



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"
(F. Atkinson, arr. M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

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

One: Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life, you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.
All: **We come, longing to be renewed.**
One: The Holy One who stretches out the heavens is stretching us now: our hearts toward courage, our hands toward compassion, our lives toward gentle justice.
All: **We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.**
One: A voice from heaven says to us: "You are my beloved. This Spirit is upon you."
All: **We are God's Beloved, called to bring gentle justice.**
One: Come, let us remember who we are.
All: **Let us worship God with joy.**

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

Voice of the Margins, we long to reject the hierarchies that divide us. Teach us to behold one another fully, not at greater or lesser, but as kin, woven together in love, and held together in the sacred dignity of shared breath and becoming. We are one family, created equal in the divine image. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Down to Earth, as a Dove"

Hymnal #300

Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9;

Matthew 3:13-17;

Contemporary Reading: *A story from the tribes of Alta and Baja California of a mighty cougar and a tiny cricket*

Dawn Ascher

Special Music	“The King Shall Come” (C. Moklebust)	Bell Choir
Sermon	“Resisting Empire: Rejecting Hierarchy, Embracing Kinship”	Pastor René Mehlberg
Transitional Hymn	“Spirit of the Living God” (sung twice)	Hymnal #322

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	“Give Me Jesus” (arr. M. Hayes)	Oxana Khramova
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*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)

Holy One, You gather us in, wash us in grace, and remind us we are your Beloveds. Bless these gifts and the lives from which they come. May they ripple out in acts of compassion, in courage where it is needed, in justice that is gentle and strong, in resistance to evil and empire. We offer what we have with joy and trust, for the sake of your dream of flourishing. Amen.

Closing Hymn	“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”	attached
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*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	“For All the Saints” (R.V. Williams, arr. M. Hayes)	Oxana Khramova
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Credits

- Armas, Kat. *Liturgies for resisting empire: Seeking community, belonging, and peace in a dehumanizing world*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2025. Chapter 4: Rejecting Hierarchy, Embracing Kinship, pgs 67-68.
- Howard, Rev. Michael Anthony. "Baptism of Christ a - January 11." United Church of Christ: Worship Ways, December 24, 2025. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/baptism-of-christ-a-january-11/>.
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This Week

Tuesday, January 13, 4pm: Executive Committee; R1

Wednesday, January 14: 4pm Kid's Club; **5:30pm**; Chancel Choir; **6:30pm** Bell Choir, **7pm** Dance practice

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 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

PERSONENT HODIE 6.6.6.6 with refrain

Fred Kaan, 1968

Piae Cantiones, 1582

Arr. Gustav Theodore Holst, 1924

1. Down to earth, as a dove, Came to light
 2. This is love come to light, Now is fear
 3. Christ the Lord comes to feed Hungry peo -

ho - ly love: Je - sus Christ from a - bove Bring-ing great sal -
 put to flight. God de - feats dark-est night, Giv - ing for our
 ple in need; In the house there is bread: Je - sus in a

va - tion Meant for ev - ery na - tion.
 sor - rows Hope of new to - mor - rows. Let us sing, sing, sing,
 sta - ble, In the church a ta - ble.

Refrain

R.H.
L.H.
R.H.

Dance and spring, spring, spring, Christ is here, Ev-er near! Glo-ria in ex - cel-sis.

(The bass line consists of sustained notes on the first and third beats of each measure, with a fermata over the first note of each measure.)

Spirit of the Living God

322

LIVING GOD Irregular

Daniel Iverson, 1935; adapted

Daniel Iverson, 1935

A musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The first two staves are in common time (4/4), while the third and fourth staves are in 2/4 time. The music is arranged in two systems. The first system contains two stanzas of the hymn text. The second system contains the final stanza. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth note patterns, with some sustained notes and rests. The lyrics are: "Spirit of the living God, Fall a-fresh on me; Spirit of the living God, Fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, Fall a-fresh on me." The score is set on a white background with black musical notation and text.

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing-ing?
 Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing-ing?