



Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Communion Sunday
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024

Welcome

Prelude/Candle Lighting “For the Beauty of the Earth” Oxana Khramova
(C. Kocher, arr. K. Rowley)

Ringing of the Bell

*Call to Worship

Leader: For the beauty of this day,
All: And the comfort of friends nearby;
 Leader: For the invitation to love and be loved,
All: For our God who extends that call;
 Leader: For time set apart to nourish the soul,
All: For time to go out into the world with love:
 Leader: For all these things we give thanks. Let us worship God.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

Loving God, thank you that your love comes to us embodied. You touch us through the body of Christ, the Human One who shows us the way of love. You reach us through the smell of spring flowers blooming on trees, the vivid green of new growth, the abundance of rain. You hold us in the embrace of friends, family, and community. You nourish us through food and art and song. We are deeply grateful. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** “Canticle of the Sun” SoF #19
(vs. 1, 2, 3, and 5)

Readings Ellen Ochs

1 John 5:1-2, 6
 John 15:9-17
 from “Love in Particular,” by Sarah Bessey

Anthem “Let All Creation Resound” Bell Choir
(Jason W. Krug)

Sermon *Loving God’s World* Rev. Kathleen Remund

Transitional Music

“Great Is The Lord”
(M. Smith and D. Smith, arr. C. Tornquist)

Oxana Khramova

Prayers of the People**Offertory**

“Sheep May Safely Graze”
(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. 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

“You Are Holy”

(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 testing, 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" 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)**

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people, because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, gracious God, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of your kin-dom. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "O God of Earth and Space" Hymnal #274

***Benediction**

Leader: Go forth today, held in the body of God's love. Go forth ready to love the world in all its' particulars. Keep company with God in all the ways God manifests around you. Learn what a gift it is to be alive.

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

“Great Is The Lord”
(M. Smith and D. Smith, arr. C. Tornquist)

Oxana Khramova

The flowers today are from Renee Howerton in loving memory of her mother, Rebecca, remembering her birthday on May 12th and remembering her Texas family.

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 Beth Merrill Neel and posted on her blog, *Hold Fast to What is Good*, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>.
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This Week:

Sunday, May 5th, 11:00 am Dementia Presentation, Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 7th, 9:30am Memorial Graden Clean-up; 7:00 pm, God Talk, on Zoom

Wednesday, May 8th, 4:00pm Kid’s Club; 6:30pm Bells rehearsal; 7:30pm Choir 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, 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;

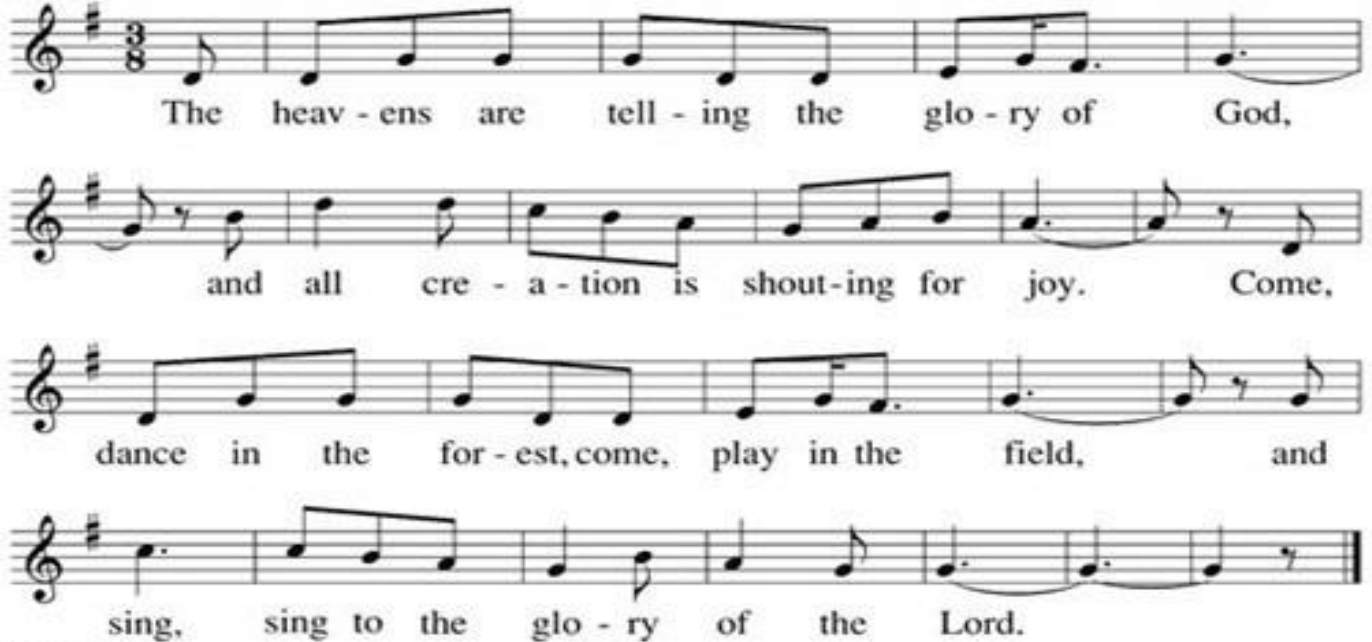
And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

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.

Canticle of the Sun

Refrain



The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,
and all cre - a - tion is shout - ing for joy. Come,
dance in the for - est, come, play in the field, and
sing, sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.

Verses



1. Praise for the sun, the bring - er of day, He car - ries the
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, The seas' might - y
3. Praise for the rain that wa - ters our fields, And bless - es our
4. Praise for the fire who gives us his light, The warmth of the
5. Praise for the earth who makes life to grow, The crea - tures you
6. Praise for our death that makes our life real, The knowl - edge of



light of the Lord in his rays;	The moon and the stars who
storms, & the gen - tl - est breeze;	They blow where they will, they
crops & so all the earth yields;	From death un - to life her
sun & to bright - en our night;	He danc - es with joy, his
made & to let your life show;	The flow - ers and trees that
loss & that helps us to feel;	The gift of your - self, your



light up the way	Un - to your throne.
blow where they please	To please the Lord.
mys - t'ry re - vealed	Springs forth in joy.
spir - it so bright,	He sings of you.
help us to know	The heart of love.
pres - ence re - vealed	To lead us home.

D.C.

You Are Holy

$\text{♩} = 80$

Dm *Gm* *C7*

You are ho - ly, you are whole. — You are al - ways ev - er - more

F *Fmaj7* *B♭* *Gm* *Asus4*

— than we ev - er un - der - stand. — You are al - ways at hand.

A7 *Dm* *Gm* *C7*

— Bless - ed are you com - ing near. — Bless - ed are you com - ing here

Fmaj7 *B♭* *Gm* *A7*

— to the church in wine and bread, — raised from soil, raised from dead.

Dm *Gm* *C7* *Fmaj7*

— You are ho - ly. — You are whole - ness. — You are

B♭ *Gm* *Asus* *A7*

pre - sent, let the cos - mos praise you, God! — Hal - le -

Dm *Gm* *C7* *Fmaj7*

- lu - ia, — hal - le - lu - ia, — hal - le -

B♭ *Gm* *A7* *Dm*

- lu - ia, — hal - le - lu - ia — our 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.

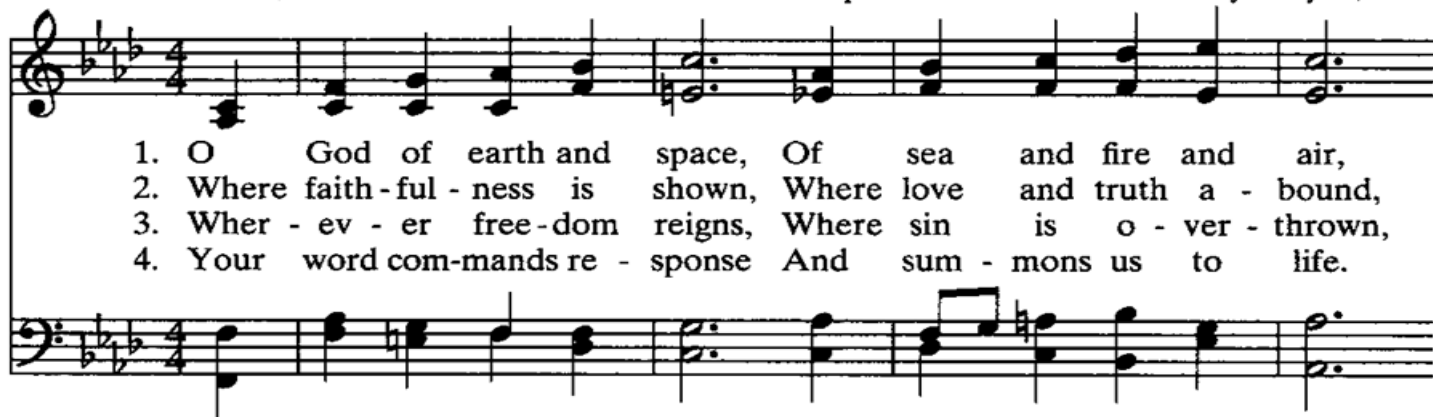
O God of Earth and Space

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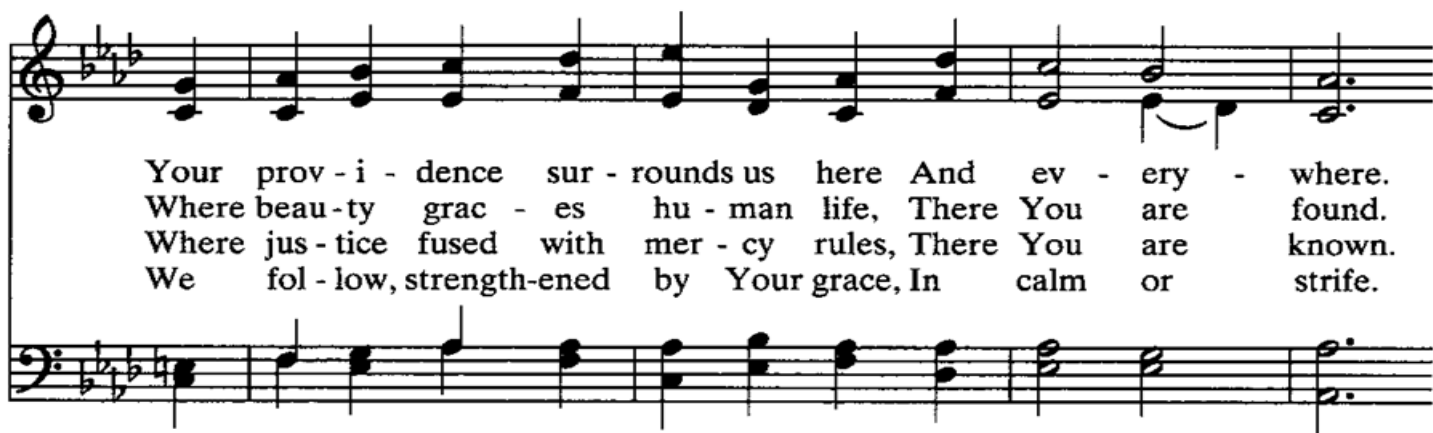
Hebrew melody

Jane Parker Huber, 1980

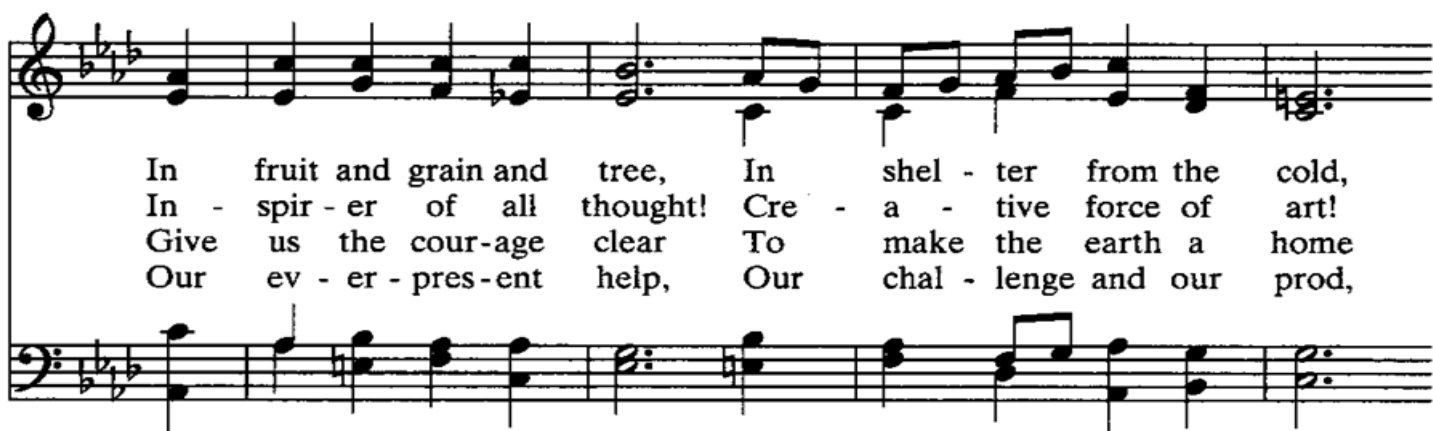
Adapt. Thomas Olivers and Meyer Lyon, 1770



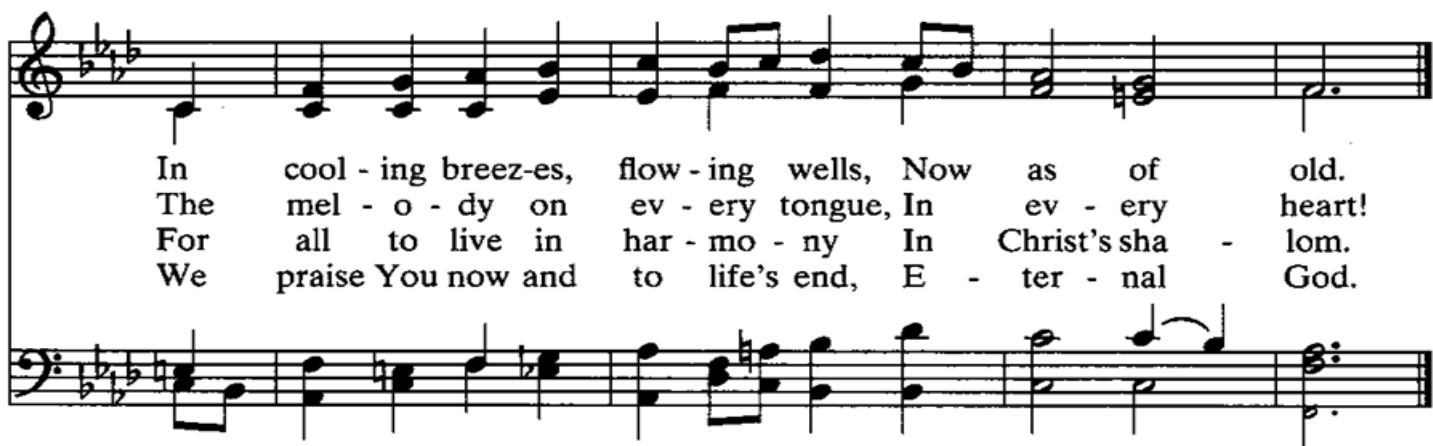
1. O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,
 2. Where faith - ful - ness is shown, Where love and truth a - bound,
 3. Wher - ev - er free - dom reigns, Where sin is o - ver - thrown,
 4. Your word com - mands re - sponse And sum - mons us to life.



Your prov - i - dence sur - rounds us here And ev - ery - where.
 Where beau - ty grac - es hu - man life, There You are found.
 Where jus - tice fused with mer - cy rules, There You are known.
 We fol - low, strength - ened by Your grace, In calm or strife.



In fruit and grain and tree, In shel - ter from the cold,
 In - spir - er of all thought! Cre - a - tive force of art!
 Give us the cour - age clear To make the earth a home
 Our ev - er - pres - ent help, Our chal - lenge and our prod,



In cool - ing breez - es, flow - ing wells, Now as of old.
 The mel - o - dy on ev - ery tongue, In ev - ery heart!
 For all to live in har - mo - ny In Christ's sha - lom.
 We praise You now and to life's end, E - ter - nal God.