



Welcome to Worship

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Menomonie, Wisconsin

**Second Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday
April 7, 2024**

Welcome

Prelude/Candle Lighting

Minuet in E flat Major
(G.F. Handel)

Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

*Call to Worship

Leader: We have not seen the risen Christ,

All: But we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.

Leader: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

All: But we see him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us.

Leader: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

All: But we have been called to bring healing to the scars of the world.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

In spite of our doubts, may we recognize you in our midst: wounded, bloody, and resurrected. In spite of our doubts, may we know when we come face to face with the love that is greater than all deaths. In spite of our doubts, may we reach out to touch the wounds of the world's pain trusting that when grace and love surround them, they will become part of Christ's resurrected body. And in spite of our doubts, may we live as though we are, too. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

Hymnal #339

Readings

1 John 1:1-4

John 20:19-31

Karen Miller

Sermon

Context for Faith

Jill Christopherson

Transitional Music

"Lead, Kindly Light"
(J. Dykes/arr. M. Bailey)

Oxana Khramova

Prayers of the People

Offertory

"Bouree II from French Overture"
(J.S. Bach)

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. The meal Jesus introduced just before his arrest and crucifixion. The meal at which he commanded his followers to love one another. In this meal, we remember the life, teaching, witness, and death of Jesus and we celebrate his continued life among us.

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 Pendle Hill Community)

Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother, holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come; we pray that your good will be done. Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need; give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one to each on. Lead us to a holy innocence, beyond the evil of our days. Come swiftly, Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the mercy and the glory. Forever your name is all One. 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"

SoF #151

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” SoF #82

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)

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 in past. What we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** “Christ Is Alive!” Hymnal #108

***Benediction**

Leader: As you leave here this morning, remember that no doubt or fear can lock God out of our lives. Remember that touching wounds makes healing possible. Remember that there are many ways to see, and to believe. Go in the presence of the Living God.

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 “Lead, Kindly Light” Oxana Khramova
(J. Dykes, arr. M. Bailey)

The flowers today are in loving memory of her late husband, Bill Wikrent, from his wife Renee Howarton.

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 adapted from one written by Thom Schuman and posted on *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>.
- The Opening Prayer was written by Cheryl Lawrie, and posted on <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>. Re-posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- 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

This Week:

Today, April 7, 11:15 am Budget Hearing

Tuesday, April 9, No Council meeting today

Wednesday, April 10, 4:00 pm Kid's Club; 6:30 pm Bells rehearsal, 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal

Sunday, April 14, 11:30 am: Council meeting & lunch

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.

339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem

Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad

Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Santo, Santo, Santo

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

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.

Christ Is Alive!

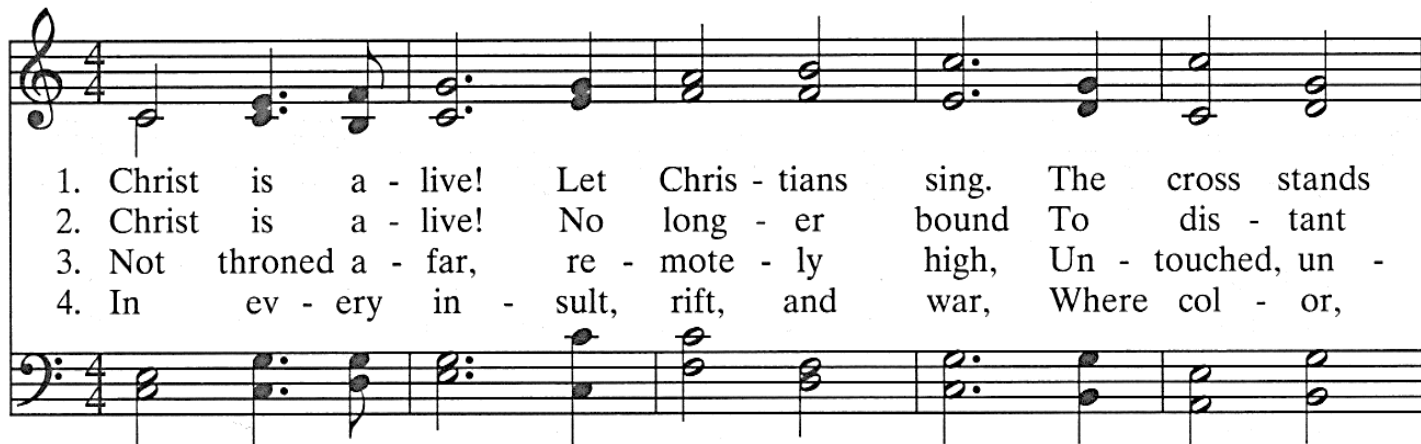
108

TRURO LM

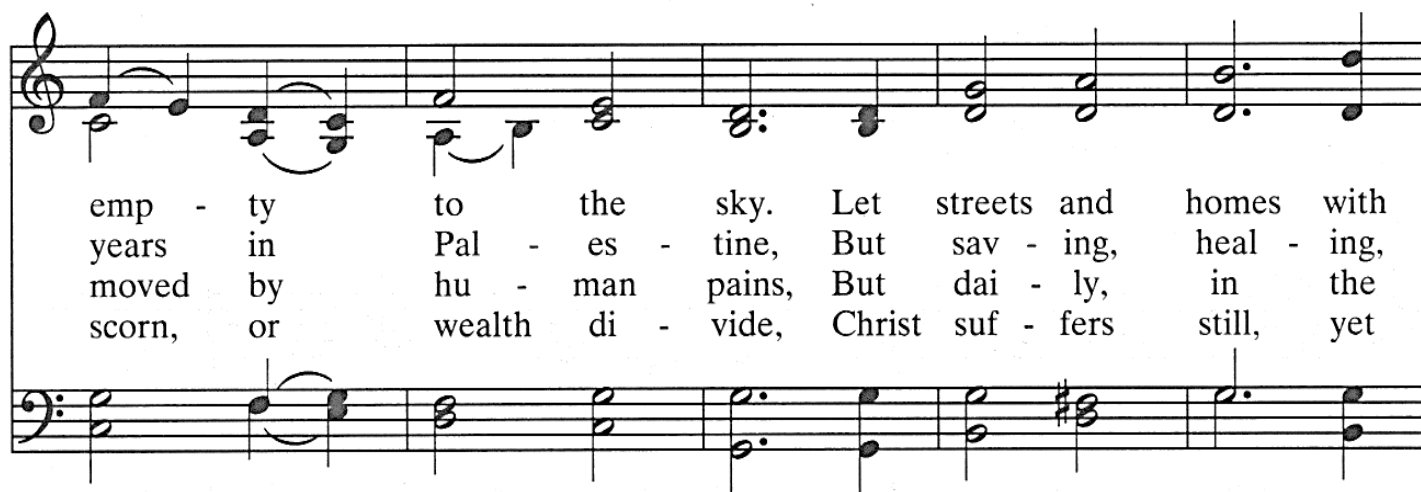
Thomas Williams, 1789

Brian Wren, 1968; rev.

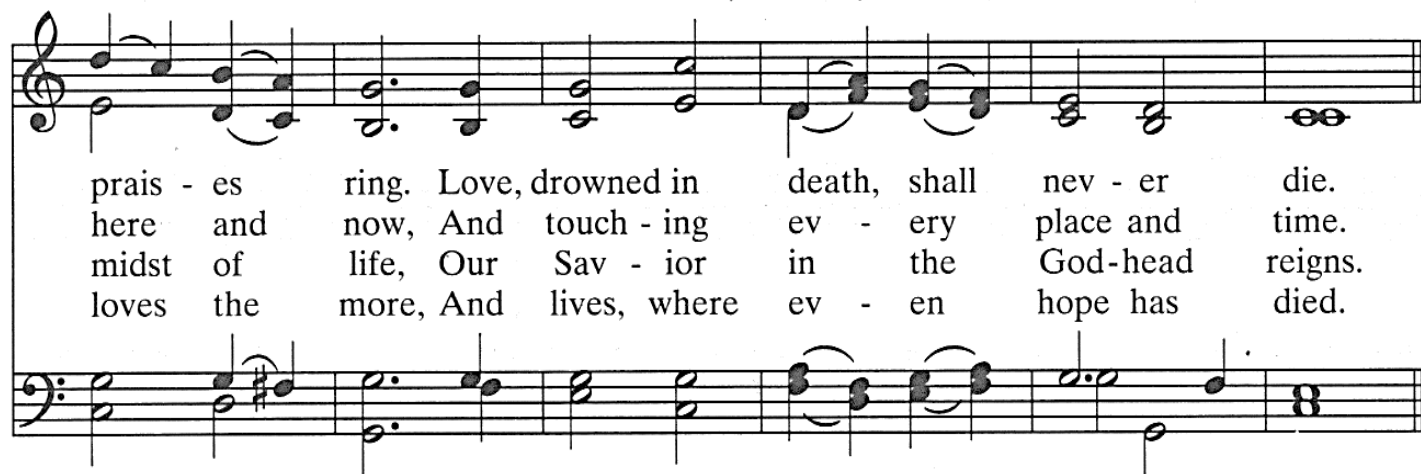
Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)



1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, But sav - ing, heal - ing,
moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, And touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
midst of life, Our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
loves the more, And lives, where ev - en hope has died.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring Till earth and sky and ocean ring
Good news to this and every age, With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Text: Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.