



Welcome and Announcements

Susan Hall

Prelude/Candle Lighting “How Great the Wisdom and the Love”
(T. McIntyre, arr. K. Rowley)

Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship.

All: Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

Leader: The Maker of all seeks our common good.

All: The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

Leader: Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.

All: Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ’s name.

***Opening Prayer (in unison)**

Most Holy One, you surround us on every side and are acquainted with all of our ways. You know our shallow motives and our deepest thoughts. You are aware of the distinctions we make and the favoritism we express. Yet you welcome us, not as strangers but as heralds of your reign. We want to worship you and represent you well. Come among us now with your transforming power. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Hymnal #267

Readings

Sandy Lindow

James 2:1-10

Mark 7:24-30

“There Are No Strangers” from Spirit Wheel by Steven Charleston

Special Music

“Largo from Cello Sonata in G minor”
(F. Chopin)

Dean Langby

Sermon

“Won’t you be my neighbor?”

Rev. Tim Schroeder

Transitional Music

“Nearer My God To Thee”
(S. Adams, L. Mason, arr. M. Bailey)

Oxana Khramova

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our 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 "Courante from Cello Suite no. 4 in Eb major" Dean Langby
(J.S. Bach)

*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)

We give because you have been generous to us, gracious God. We give because we need to give in order to realize your image within us. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. May these offerings meet the needs of our members, our community, and our world. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "Faith, Hope, LOVE" Hymnal inside back cover

*Benediction

Leader: Holy One, maker of us all, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves and teach us that faith without works is dead. Open us to the opportunities for ministry that lie before us, where faith and words and the need of our neighbor come together in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 "Nearer My God To Thee" Oxana Khramova
(S. Adams, L. Mason, arr. M. Bailey)

*The flowers today are from Kathy Colvin
celebrating her grandson's, Benjamin Ellingson, 16th birthday on September 9th.*

Credits

- The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Dedication are from Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B by Lavon Bayler © 1996.
- There Are No Strangers in Spirit Wheel: Meditations from an Indigenous Elder, by Steven Charleston. Broadleaf Books, Minneapolis. ©2023.
- Prayers of the People is from Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, Meditations For Staying Human by Cole Arthur Riley. © 2024.
- Benediction is from The Revised Common Lectionary at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayer/>

This Week

Wednesday, September 11: 5:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Our guest speaker today is **Rev. Timothy Schroeder**. Tim, ELCA Pastor, serves a specialized call as Regional Representative for Portico Benefit Services, the benefits ministry of the ELCA. Pastor Tim and his husband Chris live in West St. Paul, Minnesota and have fond memories of their times in Menomonie.

Tim's first job was Executive Director of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Stout prior to beginning his graduate studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Tim cannot forget the "free muffins Mondays" First Congregational and the UMC fed the hundreds of students to a homemade treat!

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.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

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ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6 with refrain

English melody, 17th century
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915
Harm. for *The Hymnbook*, 1953

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful: The Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings:
2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky,
The ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.
How great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.*

Faith, Hope, LOVE

150th Anniversary September 25, 2011
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Thom Flug
Music and lyrics

1. Day by day, year by year, we stand firm - ly ga - thered here
2. One by one, two by two, hum - bly we come un - to you
3. Age to age, stone by stone, life is built on Christ a - lone.

roo - ted in faith, sha - ring our faith, Giv - ing our hearts,
rea - ching in love, tea - ching our creed, ours to re - ceive
en - du - ring in hope with God a - bove.
pass - ing it on to those who need
ev - er - last - ing life so we be - lieve

Refrain—unison

Light of the World I fol - low you, e - ver faith - ful, e - ver true.

(-----repeat last time-----)

Lov - ing each o - ther as you've loved me know - ing that truth will set me free!