



Welcome

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Grandmother's Minuet"
(E. Grieg)

Evelyn Rohrbach

Ringling of the Bell

*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

All: The One who calls us,

Leader: The One who equips us,

All: The One who loves us without end.

Leader: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

*Opening Prayer (in unison):

Mothering God, we long for your spiritual nourishment as newborns long for their mothers' milk. You love us unconditionally, tend us with care, sacrifice your well-being on our behalf, and nourish us with your very Self, as mothers do. Thank you for our earthly mothers—those who gave birth to us, who adopted us, who mentored and taught us and gave us what we needed to survive and thrive. Thank you for bringing us to life and to birth, again and again. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Mothering God" (attached)

Readings

Psalm 31:1-5

1 Peter 2:2-3

"Mother's Day Proclamation" by Julia Ward Howe

Tricia Foxwell

Sermon

"The Fierce Love of Mothers: A Group Reading"

Mary Burkett, Marian Ellison, Margy Ingram, Connie Flug, Sherry Galetka, Kathleen Remund

Transitional Hymn

"Like A Mother Who Has Born Us" (attached)

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Offertory

**"How Mother Sang at Night to the Sick Child"
(Suk)**

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.**

***Prayer of Gratitude (in unison)**

Nurturing God, you give us gifts of life and nourishment. You model for us how to give graciously and without restraint. And so, in return, we give these gifts today—gifts of our selves and our treasure—to further your presence and your giving in the world. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

"O For a World"

Hymnal #386

***Benediction**

Leader: Go into your week, knowing that you are held by the love of God: a love that is both sweet and fierce, tender and demanding, protective and nonviolent. Be nourished, be whole; pray and work for peace.

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

**"First Movement from Sonata in g minor"
(by R. Schumann)**

Evelyn Rohrbach

*The flowers today are in celebration of Mother's Day and in memory of their mothers,
Joy Douglas and Rose Wesolek, from Deb and John Wesolek*

- The Call to Worship was written by Beth Merrill Neel and posted on her blog, *Hold Fast to What is Good*, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com>.
- Quotes in the sermon came from: "Mother's Day Proclamation" by Julia Ward Howe, assorted writings by Anne Lamott and Julian of Norwich, excerpts from *The Blue Jay's Dance* by Louise Erdrich, and assorted writings from *WomanPrayers*, including the poem "The Boston School of Cooking Cookbook" by Rhona McAdam and "The Meaning of Bones" by Megan Sexton.
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This Week:

Tuesday, May 16th, 9:30am: Tai Chi for Arthritis, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 17th, 4:00pm: Kids' Club, Room Two, with a meal to follow

Thursday, May 18th, 9:30am: Tai Chi for Arthritis, Fellowship Hall

Mission Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Menomonie, WI

We are called together:

To celebrate God's presence.

To help each person to grow in his or her relationship with God;

To Create a welcoming and supportive community of all God's people;

The diversity of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression,
and identity, social and economic status, and the differently abled;

To observe and share life's passages and our faith traditions;

To reach out in love seeking justice and peace;

And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

Land Acknowledgement

Here we congregate on Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ho-Chunk land. Where we now gather, generations gathered long before Europeans landed on these shores. The original inhabitants of this land, known to some Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island, took seriously the Creator's call to be stewards of air, land, water, and creature. We pray our thanks for their knowledge and wisdom; we exist in this place because of the lessons they continue to teach. Let us come before the Creating One and pray for guidance in learning how to make reparations with our Native neighbors.

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

735

D A/D G/D Em⁷/D

1 Moth-er-ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth-er-ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth-er-ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

A⁷/D D Bm F#m

morn-ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and

G D/A G/B G D

breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

583

Daniel Bechtel, 1986

Hos. 11:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:8-10

Unison

1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and

bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

O for a World

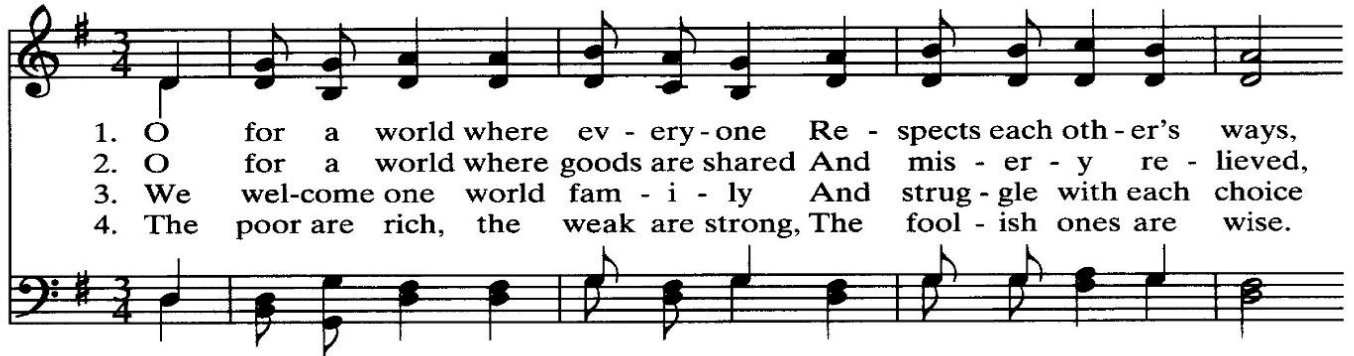
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AZMON CM

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987



1. O for a world where ev - ery - one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.



Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,

Where time and tears will be no more,
And all but love will cease.