



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

Psalm 86:8-13

Mark 12:13-17

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

Heather Jerrie

Anthem

“Amazing Grace”
(arr. John Coates, Jr.)

Choir

Sermon

Who is Our God?

Rev. Kathleen Remund

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 weak, 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>.
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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

Ps. 84:1-2

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family 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.

Tune: **DIADEMATA S.M.D.**
George J. Elvey, 1868

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

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

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.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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Welsh folk melody

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!