



Welcome

Prelude/Candle Lighting

“To the Rising Sun”
(T. Torjessen)

Evelyn Rohrbach

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Leader: What brings us joy?

All: What slows us down?

Leader: What gives us hope?

All: What makes us think?

Leader: What invites us to wonder?

All: What makes us change?

Leader: Might it have something to do with the Holy?

All: Let us worship God.

***Opening Prayer (in unison):**

Source of all creation, Maker of the world and everything in it, you are never far from each one of us. We come into your house seeking you, O Giver of life and breath. Reveal yourself to us; dwell with us; and abide in us. We live because of you. We hope because of you. God of all peoples and nations, revealed to us in Jesus the Christ, confirmed by the Spirit of Truth—you are our God. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Hymnal #263

Readings

Acts 17:22-29

John 14:15-19

from *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, by Thích Nhất Hạnh

Sally Conklin

Anthem

“Agnus Dei”
(arr. Joel Raney)

Chancel Choir

Sermon

“The Known Unknown”

Rev. Kathleen Remund

Transitional Music

“Breath on Me Breath of God”
(R. Jackson)

Evelyn Rohrbach

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.

Offertory

**"Nocturne in C Minor"
(Michael Helman)**

Bell Choir

*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)

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. From you we receive all of life's good gifts. Bless these gifts and offerings this morning, that we may continue to live out this profound truth, mindful of the beauty, the hope, and the calling of life in you. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Hymnal #464

*Benediction

Leader: May the mysterious and ever-present God bless you and keep you; may the Divine face we glimpse in Jesus shine upon you and be gracious to you; and may the breath of the Spirit sustain you in kindness and give you 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

**"Gigue"
(D.E. Wagner)**

Evelyn Rohrbach

The flowers today are from Gail Skamfer.

- The Call to Worship was written by Beth Merrill Neel and posted on her blog, *Hold Fast to What is Good*, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com>.
- The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Gratitude were adapted from ones written by Rebecca Gaudino for "Worship Elements: May 14, 2023," posted in *Ministry Matters*, <https://www.ministrymatters.com>
- The Benediction was adapted from the ancient Aaronic Blessing offered in the book of Numbers, 6:24-26
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This Week:

Tuesday, May 23rd, 9:30am: Tai Chi for Arthritis, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 24th, 4:00pm: Kids' Club, Room Two

Wednesday May 24th: "The Bell" articles and information due

Thursday, May 25th, 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.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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ST. DENIO 11.11.11

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

Welsh folk melody
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.