

"How hard it is to enter the kingdom of God..." Mark 10:24

# Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

Menomonie, Wisconsin

First Sunday in Lent February 18, 2024

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude/Candle Lighting** 

"Morning Prayer" (P. Tchaikovsky)

Oxana Khramova

**Ringing of the Bells** 

**Chant** "Oh, Lord, Hear My Prayer"

(led by choir)

Oh, Lord, hear my prayer/Oh, Lord, hear my prayer/When I call, answer me Oh, Lord, hear my prayer/Oh, Lord, hear my prayer/Come, and listen to me.

(repeat three times)

#### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, you who thirst for grace.

People: Come, you who hunger for justice.

Leader: Come, you who are a stranger in a strange land.

People: Come, you who are like a child at home.

Leader: Come, for Christ welcomes you to this time and place.

People: We have come to worship God.

Leader: Then let us worship well.

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

God of the heights and the depths, during this Lenten season you call us into the deep to face our fears, to confront our attachments, to acknowledge the ways we fall short of who you call us to be—and to meet our most deeply guarded longings, our most protected pain. You call us into the deep where you dwell; where you surround us fully and uphold us in the buoyancy of your great compassion. We stand on the edge today, ready to dive into the depths to meet you, to meet ourselves, to meet the grace that is the wellspring and promise of our lives. May it be so. Amen.

\*Opening Hymn "Take My Life" #391

Readings Kim Blomquist

Psalm 19:7-10 Mark 10:17-31

"The Opposite of Rich" by Barbara Brown Taylor

Special Music

"An Evening Hymn" (H. Purcell) Kate Combault

**Transitional Music** 

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" (W. Bradbury)

Oxana Khramova

## **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 "Icicles" Oxana Khramova

(M. Tariverdiev)

## \*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)

Gracious God, we understand why the rich young man was afraid to give away his wealth for your sake. We long for financial security. We are afraid to rely on you as completely as you call us to. And yet, you are truly our only refuge and security. Receive these gifts of gratitude and commitment and help us to give you a bit more of our trust. Amen.

\*Closing Hymn "The Summons" SoF #135

# \*Benediction

Leader:

The journey into the deep requires trust. Go forth, this morning, with a renewed trust in the God who knows your every breath, your every thought, your every action, your every longing. Know that the deeper you dive, the closer you will draw to the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Step to the edge. Release your grasp. And know that you are not alone.

All: Amen.

#### \*Sung Benediction

Oh, Lord, hear my prayer/Oh Lord, hear my prayer/When I call, answer me, Oh, Lord, hear my prayer/Oh Lord, hear my prayer/Come, and listen to me.

Postlude "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Oxana Khramova (W. Bradbury)

Today's flowers are from Doris and Than Win, celebrating their  $44^{th}$  wedding anniversary on February  $14^{th}$ . Congratulations!

#### **Credits**

- The Call to Worship was written by Beth Merrill Neel and published on her website, *Hold Fast to What is Good,* <a href="https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/">https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/</a>.
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#### This Week:

Sunday, February 18: 9:00 am Bridge Coffee Hour

**Wednesday, February 21:** 11:30 Tour of Homes meeting; 12:30 Women's Fellowship meeting; 4:00 pm Kid's Club; 5:15 pm Search Committee meeting; 5:30 pm Choir rehearsal; 6:30 pm Bells rehearsal; "The Bell deadline for articles and information

Saturday, February 24: 9:00am Artz Girlz Jill Schwebs, Host

# Ticket order for MTG's Production of "Cinderella" at The Mabel Tainter

Today is the last day to order tickets for the MTG production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* on March 3rd at 2pm. If you would like to join us, please fill out the yellow form in the entry and leave it along with your payment (cash or check) in the basket on the table.

# 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; affirming 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.

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# Take My Life

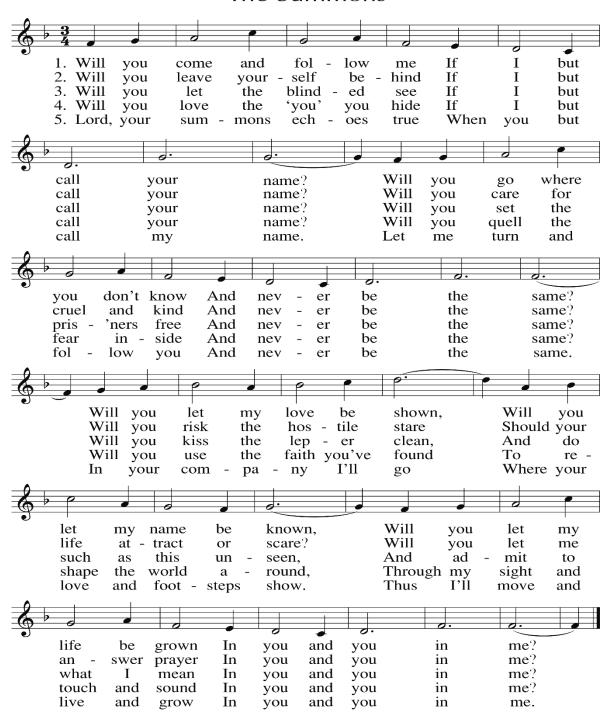
HENDON 7.7.7.7



- 5. Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine.

  Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for Thee.

# The Summons



Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 777 6; Scottish traditional; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949