



Welcome and Announcements Rob MacDougall

**Prelude/Candle Lighting** “Faith” Oxana Khramova  
(M. Hayes)

**Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**All: We have gathered to hear the story of God and God’s people.**

Leader: It is a story of God’s mercy and steadfast love.

**All: It is our story, for we are God’s people.**

**Unison:** Inspire us, our God, to faithfulness, to mercy, to steadfast love. Let us become a people who reflect your image.

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**You who have created us and who sustains us: We come with thanksgiving for these moments when we can ease the pace of our lives and listen for your voice. Create a spirit within us that truly draws us toward you and toward our brothers and sisters: a spirit deep, perceptive, gentle, and bold. Clear our minds, open our hearts, and touch us with your presence and your power. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our friend and liberator. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** “This Is My Song” NCH #591

**Readings** Kristen Billingsley  
 Esther 9:20-27  
 Mark 9:38-41  
 Contemporary Reading: “Help, Thanks, Wow” by Anne Lamott

**Anthem** “All Things Work Together For Good” Chancel Choir  
(J. Carter)

**Sermon** “Centering” Rob MacDougall

**Transitional Music** “Lord of All Good” Oxana Khramova

## Prayers of the People

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Mother, our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be they name. Thy kingdom come; they 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, the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn** "Open My Eyes That I May See" Hymnal #324

**Offertory** "A Canvas by an Old Master"  
(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)

**Gracious God, bless our offering that it may reach and touch those who hunger, who hurt, who seek new hope. As part of the global village we care about all of our brothers and sisters. We pray for world peace and rest for those who are weary. Trusting in your strong Love, amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Live Into Hope" Hymnal #332

### \*Benediction

### \*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** "Be the Center"  
(M. Frye, arr. C. Tornquist) Oxana Khramova

*Today's flowers are from Doris Win.*

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### This Week

**Tuesday, October 1:** Tour of Homes craft meeting 9am-1:30 pm, in Room 1

**Wednesday, October 2:** Kid's Club, 4-6pm "Game Night" Fellowship Hall; Chancel Choir rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Bell Choir rehearsal 6:30-7:30pm

## **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.

# This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of  
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the  
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my  
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are  
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

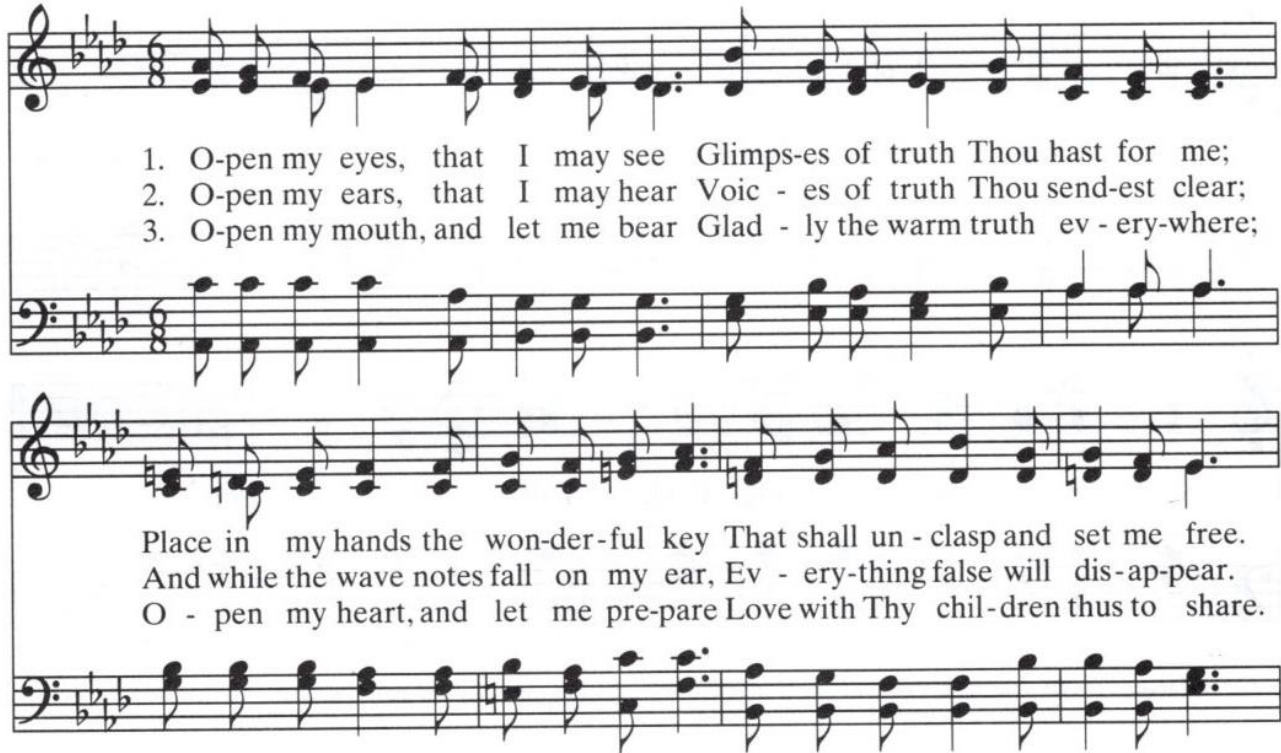
*These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.*

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.  
Jean Sibelius, 1899  
Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES 8.8.9.8 with refrain

Clara H. Scott, 1895



1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see Glimps - es of truth Thou hast for me;  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear Voic - es of truth Thou send - est clear;  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear Glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;

Place in my hands the won - der - ful key That shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear.  
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare Love with Thy chil - dren thus to share.

*Refrain* HOLY SPIRIT



Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy will to see;

O - pen my eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 heart,

# Live Into Hope

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TRURO LM

Jane Parker Huber, 1976

Thomas Williams, 1789  
Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

1. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, Of sight re -  
2. Live in - to hope the blind shall see With in - sight  
3. Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, The right to  
4. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed From chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
and with clar - i - ty, Re - mov - ing shades of  
speak, the right to be, The right to have one's  
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see The year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
pride and fear — A vi - sion of our God brought near.  
dai - ly bread, To hear God's word and thus be fed.  
full re - lease To faith and hope and joy and peace.

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