

Prayers of the People

Offertory

“Troper to the Christmas”
(Lebedev)

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.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Now we set aside the common for an uncommon purpose as we prepare for Holy Communion, the family meal of Christ’s people. Just as common river water became for John and Jesus a place of encounter with God—so, in this meal, grain and fruit reshaped into bread and wine are transformed once again into an encounter with the Holy.

In this meal, we remember the life, teaching, witness, and death of Jesus. We celebrate his continued life among us. We remind one another that we are called to participate in Jesus’ Way of extravagant welcome and service. Come, prepared to be blessed. Come, because God has food for you. Come, because Jesus invites you... just as you are.

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Communion Hymn

“Santo, Santo, Santo”

SoF #110

Lord’s Prayer (paraphrase from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver; Source of all that is and that shall be; Father and Mother of us all; Loving God, in whom is heaven—

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe; the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world; your heavenly will be done by all created beings; your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trial too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Please join in the words of institution over the bread:

All: When he was among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you."

The deacons will pass the bread through the congregation. As you take a piece of bread, hold it until everyone has been served. We will eat the bread together, recognizing that God calls us to life in community.

Distribution Hymn: "We Come to the Hungry Feast"

SoF #151

Please join in the words of institution over the cup:

All: In the same way Jesus took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, made possible because of my life and my death. Take this—all of you—to remember me."

The deacons will pass the wine and juice through the congregation. The juice is dark red; the wine is white. When you have helped yourself, you may drink right away in recognition of God's relationship with each of us as individuals.

Distribution Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

SoF #82

Prayer of Gratitude (in unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Hymnal #67

*Benediction

Leader: God came among us as Emmanuel at Jesus' birth. God tore open the heavens at Jesus' baptism—and his crucifixion. The God of space and time, the Source of Being, the Breath of Life, the Heartbeat of the Universe, will stop at *nothing* to reach you. Go forth this day in the knowledge that no matter what happens, you are held and known in the embrace of the Living God. You are beloved. You belong.

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

"Tenderness"
(M. Tariveridiev)

Oxana Khramova

The flowers today are from Alan and Deb Benoit in honor of all the volunteers at church that contribute so much to keep our church humming along.

Credits

- Elements of the Communion liturgy were adapted from the liturgies for Holy Communion in *A Wee Worship Book*, published by the Wild Goose Worship Group, © 1999 and the Eucharist Service of the Community of St. Martin.
- The Call to Worship was adapted from one written by Scott A. Ressman in "Immerse Yourself: Elements for a Liturgy on Baptism of Christ Sunday." Posted on the United Church of Christ website and reposted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/litany-god-of-waters.html>
- The Opening Prayer was adapted from one reproduced from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, © 2002, Consultation on Common Texts, admin. Augsburg Fortress Press. Reposted on <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>.
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This Week:

Sunday, January 7th, 11:30 am: Search Committee meeting, Room 1

Tuesday, January 9th, 5:30 pm Pre-council meeting; 6:30 pm Council meeting, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 10th, 4:00 pm Kid's Club; 5:30 pm Choir rehearsal, 6:30 Bells rehearsal

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.

Brighter than the Sun



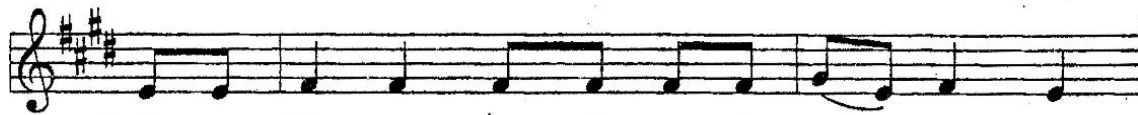
Bright - er, bright-er than the sun is the can - dle of the



Ho - ly One. Big - ger, big-ger than the sea are the



waves of God wash - ing o - ver me.



1 Gon - na light my can - dle from the ho - ly flame
 2 Gon - na meet God's chil - dren at the foun - tain of life,
 3 Gon - na gath - er 'round and gon - na wel - come in



of the one that's bright-er than . . . my . . . own name.
 where the word and the wa - ter and the Lord . . . Je - sus Christ
 ev - 'ry child to be and ev - 'ry one who's ev - er been.



Gon - na wash my bod - y in the ho - ly sea,
 make a new cre - a - tion out of ev - 'ry one:
 Gon - na breathe to - geth - er with this spark of life:



in the wat - er of life that's . . . big-ger than me. Oh,—
 Ho - ly Spir - it of love, let the wa - ters run. Oh,—
 Ho - ly Spir - it of God, make our flame burn bright. Oh,—

Santo, Santo, Santo / Holy, Holy, Holy

C G7 C F C
 ;San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F C Am F G7 C
 cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.
 heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

We Come to the Hungry Feast

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for the word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,

To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry peo - ple of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

We Come to the Hungry Feast. Words and Music: Ray Makeever. Tune: © 1982,
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Let There Be Peace on Earth

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth". It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is written in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score includes various musical notations such as chords, eighth notes, and rests.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be gin with me;
Let peace be gin with me; let this be the mo ment now.

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With ev ery step I take, let this be My sol emn vow:

With God our cre - a - tor, chil dren all are we.
to take each mo ment and live each mo ment in peace e ter nal ly.

Let us walk with each oth er - in per -fect har -mo -ny.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be gin with me.

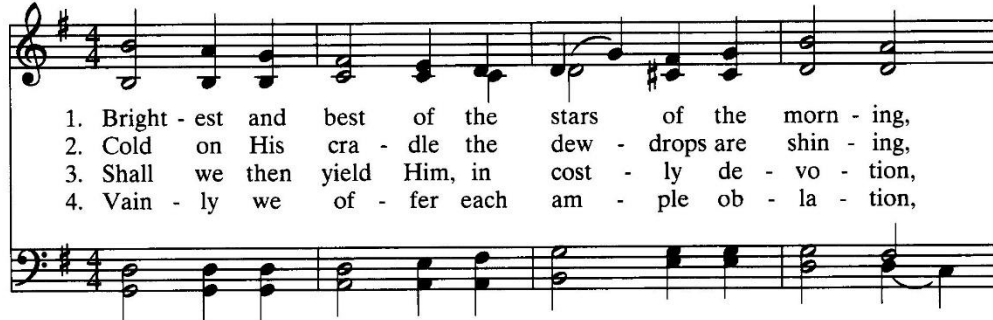
Let There Be Peace on Earth. Words and Music: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995), alt. harm. Charles H. Webb (1933-) © 1955, 1983, Jan-Lee Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715543. All rights reserved.

67 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

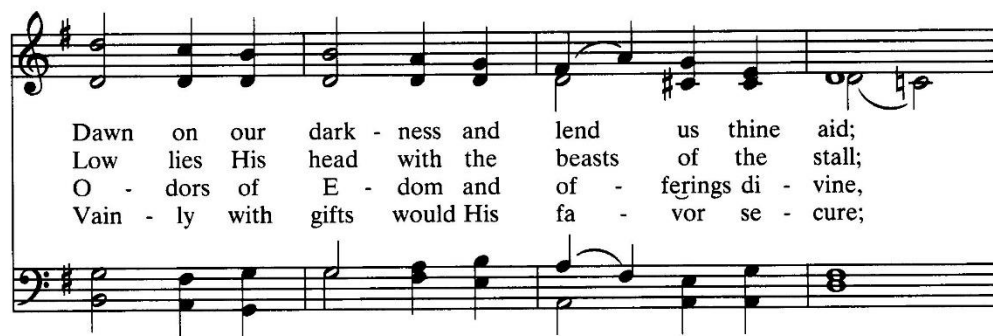
MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10

Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

James Proctor Harding, 1892



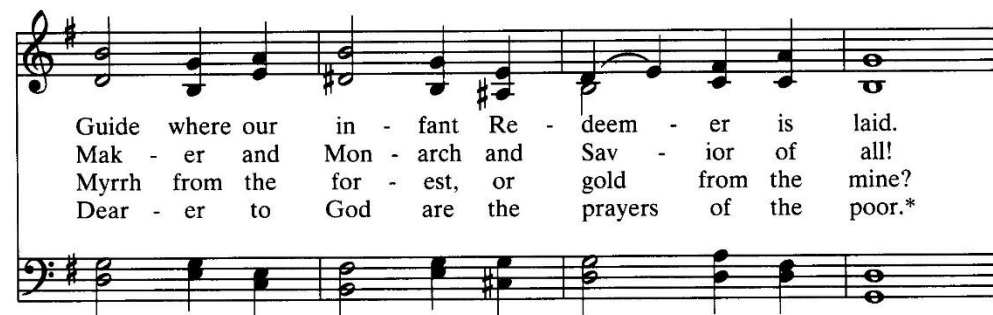
1. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2. Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3. Shall we then yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
 O - dors of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
 Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure;



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all!
 Myrrh from the for - est, or gold from the mine?
 Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.*

*Repeat stanza 1.