



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Chopsticks and How!"
(Kathleen Wissinger)

Bell Choir

Ringing of the Bells

Call to Worship

Leader 1: We come into the presence of a God we can neither see nor touch—

People: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 2: We come in the name of Jesus, whose beauty we cannot explain or capture—

People: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 1: We come to hear from a book of ancient words and strange stories—

People: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 2: We live in a world where we're encouraged to want it all, but here we're invited to give ourselves away—

People: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 1: We leave behind the business of our lives, to worship a God who turns our world upside-down—

People: What kind of fools are we?

Leader 2: What kind of fools *are* we?

All: We are fools for God! Fools for Christ! Fools for God's Foolish Kin-dom!

Opening Prayer (in unison)

O God, whose foolishness is wiser than any human wisdom, we come before you today recognizing our own foolishness. However wise we may try to be...we know that we're just whistling in the dark mystery of the cosmos. We come to you in our imperfection, our silliness, our smallness. Join us this morning in laughing at our foolishness, celebrating our human imperfections, and rejoicing in your love. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Christ Joyful"

(attached)

Readings

2 Kings 2:1-12

Sally Conklin

Anthem

"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"
(James M. Black/Harold DeCou)

Choir

Skit/Sermon

The New Prophet Search

Andrew Mercil, Carol Ropella
Kim Blomquist, Jon Blomquist
Ellen Ochs, Dawn Ascher

Transitional Music

“The Turtles”
(Carnival of the Animals, Saint-Saens)

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

“The Little Circus Girl”
(M. Tariverdiev)

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)**

God of Holy Foolishness, receive these gifts in support of your absurd vision of shalom, your foolish call to love our neighbors and our enemies, and the folly of nonviolent redemption you have offered us through the way of the cross.

***Closing Hymn**

“Halle, Halle, Halle”
(Kathy Colvin on drum)

(attached)

***Benediction**

Leader: Go forth, in the presence of a God you can neither see nor touch—

People: **May we be foolish enough to sense God’s presence.**

Leader: Go forth in the Way of Jesus, whose beauty you cannot explain or capture—

People: **May we follow the way of foolishness, for Christ’s sake.**

Leader: Go out into a world whose economy is based on keeping—and give all you have.

People: **May we be fools for the love of God and our neighbors.**

All: **Amen!**

Postlude

“The Nightmare Fantasy Rag”
(W. Albright)

Oxana Khramova

The colorful flowers today are from Sally Conklin to celebrate the February birthdays of Craig and Mary Anne Conklin.

Credits

- The Call to Worship and Benediction were adapted from one posted on the United Church of Canada’s **Bay of Quinte Conference** website, <http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca/> and re-posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>
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This Week

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 pm, Council meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 4:00 pm Kid's Club, Ash Wednesday worship service 7:00 pm

Web Calendar is Launched!

Our church website now has a Google calendar at the bottom of the homepage! Many have been interested in this for years and we finally have it. Big thanks to Susan, our office manager, who updates it regularly. All meetings (church-related and others) and church events will be included on the church calendar with locations.

Please email Susan office@menomonieucc.org with details of your meeting and room requests. She will reply when she is in the office and is happy to put the events on the Google calendar. FYI, the calendar is easier to read on a tablet or laptop vs a phone. We will continue to improve the website as funding and volunteers are available to assist. If you are interested in this please contact Nita Fitzgerald, nitaucc@gmail.com

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.

Christ joyful

for John Webster

Words and music by Colin Gibson

RED NOSES

$\text{♩} = 126$

1 We lack the gift of laugh - ter; Faith sits all pale and
2 We know the trick of tum - bling, red nose and red - der
3 You joined our sad pro - fess - ion, made good our fool - ish -
4 Up - on a fool - ish cross, Lord, you hung to make us

1 glum, Hope doz - es on a raf - ter, and Love is strick - en
2 face; by vir - tue of our bum - bling ours is the jest - er's
3 ness, brought clown - ing in - to fash - ion, put on our jok - er's
4 mirth; but there you con - quered loss, Lord, old death be - came new

Refrain

1 dumb. Come, Christ, in - to our drab - ness, tell us that match - less
2 case. Come, Christ, come clown in - mor - tal, teach us that match - less
3 dress. Come, Christ, come ho - ly laugh - ter, to share that match - less
4 birth. Come, ev - er - last - ing joy; Christ, con - firm that match - less

jest of life and re - sur - rec - tion, of life and re - sur -

rec - tion, your sweet - est and your best.

Halle, Halle, Halle

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal - le, hal -
le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Halle'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal - le, hal -'. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: 'le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -'. The third staff concludes the phrase: 'lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!'. The music ends with a double bar line.