



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

“Did You Think to Pray”
(W. Perkins, arr. M. Bailey)

Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

Call to Worship

Leader: Spring is breaking forth around us!

All: In all the land, new life is happening!

Leader: Feel the wonder and power of God’s creative energy

All: Feel the awe and joy of God’s love for all Creation.

Leader: Let us worship God with joy and expectation.

All: Let us open our hearts, spirits, and souls, to God’s lavish love.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

God our Creator, our Shepherd, our Source, our Parent—none of our words or images are adequate to describe you. But we need to offer praise and we long to live in harmony. We are grateful for the gifts of life and love. On this Earth Day Sunday, we praise the beauty of your world, repent of the harm we have caused, and seek healing for the Earth that is an expression of your being. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“To Bless the Earth”

Hymnal #200

Readings

Sandy Lindow

Psalms 23

John 10:11-18

“Transcendental Etude,” by Adrienne Rich

Anthem

“For the Lord is Our Light”
(Hal H. Hopson)

Choir

Sermon

Beginning in the Middle

Rev. Kathleen Remund

Transitional Music

“To a Wild Rose”
(E. McDowell, arr. G. Alphenaar)

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

“Music from the TV Set”
(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 love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

Hymnal #285

***Benediction**

Our benediction today is drawn from a Hawaiian prayer:

Leader: May the earth continue to live; may the heavens above continue to live; may the rains continue to dampen the land; may the wet forests continue to grow. Then the flowers shall bloom—and we people shall live again.

All: **Amen.**

***Sung Benediction (unison)**

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

“To a Wild Rose”
(E. McDowell, arr. G. Alphenaar)

Oxana Khramova

The flowers today are from Karen Miller in memory of her dad, Dave and her brother, Jim Miller

Credits

- The Call to Worship was adapted from one written by Nancy C. Townley and posted on *Ministry Matters*, "Worship Connection: April 2, 2022," <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>.
- The Prayer of Dedication was written by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on *Ministry Matters*, <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>.
- The Benediction was published in *Earth Prayers*, Harper San Francisco, 1991, p. 178.
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This Week:

Today, April 21st, 9:00 am Bridge Coffee hour; following 10:00 service, UW Stout Task Force meeting update, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 24th, 4:00 pm Kid's Club; 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Music Room; Chancel Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 27th, Jacq Collins Memorial Service, 10:00 am visitation, 11:00 am service with luncheon following

Announcements:

Interfaith Power and Light is holding a time of prayer for our sacred Earth on Monday, April 22nd, at noon Easter Time. If you would like to participate, here are the words to the interfaith prayer:

We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities. . . so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.

God Talk: Reconstructing our Faith"

Pastor Kathleen will be leading three workshops on Zoom inviting participants to re-imagine and re-construct core understandings of the Christian faith. We will begin each workshop with a "push-back": what do we NOT believe? What frameworks are a problem for us? And then we will begin a playful process of re-building our house of faith. The workshops will be held on Tuesday nights at 7pm. Please contact Pastor Kathleen at pastor@menomonieucc.org if you plan to participate, and she'll send you the Zoom link and possible other resources.

Tuesday, April 30th: “What do we mean when we say the word, ‘God’?”

Tuesday, May 7th: “Jesus of history? Christ of faith?”

Tuesday, May 14th: “Sin and Salvation: Do these words still have meaning?”

Seeking a New Office Manager

We are sad to announce that personal challenges have led our office manager, Susan Zavada, to announce her resignation as of April 30th. While we seek a new office manager, we'll need help and coverage in the office. Are you interested in helping out short-term with office staffing? Do you know someone who might be? If you know of possibilities for either short-term or long-term office management support, please send an email to Pastor Kathleen at pastor@menomonieucc.org. And watch your E-News for information on our farewell to Susan.

Oxana Khramova is now our settled Organist!

This past Thursday, Pastor Kathleen and Oxana Khramova signed the contract that makes Oxana our settled Organist. This is great news—let's give Oxana a rousing welcome!

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.

PSALM 65

To Bless the Earth

200

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN 7.6.7.6

The Psalter, 1912; alt.

Melchior Vulpus, 1609

1. To bless the earth God sends us From heaven's a - bun-dant store
 2. The seed by God pro - vid - ed Is sown o'er hill and plain,
 3. God crowns the year with good - ness, The earth God's mer - cy fills,
 4. With grain the fields are cov - ered, The flocks in pas-tures graze;

The wa - ters of the spring - time, En - rich-ing it once more.
 And then come gen - tle show - ers To bless the spring-ing grain.
 The wil - der - ness is fruit - ful, And joy - ful are the hills.
 All na - ture joins in sing - ing A joy - ful song of praise.

285 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1978

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

1. God, You spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
 2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min - is - try.
 3. God, Your word is still cre - at - ing, Call - ing us to life made new.

Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
 We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.
 Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas Where there's work to dare and do.

We, cre - at - ed in Your im - age, Would a true re - flec - tion be
 When we blur Your gra-cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.
 Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.

Of Your jus - tice, grace, and mer-cy And the truth that makes us free.
 Healed and strength-ened as Your peo-ple, We move on - ward toward Your goal.
 Thus, new crea - tures in Your im - age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.