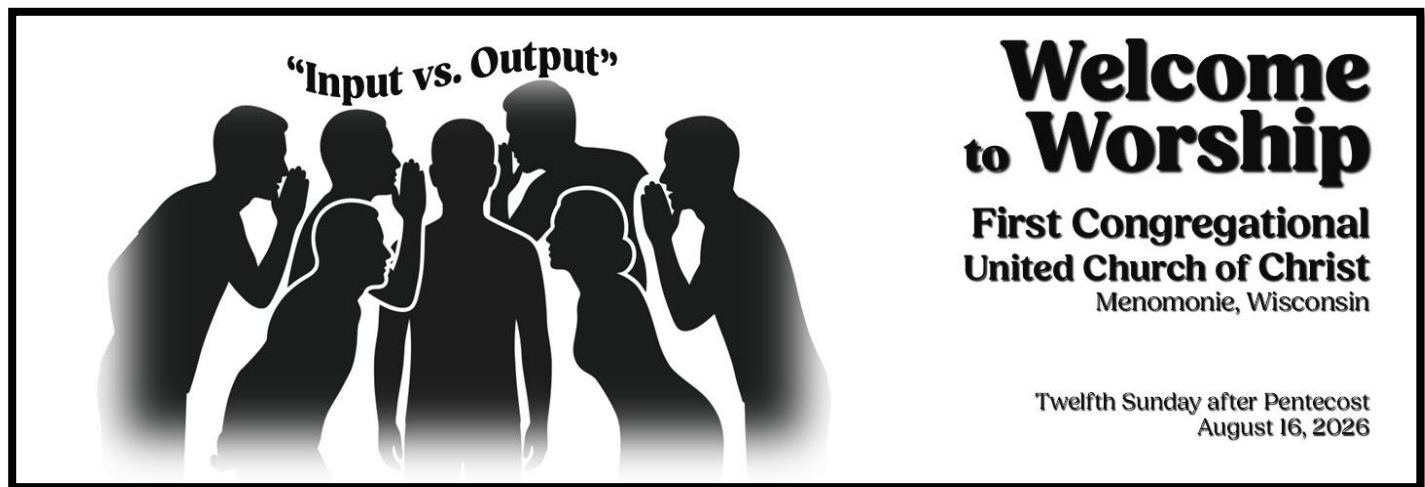




Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Did You Think to Pray"
(M. Bailey)

Oxana Khramova

Ringling of the Bell

***Call to Worship** (*Stand as you are able)

One: Generous God, we reach out to you.

All: Healing God, we plead with you.

One: Our doubts discourage us.

All: Voices of judgment hold us back.

One: But your grace prevails.

All: You heal us and bless us. We bless and thank you.

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

God of love, help us to see ourselves honestly, to see each moment we intend love, and each moment we intend otherwise. Trusting, by the grace of Christ, that you intend only love, we offer ourselves to you: receive us, forgive us, heal us, and perfect your love in us. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"O God of Earth and Altar"

Hymnal #291

Readings

Cara Thomas

Psalms 67; Matthew 15:10-20; Contemporary Reading "Input vs. Output"

Special Music

"Morceau de Concours"
(Gabriel Faure)

Eleanor Trotter

Sermon

"Input vs. Output"

Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn

"You Are Called to Tell the Story"

SoF #158

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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

"Moderato from Suite Modale"
(Ernest Bloch)

Eleanor Trotter

*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)

Generous God, we share our gifts like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing our neighbors. May each gift bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"All My Days"

Sof #2

*Benediction

*Sung Benediction (unison)

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"
(arr. M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

*Today's flowers are from Sally Conklin
celebrating the August Conklin family birthdays of Sally, Adam, Evie and Ginnie.*

Credits

- Liturgy pieces from Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. "Worship Resources – Unfolding Light." Unfolding Light. Accessed August 12, 2026. <https://unfoldinglight.net/worship-resources/>.
- "Optimistic Outputs & Humble Inputs." Medium, December 19, 2023. <https://medium.com/@oscar.vosshage/optimistic-outputs-humble-inputs-cc635b0d1f33>.
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This Week

Tuesday, August 18, 4pm: Early Service Planning Committee, R1

Thursday, August 20, 6pm: Church Council, R1

Link to the full church calendar: <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>

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 their 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 disability;

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.

O God of Earth and Altar

291

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Stanzas 1-2, Gilbert Keith Chesterton, 1906

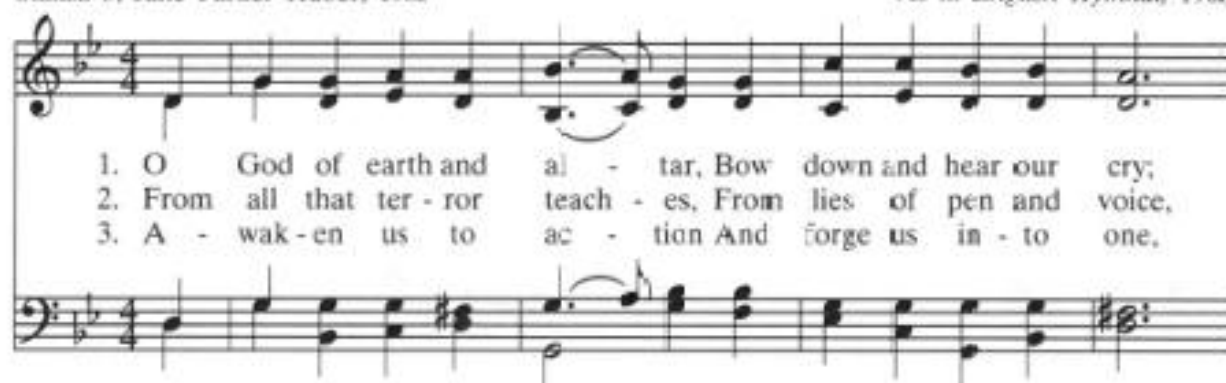
Stanza 2 alt. Jane Parker Huber, 1985

Stanza 3, Jane Parker Huber, 1985

Welsh folk melody

Evans' *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865

As in *English Hymnal*, 1906



1. O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;
 2. From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of pen and voice,
 3. A - wak - en us to ac - tion And forge us in - to one,



Our earth-ly rul - ers fal - ter, Our peo - ple drift and die;
 From all the eas - y speech - es That make our hearts re - joice,
 De - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O God, Your will be done!



The walls of gold en - tomb us, The swords of scorn di - vide;
 From sale and pro - fa - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,
 Op - pres - sive sys - tems snare us; Our ap - a - thies in - crease.



Take not Your thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.
 From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!
 Great God, in mer - cy spare us For jus - tice and for peace!

You Are Called to Tell the Story

Chorus:

1 You are called to tell the sto - ry, pass - ing words of
 2 You are called to teach the rhy - thm of the dance that
 3 You are called to set the ta - ble, bless - ing bread as
 4 May the One whose love is broad - er than the meas - ure

Verse:

life a - long, then to blend your voice with oth - ers
 nev - er ends, then to move with - in the cir - cle,
 Je - sus blessed, then to come with thirst and hun - ger,
 of all space give us words to sing the sto - ry,

Bridge:

as you sing the sa - cred song. Christ be known in
 hand in hand with stran - gers, friends. Christ be known in
 need - ing care like all the rest. Christ be known in
 move a - mong us in this place. Christ be known in

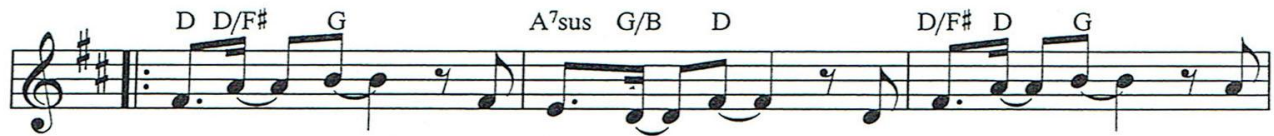
Final Verse:

all our sing - ing, fill - ing all with songs of love.
 all our danc - ing, touch - ing all with hands of love.
 all our shar - ing, feed - ing all with signs of love.
 all our liv - ing, fill - ing all with gifts of love.

All My Days



1. You



know my_ words, be - fore they're said. You know my need and
I should fly_ be - yond the_ dawn, the shad - ows will_ not
ev - ery_ thought, each word we say, the whole of_ time, the
mend my_ heart and free my voice. From sin re - leased, I



I am_ fed. You give me_ life._ You know my_ ways, my
o - ver - come. If I lie_ down in deep - est_ night, still
pre - sent day, are held with - in_ your might - y_ hand too
will re - joice. O search me_ now, my spir - it_ cries, and



strength, my path_ for all my_ days, my strength, my_ path, for
you are_ there, my truth, my_ light, still you are_ there, my
won - der - ful_ to com - pre - hend, too won - der - ful_ to
let my_ song of praise a - rise, and let my_ song of



all my days.____ 2. If praise a - rise.____
truth, my light.____ 3. Our
com - pre - hend.____ 4. O

Words: Laurie Zelman

Music: Mark A. Miller

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