

#### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude/Candle Lighting** 

"Minuet A-Moll" (G. Handel) Oxana Khramova

**Ringing of the Bell** 

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader:	We come as seekers, unsure of what we seek.		
All:	We come as followers, not understanding the One we follow.		
Leader:	We come to worship, even though we don't know how.		
All:	We come in the hope that we will be met.		
Leader:	May God meet us here. May God meet us now.		

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

You call us, Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks, inviting us to sail out of our smug harbors into the uncharted waters of faith; to wander from our predictable paths to follow you into the unpredictable byways of your kin-dom; to leave the comfort of our homes and go with you into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid. As we wait—in our simple, sometimes crazy, constantly uncertain lives—speak to us, Spirit of Grace: of that hope which is our anchor; of that peace which is our rock; of that grace which is our refuge. Amen.

*Opening Hymn	"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"	Hymnal #434
Readings		Connie Flug
Jonah 3:1-5, 10		
Mark 1:14-20		
"Persistent Resistance," k	by Suzanne Guthrie	
Anthem	"The Work of Christmas" (Howard Thurman/Dan Forrest)	Choir
Sermon	Called into New Life	Rev. Kathleen Remund
Transitional Music	"Nearer My God to Thee"	Oxana Khramova
	(M. Bailey)	
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 A-flat-major" (F. Chopin) Oxana Khramova

\*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 Dedication (in unison)

Great God of heaven and earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and follow you into the future. Your call feels both frightening and freeing. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present—but you call us to go beyond. Receive these gifts as signs of our willingness to follow where you lead. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	"Dream God's Dream"	SoF #38-39

# \*Benediction

Leader: My friends, God is calling. Jesus is calling. Life in the Spirit is calling, laying claim to each one of us here. Every moment of every day, we are being called, lured, coaxed, invited and welcomed into the world of God's Kin-dom, the Beloved Community, the Welcome Table of life and love and abundance and relationship. May we drop our nets with a cry of "yes," and be on our way.

### 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

"Nearer My God to Thee" (M. Bailey)

Oxana Khramova

The flowers today are in celebration of Emily Win's 37th birthday tomorrow, January 22nd. Happy Birthday Emily!

### Credits

- The Call to Worship was adapted from one written by Joanna Harader and posted on her website, *Spacious Faith*, <u>http://spaciousfaith.com</u>.
- The Opening Prayer came from a worship service prepared by Rev. Bob Gibson for the London Conference of the United Church of Canada, <a href="http://www.londonconference.ca/">http://www.londonconference.ca/</a>.
- The Prayer of Dedication was adapted from one posted on the *United Methodist Foundation of Michigan* website and re-posted at <a href="https://re-worship.blogspot.com">https://re-worship.blogspot.com</a>.
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### This Week:

Today, January 2lst, 11:00 am: Congregational Conversation, Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 22, 6:00-7:30 pm: Ministry for the Future book discussion, zoom
Tuesday, January 23, 5:00 pm: Search Committee meeting, Room 1
Wednesday, January 24, 4:00 pm: Kid's Club; 5:30 pm Choir rehearsal; 6:30 pm Bell Choir rehearsal;
Deadline for submitting articles and information for "The Bell"
Friday, January 26, 2024, 10:00 am: Ministry for the Future book discussion, zoom

## Announcements:

A scripture reader is needed for next Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you would like to share scripture with the congregation, please contact the office, <u>office@menomonieucc.org</u>

Please check the signup sheets. There are many open opportunities available for serving our church.

# 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. Generations of Indigenous people occupied and provided careful stewardship of this land long before Europeans arrived on these shores. The traumatic dispossession of this land by European immigrants and the displacement of countless individuals produced collective suffering that has repercussions for our Indigenous neighbors today. 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 creatures. With gratitude, we acknowledge the lessons we continue to learn from our Indigenous neighbors as we seek to be good stewards and pray for guidance in learning how to make reparations.

**CHURCH: MISSION** Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples 434 KINGSFOLD CMD English Country Songs, 1893 H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985 Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 1. To - day we all are called to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord, 2. God made the world and at its birth Or - dained our hu - man race 3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down As in a might-y stream, 4. May ser - vice to our God Act out the liv - ing Word, we in set the cap-tive free, Make plow-share out of To help to sword, live as stew-ards of the earth, Re - spond-ing to God's grace. To With righ-teous - ness in field and town To cleanse us and re - deem. And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard. To feed the hun-gry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast, But we are vain and sad - ly proud, We sow not peace but strife, For God is long-ing to re - store An earth where con - flicts cease, As stew-ards of the earth may we Give thanks in one ac - cord serve the poor and home-less first, Our ease and com-fort To last. dead - ly Our dis - cord spreads a cloud That threat-ens all of life. cre - at - ed A world that was for A har - mo-ny of peace. God who calls To us all to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

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Words and Music: Bryan Sirchio

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