to the Hungry Feast" (attached)

Please join me in the words of institution over the cup:

**All:**

**In the same way Jesus took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, made possible because of my life and my death. Take this—all of you—to remember me."**

*The deacons will pass the wine and juice through the congregation. The juice is dark red; the wine is white. When you have helped yourself, you may drink right away in recognition of God's relationship with each of us as individuals.*

**Distribution Hymn:**

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
 Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
 With God our Creator, children all are we.  
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
 Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.  
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
 To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
 Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

### Prayer of Gratitude (in unison)

Gracious God, you have fed and strengthened us for your work in the world. Send us out today with the good news of your presence alive in the world, your promises still unfolding, your voice still speaking. May our rituals today fill us with your love, energy and passion, so that we may act on your behalf to repair the breach between this world and your promised shalom. Amen.

### Closing Hymn

“Canto de Esperanza/Song of Hope”

Hymnal #432

### Benediction

Leader: Go forth, my friends, and know that we are always invited to return to God. There is no place so far away, no secret so dire, no betrayal so utter that we cannot turn around and return to our Source, take steps towards repair, redirect our path. The way home awaits us, always.

All: Amen.

### Sung Benediction (Sing through twice)

Return to God

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and  
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of the lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of the lyrics. The lyrics are: 'Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.'

### Postlude

“Deuxieme Fantasie”  
(Jehan Alain)

Evelyn Rohrbach

*This week's flowers are to honor Judy Fry's 80th birthday on Thursday, March 9th.  
Help Judy celebrate with cake and coffee after the service today in the fellowship hall.*

- The Call to Worship was adapted from one posted by Rev. Teri Peterson on *LiturgyLink*, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.
- *Return to God* words and music by Marty Haugen, used under license.
- The Opening Prayer was adapted in part from one written by Eileen Klassen Hamm and posted on the website of the *Superb Mennonite Church*, <http://www.superbmennonite.org/>.
- The Prayers of the People were adapted from one written by John van de Laar and posted on his website [Sacredise.com](http://Sacredise.com).
- The Communion liturgy was adapted from elements in the following:
  - *A Wee Worship Book*, Chicago: GIA Publications, 1999
  - *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2017
  - “A Table that Needs No Turning,” by David Coleman, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications,

### This Week:

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, Executive Church Council, 6:30pm, (Room One)

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Kids' Club, 4:00pm, (Room Two)

Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

*Land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the land on which we live and worship is the land of First Nations people, including the Dakota/Lakota, Menominee, Anishinaabe and more.*

# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

316

Edwin Hatch, 1886

TRENTHAM SM

Robert Jackson, 1894

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.  
Un - til with Thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure.  
Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.  
But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.\*

\*Repeat stanza 1

# We Come to the Hungry Feast

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for the word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3. We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,

To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry peo - ple of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

