

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

“Air”
(Jean-Baptiste de Bousset)

Oxana Khramova

Ring of the Bell

*Call to Worship (*Rise in body, mind, or spirit)

One: Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers and disciples of love,

All: God is close to the outcast and faithful to all.

One: Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the winds of hope,

All: God is everywhere at all times, compassionate to all.

One: Calling all travelers between worlds, who translate compassion into peace,

All: God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the forgotten.

One: Come to worship and be renewed for this long journey.

All: Strangers in a strange land, we have come to worship the creator of all.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

God of beloved community, encourage us to carry the language of compassion and welcome into every interaction, showing hospitality to strangers, grace to the weak, and love to all people. Grant us the courage needed to cross the boundaries that hatred tries to build, for the wind of the Spirit goes where it pleases with your love upon all. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”

SoF #63

Readings

Lee Theorin

Matthew 11:16-30, Contemporary Reading “The New Colossus”, by: Emma Lazarus

Special Music

“Love is Love is Love”
(Abbie Betinis)

Singing Resistance

Abbie writes: "This song is dedicated to the victims and survivors of hate crimes everywhere, and specifically for those at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12, 2016. Love is often the bravest thing we do. May love prevails."

Words for congregation: Love, love, love, all we need is love, love, love.

Sermon

“Chosen Journey”

Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn

“This Little Light of Mine”

SoF #142

Prayers of the People

Offertory

“This Is My Song”
(arr. M. Hayes)

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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Leader: Please join me in the words of institution over the bread:

People: When he was among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.”

Servers will pass this gluten free bread among you. As you take a piece of bread, hold it until everyone is served. We will eat the bread together, as a symbol of our unity, a world-wide Christian community.

Distribution Hymn

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Hymnal #513

Leader: Please join me in the words of institution over the wine:

People: In the same way, Jesus took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, “This cup is the new relationship with God, made possible because of my life and my death. Take this-all of you-to remember me.”

Servers will pass the juice and wine among you. The juice is dark red; the wine is white. Drink the cup as soon as you have been served in recognition of your individual relationship to God.

Distribution Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" SoF #82

***Prayer of Gratitude** (in unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for these tangible gifts of bread and cup that feed our bodies and nourish our souls. May these blessings of grace be shared, not hoarded. Though we have been fed today at the table, may we still walk away hungry for justice, working for freedom and fullness for all of your creation. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "This Is My Song" SoF #138

***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 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Oxana Khramova
(arr. M. Hayes)

*The flowers today are from Cindy and Lee Theorin in celebration of our Nations 250th Birthday.
God Bless America!*

Credits

- Liturgy pieces from "Fourth of July Pastoral Care Package" © 2026, an Illustrated Ministry, LLC. product used with permission.
- Lazarus, Emma. "The New Colossus | The Poetry Foundation." The Poetry Foundation. Accessed June 30, 2026. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46550/the-new-colossus>.
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This Week

Carpet Cleaning – no events scheduled

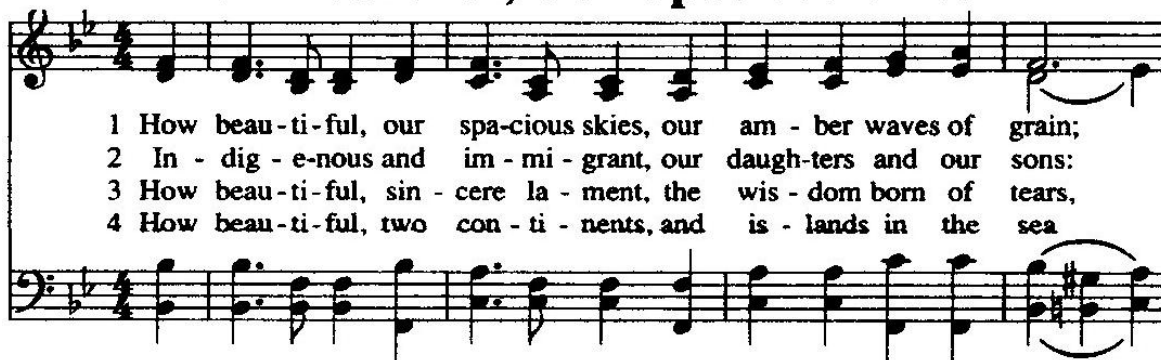
Link to the full church calendar: <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>

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.

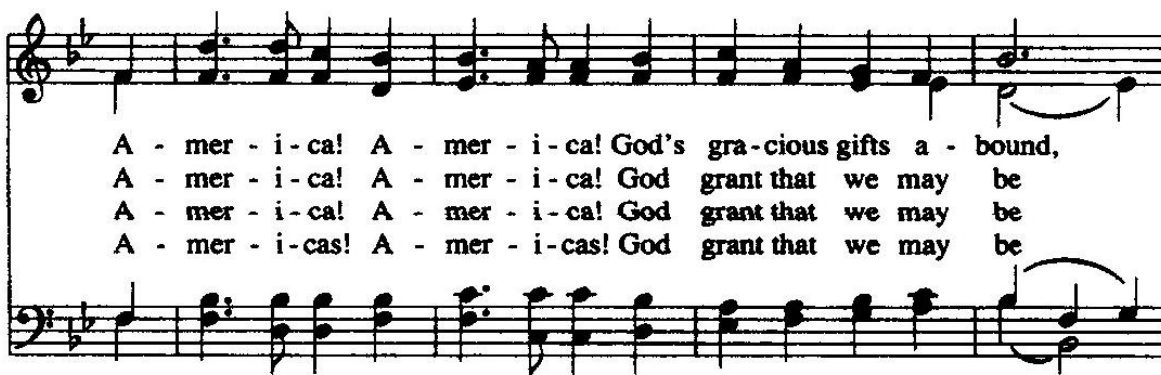
How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies



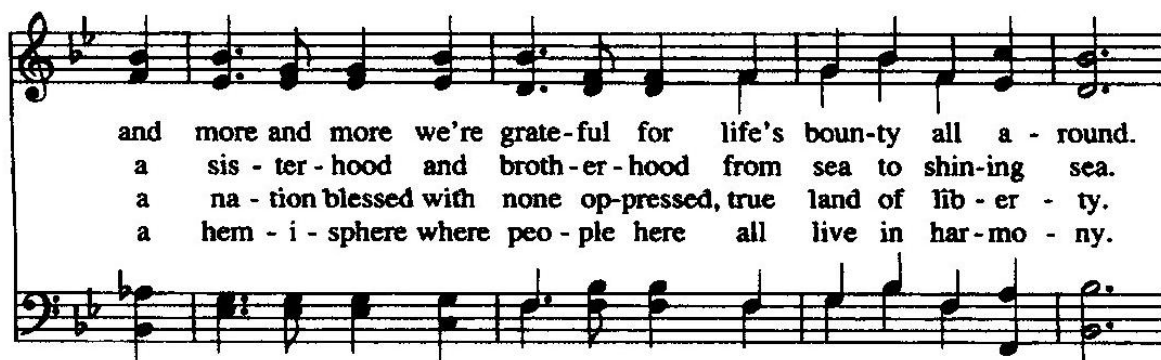
1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am-ber waves of grain;
 2 In-dig-e-nous and im-mi-grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:
 3 How beau-ti-ful, sin-cere la-ment, the wis-dom born of tears,
 4 How beau-ti-ful, two con-ti-nents, and is-lands in the sea



our pur-ple moun-tains as they rise a-bove the fruit-ful plain.
 O may we nev-er rest con-tent till all are tru-ly one.
 the cour-age called for to re-pent the blood-shed through the years.
 that dream of peace, non-vi-o-lence, all peo-ple liv-ing free.



A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God's gra-cious gifts a-bound,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be
 A-mer-i-cas! A-mer-i-cas! God grant that we may be



and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a-round.
 a sis-ter-hood and broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
 a na-tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib-er-ty.
 a hem-i-sphere where peo-ple here all live in har-mo-ny.

This Little Light of Mine

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh oh

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4. Shine, shine, shine, I'm gonna let it shine....
 5. All in my home, I'm gonna let it shine....

513

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD 10.10 with refrain African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual

Arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)

Let There Be Peace on Earth



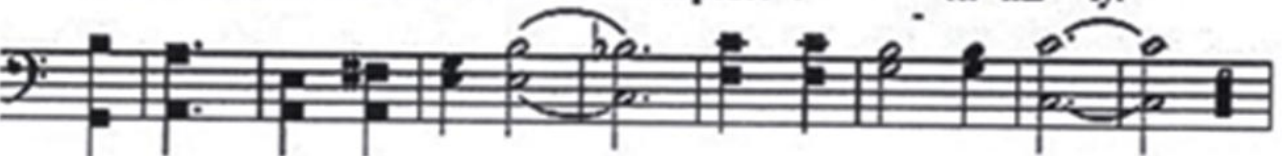
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be gin with me;
Let peace be gin with me; let this be the mo ment now.



let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With ev ery step I take, let this be My sol emn vow:



With God our cre - a - tor, chil dren all are we.
to take each mo ment and live each mo ment in peace e ter nal ly.



Let us walk with each oth er - in per -fect har -mo -ny.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be gin with me.



This Is My Song/Finlandia

F C7 F C7 F C7 F B \flat C F

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:

F C7 F C7 F C7 F B \flat F

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine. My land is
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine. But oth - er
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done. Let Christ be

Dm F/A C Gm D Gm F

home, the coun - try where my heart is: a land of hopes, of
 lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -
 lift - ed up till all shall serve him, and hearts u - nit - ed

B \flat Gm6 A F Dm F/A C

dreams, of grand de - sign; but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. Oh, hear my song, thou God of all the
 learn to live as one. Oh, hear my prayer, thou God of all the

C Gm F#dim Gm F C7 F Bb F

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.
na - tions. My - self I give thee; let thy will be done. A-men.

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