

"Give to God the things that are God's." Mark 12:17 Welcome to Worship

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Communion Sunday Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 2024

Welcome

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Aria in A Major"
(J. Pachelbel)

Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Chant (unison, 3x)

"Oh, Lord, Hear My Prayer"

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.

*Call to Worship

Leader: Joy, wonder, delight –

All: Doubt, peace, restlessness –

Leader: Sorrow, contentedness, anxiety –

All: Confidence, hope, pardon—

Leader: We lay our hearts, full of these things, before our God.

All: Unburdened and awaiting—

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

God of the deep, you call us today into confrontation with our false gods. The places where we put our ultimate trust. The idols we pin our hopes on—political parties, heroes, money, ideologies, loved ones, our own abilities or attainments—instead of focusing that trust in you, the Source of our lives, the heartbeat of the universe. Help us to turn from our idols and relax into your ocean of compassion. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Praise to the Living God"

(attached)

Readings Heather Jerrie

Psalm 86:8-13 Mark 12:13-17

from It's Really All About God, by Samir Selmanovic

Anthem "Amazing Grace" Choir

(arr. John Coates, Jr.)

Sermon Who is Our God? Rev. Kathleen Remund

Transitional Music

"Each Life That Touches Ours for Good" (L. Lyon/K. Rowley) Oxana Khramova

Prayers of the People

Offertory "Rain" 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.

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. 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" (attached)

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 trials 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 me 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" (attached)

Please join me 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"

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Prayer of Gratitude (in unison)

Generous and faithful God, you have fed us at your table. May the nourishment we have received empower us to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here. Whether the future be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough, our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or week, keep our hearts warm and our hands open, our lives ever embracing and ever embraced by your love. Amen.

*Closing Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (attached)

*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. Let go of false ground and unreliable anchors, and draw closer to the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Relax into the Divine ocean of compassion.

All: Amen.

*Sung Benediction (unison, 3 times)

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 "Each Life That Touches Ours for Good" Oxana Khramova (K.Rowley)

The flowers today are from John and Deb Wesolek in memory of their sister-in-law, Marie Wesolek, who passed away a year ago today.

Credits

- Elements of the Communion service are adapted from the liturgies for Holy Communion in *A Wee Worship Book*, published by the Wild Goose Worship Group, © 1999; the Eucharist Service of the Community of St. Martin; and the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, Wild Goose Publications, 2017.
- The Call to Worship was written by Beth Merrill Neel and posted on her website, *Hold Fast to What is Good,* https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship.
- Licenses purchased to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained: ONELICENSE #A-715543. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright License B 20989858

The Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Facebook Group will start up again. Look for updates, news, events and other fun stuff like photos from Kids' Club! If you have questions, contact Karen at dirfaithform@menomonieucc.org

This Week:

Monday, March 4th: Easter plant order deadline

Tuesday, March 5th, 6:00 pm: Executive/Council meeting, Fellowship Hall; 6:15 pm Stout Task Force Presentation, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 6th: 4:pm Kid's Club; 5:30 pm Search Committee meeting; 6:30 pm Bells rehearsal; 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal

Friday, March 8th 10:00 am: "Ministry for the Future" discussion at Golden Leaf

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;

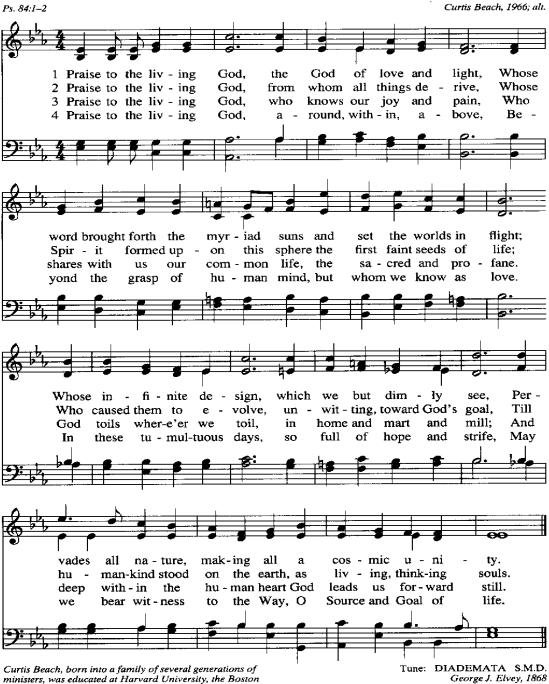
To reach out in love seeking justice and peace;

And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

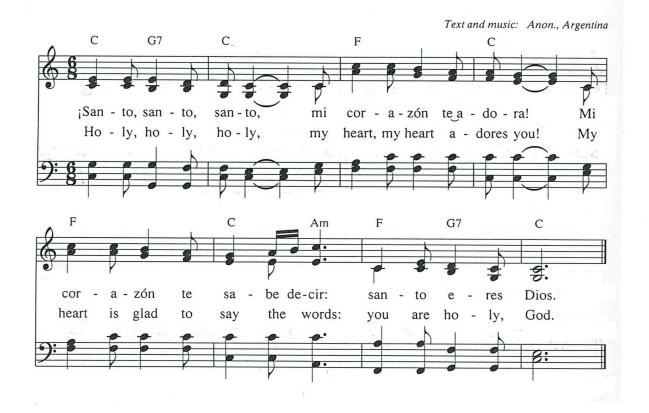
Land Acknowledgement

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.

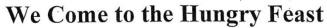
Praise to the Living God

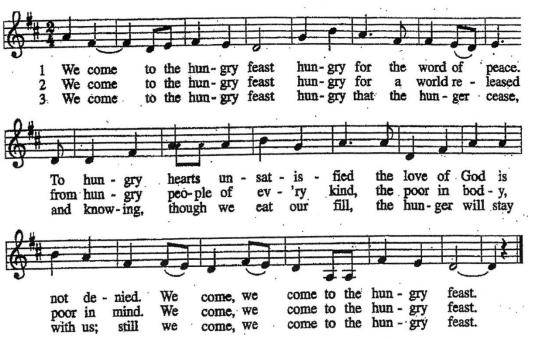


Curis Beach, born into a jamily of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning.



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