



Welcome

**Prelude/Candle Lighting**

“Schmetterlinge (Butterflies)”  
(C. Gurlitt)

Michaela Gifford

**Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: God is with us, here and now.

**All: We open our lives to our Creator.**

Leader: God cares for us, granting us both glory and responsibility.

**All: We open our hearts to our Creator.**

Leader: God appoints us as keepers of the Earth.

**All: We open our hearts and lives to our Creator—and to the Creation of which we are part.**

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

Creator God, you created in the beginning and you continue to create this world, moment by moment, breath by breath, molecule by molecule. We know just a tiny part of your Creation, this good Earth that is our mother and our home. May we rest in the miracle of unfolding life and trust in your endless inventiveness. And may we commit ourselves to living in love and sharing nourishment with our relatives: the trees, the light, the shadows, the waters and soil, the sunfish and sunflowers, the goldfinches and gophers. May your creative, creating will be done. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Hymnal #473

**Readings**

Psalm 8:1a; 3-9

“Slowly, Slowly They Return” by Wendell Berry

Tricia Foxwell

**Special Music**

“Change the World” (Eric Clapton)    “Love and Mercy” (Brian Wilson)

Ritchie Price

**Sermon**

*Tending Ourselves*

Curt McNamara

**Transitional Music**

Michaela Gifford

**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

**"Be Thou My Vision"  
(J. Martin)**

Michaela Gifford

### \*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)

**We offer these gifts in gratitude for Life and in gratitude to you, the Source of that life. May these gifts strengthen us in our prayer and praise, our life together and our tending of your garden. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn

**"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"**

Hymnal #285

### \*Benediction

**Leader:** May God's creative Spirit be with us in our hearts and minds as we leave this place to return home. May God's creative Spirit help us to see with new wonder the splendor of your creation all around us and inspire us to preserve and protect it.

**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

**"Allegro from Sinfonia No. 12"  
(A. Vivaldi)**

Michaela Gifford

*Today's flowers are from Ron and Judy Fry in celebration of their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Happy anniversary Ron and Judy!*

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**This Week:**

**Today, August 20, following 10:00 am worship, Bridge Coffee Hour**

**Monday & Tuesday, August 21 & 22, 6-8:00 pm, Menomonie Singers auditions in Sanctuary**

**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;

Including 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.

# For the Beauty of the Earth

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DIX 7.7.7.7.7

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864

Conrad Kocher, 1838  
 Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861  
 Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,  
 2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,  
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore  
 Lifteth holy hands above,  
 Offering up on every shore


Her pure sacrifice of love,  
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
 This our hymn of grateful praise.

## 285 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

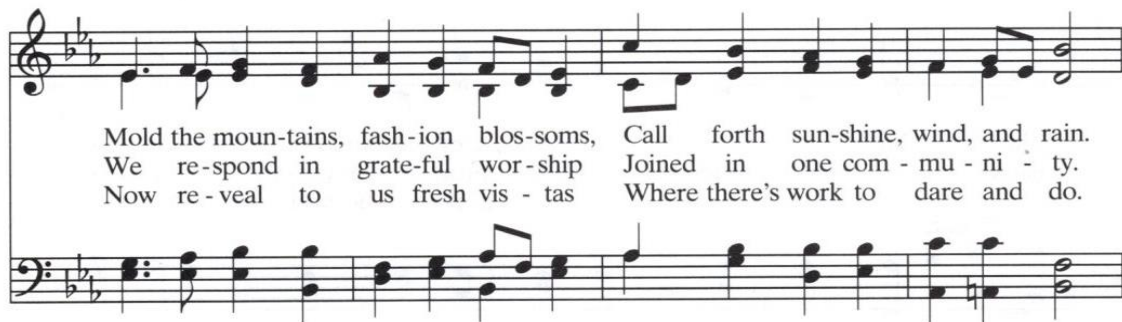
AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1978

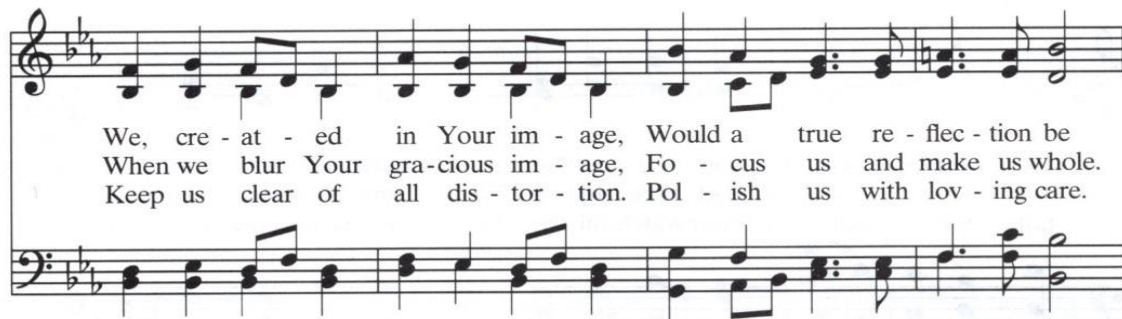
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797



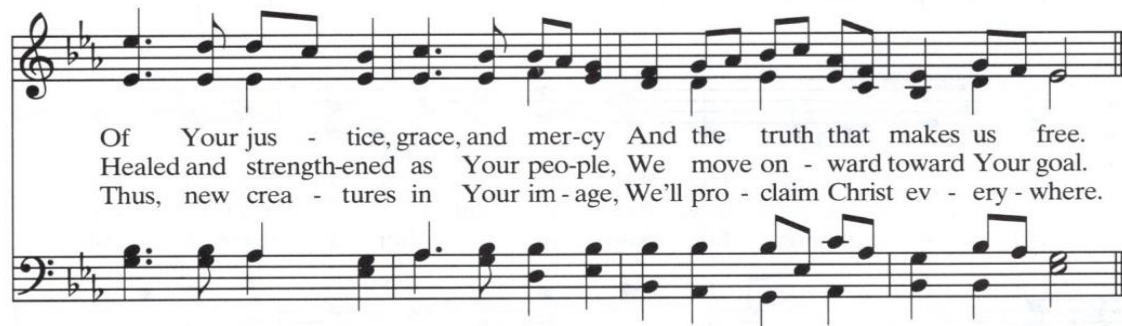
1. God, You spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,  
 2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min - is - try.  
 3. God, Your word is still cre - at - ing, Call - ing us to life made new.



Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.  
 We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.  
 Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas Where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre - at - ed in Your im - age, Would a true re - flec - tion be  
 When we blur Your gra-cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.  
 Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.



Of Your jus - tice, grace, and mer-cy And the truth that makes us free.  
 Healed and strength-ened as Your peo-ple, We move on - ward toward Your goal.  
 Thus, new crea - tures in Your im - age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

