



Welcome and Announcements

Kristen Billingsley

Prelude/Candle Lighting “Prepare the Way, O Zion!”
(Swedish melody, XVII Century, arr. W. Cassler)

Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Leader: O Holy one of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

All: We long to be in your beautiful assembly. Our hearts sing for joy!

Leader: O Holy one of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

All: You keep the sparrow and the spring. You sustain the splendor of creation.

Leader: O Holy one of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

All: In you, we go from strength to strength. You hear our prayers, bestow blessings and honor, and withhold no good thing. Praise our God!

***Opening Prayer (in unison)**

Lovely God, you abide with us. We acknowledge your presence among us with peace, trust, and thanksgiving. It is good to be with you. It is good to be with one another. Fill us with your Spirit and revel in our worship. May this time give you honor and fortify us as your people, your ambassadors, and your agents of love and hope in the world. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** “Come Down, O Love Divine”

Hymnal #313

Readings

Melissa and Aly Kluge

“Rend Your Heart” – Jan Richardson

“Seven Thousand Ways to Listen: Staying Close To What is Sacred” – Mark Nepo

Special Music

“Built on a Rock”
(Bryce Black)

Bryce Black

Reflection

“The Wisdom of the Heart”

Mellie Artema

Transitional Music

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

Oxana Khramova

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Mother, our Father, 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.

Offertory

"All I Can Say"
(Bryce Black)

Bryce Black

*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)

Strong and Giving God, receive our gifts of time, talent, and financial resources for the building of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. May we give with a spirit of courage, trust, and empathy. May our faithful stewardship receive confirmation through changed lives and renewed communities for your glory. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

Hymnal #426

*Benediction

Leader: Go in peace,
Holding onto steadfast hope in a God who does good things
Who calls us as ambassadors and witnesses to the kin-dom
Who sustains and supplies us
Whose work is done through our hands, our voice, and our lives
And who remains with us now and forever.

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

"Redeemed"
(B. Cowart and M. Weaver, arr. C. Tornquist)

Oxana Khramova

The flowers today are from Deb and Alan Benoit in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary, today, August 25th. Congratulations Deb and Al!

Credits

- The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Benediction, and Benediction are from *Worship Ways: Worship Resources for the United Church of God* at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-august-25/>.
- "Rend Your Heart." ©Jan Richardson. *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*. 2016

This Week

Wednesday, August 28th, 1:30pm: Tour of Homes Informational Meeting in Room 1.

Our guest speaker today is Mellie Artema. Mellie has worked in the field of integrative health for two decades offering skills that include bodywork, clinical acupuncture, herbal medicine, and yoga instruction. Her work is specialized in Eastern Medicine Psychology and Trauma Recovery Support. For the past 6 years she has done education and advocacy work on topics related to neurodivergence-affirming care. Mellie is currently in grad school at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (where Pastor Kathleen attended) focusing on Interreligious Spiritual Direction, Eco-Justice, and Animal Chaplaincy. She is on track to be ordained next summer as an Interfaith / Interspiritual minister through One Spirit Learning Alliance in New York City.

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.

ONA Covenant

We covenant as a congregation to welcome, celebrate, and include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their families into the full life of our church. We take this stance publicly and proudly, knowing that silence is inadequate to confront the violent theology that is widespread throughout the Christian church. We covenant to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their families with our prayers, words, and actions.

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11 D

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867; alt.

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek out this soul of mine
 2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3. And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul will long

And vis - it it with Your own ar - dor glow - ing;
 To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 Shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let Your glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, Till Love cre - ates a place

And kin - dle it, Your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak 426

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872

CANONBURY LM

Robert Schumann, 1839

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In liv - ing
2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wan - dering
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The pre - cious
4. O fill me with Thy full - ness, Lord, Un - til my

ech - oes of Thy tone; As Thou hast sought, so
and the wa - vering feet; O feed me, Lord, that
things Thou dost im - part; And wing my words, that
ver - y heart o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and

let me seek Thine err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
I may feed Thy hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

5. O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.