



Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

"Who Am I?"
Matthew 16:13-20

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting *"Overture from Fireworks Music"* Oxana Khramova
(G.F. Handel, arr. M. Archer)

Ring of the Bell

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

One: God, you are the Mystery of Love

All: Wonder! Praise!

One: Christ, you are the Light of Love.

All: Thanks! Adoration!

One: Spirit, you are the Energy of Love.

All: Fill us, that we may love as Jesus showed.

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

Loving God, we confess that we can live only by your grace, and that we desire to live only by your ways. But we have forgotten your Presence and wandered from your ways. In the mercy that Christ has shown us, forgive us, restore us, and return us to your life-giving Presence, that we may live by your grace alone. Amen.

Opening Hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" Hymnal #357

Readings Dawn Ascher

Matthew 16:13-20

Contemporary Reading "Who am I?" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Special Music *"Allegro Assai from Sonata in C major"* Lydia Miller
(J.S. Bach)

Sermon "Who am I?" Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" Hymnal #438

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

"Adagio from Sonata in C major"
(J.S. Bach)

Lydia Miller

*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

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Hymnal #315

*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

"Allegro from Sonata in F"
(G.F. Handel)

Lydia Miller,
Oxana Khramova

*The flowers today are from Judy and Ron Fry
in celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary today, August 23rd. Congratulations Judy and Ron!*

Credits

- Liturgy pieces from Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. "Worship Resources – Unfolding Light." Unfolding Light. Accessed August 17, 2026. <https://unfoldinglight.net/worship-resources/>.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. "Who Am I?" Renovaré, October 2024. Accessed 17 August, 2026. <https://renovare.org/articles/who-am-i>.
- Prayer of Gratitude from "The Work of Imagination" Lent Series © 2026, an Illustrated Ministry, LLC. product, purchased and used with permission.
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This Week

Monday, August 24, 6pm: Christian Education subcommittee, 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 Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

357

Washington Gladden, 1879

MARYTON LM

Henry Percy Smith, 1874

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee In low - ly
 2. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
 3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee In clos - er,
 4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of ser - vice free; Tell me Thy se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way; In peace that on - ly

help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 Thou canst give, With Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

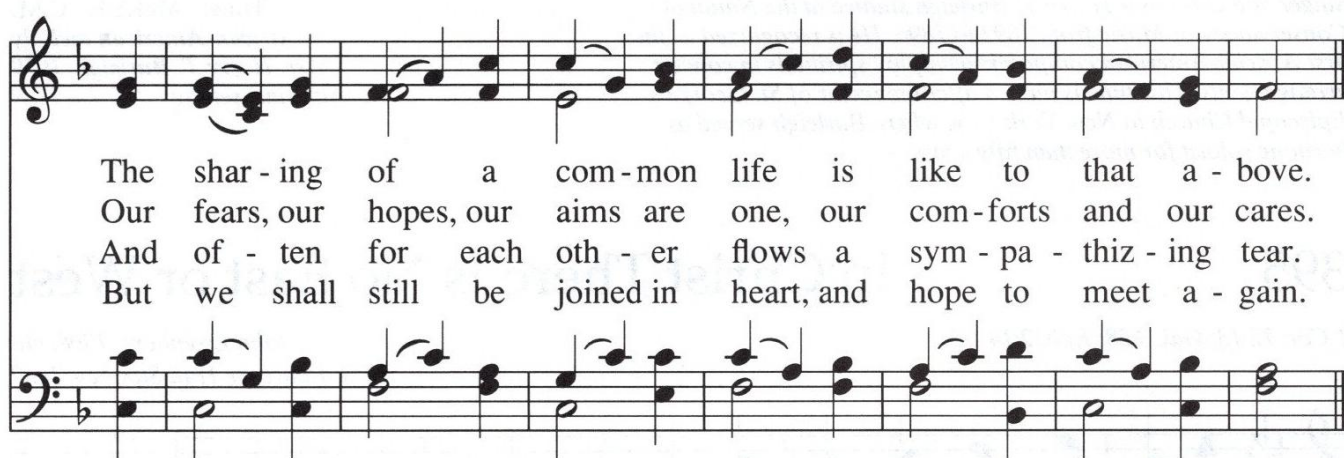
393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nægeli (c. 1768-1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

PENTECOST Irregular

African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joseph T. Jones (1902–1983)
 Adapt. Melva W. Costen, 1989

African-American spiritual
Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray. *Fine*

1. Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, Out of God's
 2. Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and cold, It chills the

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me,
bod - y but not the soul. There is but one train

it looked so fine, Till I asked my Lord if all was mine.
up-on this track; It runs to heav-en and then right back. *D.C.*