



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting “Amazing Grace (My chains Are Gone)” Oxana Khramova
(Ch. Tomlin and Giglio, arr. C. Tornquist)

Ring of the Bell

***Liturgy of Remembrance of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women** (*Stand if you are able)

One: Today we honor those who hallowed this earth by their prayers and by the way they walked in the light of God; to those who hallowed and continue to hallow the struggle for Justice by the love they have shown to create a beloved community. Let us remember the giants of faith on whose shoulders we stand today, especially those whose lives have been cut short. We pray:

All: **God of life, we remember all the Indigenous girls and women who have suffered: those who are missing and those confirmed murdered. We remember all the Indigenous girls and women who have been violated, beaten, and cut down. We remember all the Indigenous women, who, as mothers of those missing or murdered are seared with the burning pain of grief.**

One: Grant eternal rest to these your beloved children. May perpetual light shine on them. Give rest to your children where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. Grant comfort to their families and communities of those missing and murdered.

All: **May we turn our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies to care, to advocate, and to seek justice. May we seek ways to support the children and families of these women, with true nurture and care. May their families and friends find healing in memory, and the hope for justice into which we are called into partnership. Amen.**

***Commitment to Never Forget** (in unison)

O Holy One, strengthen us as we seek to serve your mission of healing of your beloved creation. As you cradle the world and all its creatures in your love, help us to trust in the firm and gentle hold of that embrace, that we might commit ourselves with steadfast faith and persistent hard work to pursue justice, to speak truth where violence tries to

hide. Sustain and guide us as we seek to heal the festering conditions that breed violence and hatred. Be our teacher in the ways of compassionate care. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "Gather Us In" SoF #44

Readings Kristen Billingsley
John 14:1-14, Contemporary Reading, "Threshold: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" By: Maggie Bowmyn

Anthem "At the River" Chancel Choir
(arr. A. Copland and R. Wilding-White)

Sermon "Believe" Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn "The Lone, Wild Bird" Hymnal #320

Prayers of the People

Offertory "A Reflective Improvisation" Oxana Khramova
(D. Lasky)

***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

“How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”

SoF #63

*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

“Be the Center”
(M. Frye, arr. C. Tornquist)

Oxana Khramova

The flowers today are from Doris and Emily Win in celebration of their brother and uncle Earl’s 89th birthday on May 15th. Congratulations!

Credits

- Opening Liturgy of Remembrance and Commitment to Never Forget adapted from NEJNAMC. Accessed April 28, 2026. https://www.nejnamc.org/uploads/1/1/7/8/117898543/litany_honoring_missing___murdered_indigenous_women.pdf.
- Wildman, Terry M. First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament (pp. 196-197). (Function). Kindle Edition.
- “Threshold: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women by Maggie Bowmyn.” a poem by Maggie Bowmyn - All Poetry. Accessed April 28, 2026. <https://allpoetry.com/poem/18382820-Threshold--Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-by-Maggie-Bowmyn>.
- 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

Wednesday, May 6: 4pm Kid’s Club, 5:30pm Chancel Choir; 6:30pm Bell Choir

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 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

Gather Us In / Here in this Place (Haugen)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Gather Us In / Here In This Place. (Haugen) Words and Music: Marty Haugen ©

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The Lone, Wild Bird

PROSPECT LM

As in *Twelve Folksongs and Spirituals*, 1968

Henry Richard McFadyen, 1925; alt.

Harm. David N. Johnson, 1968

C7 F Dm Gm B \flat Am C7 Dm F B \flat Dm Gm B \flat

1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight Is still with Thee, nor
2. The ends of earth are in Thy hand, The sea's dark deep and

Am C7 F F F C7 F Gm

leaves Thy sight. And I am Thine! I rest in
far - off land.

Dm F B \flat Gm B \flat Am C7 F

Thee. Great Spir - it, come, and rest in me.

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513

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD 10.10 with refrain African-American spiritual

Arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988

African-American spiritual

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



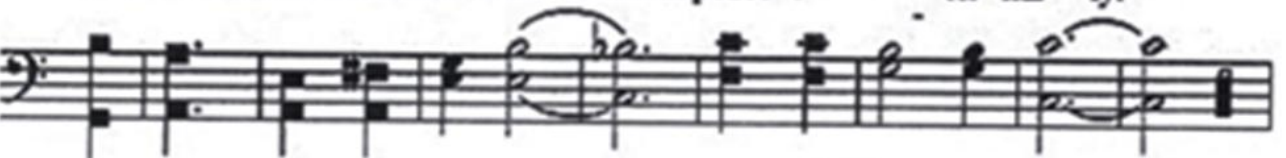
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be gin with me;
Let peace be gin with me; let this be the mo ment now.



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:



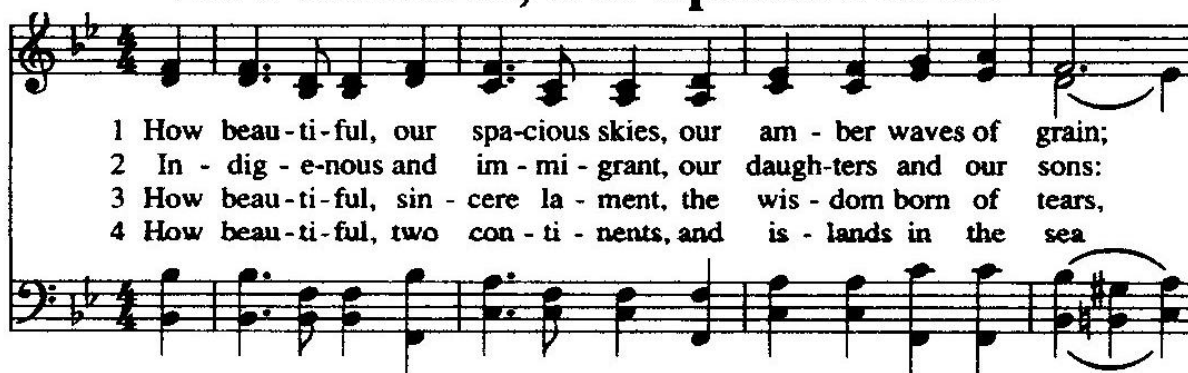
With God our cre - a - tor, chil dren all are we.
to take each mo ment and live each mo ment in peace e ter nal ly.



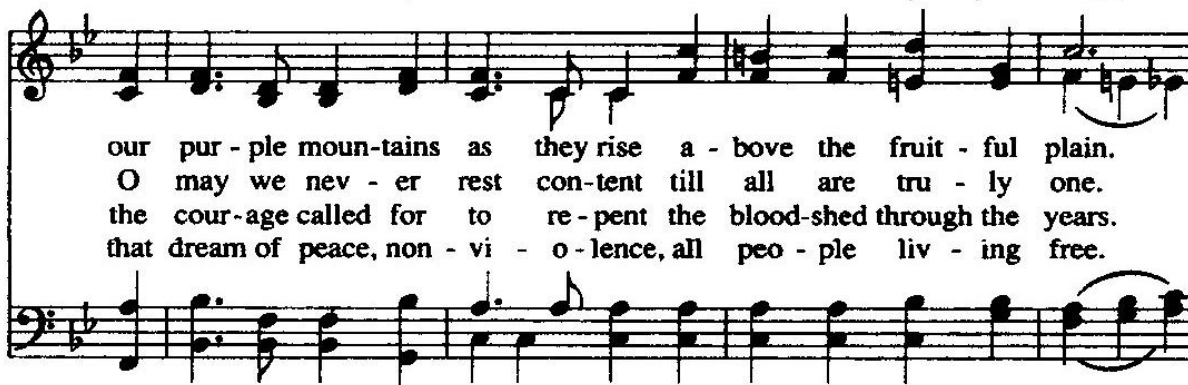
Let us walk with each oth er - in per -fect har -mo -ny.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be gin with me.



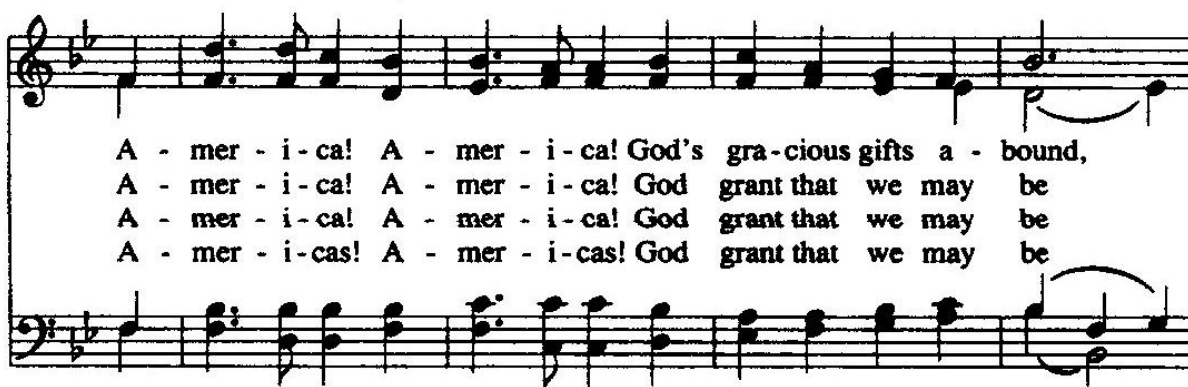
How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies



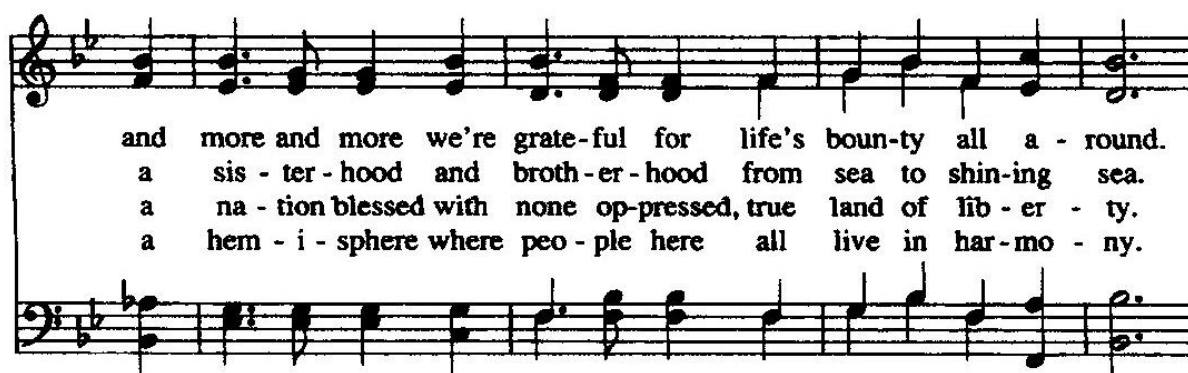
1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am - ber waves of grain;
2 In - dig - e-nous and im - mi - grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:
3 How beau-ti-ful, sin - cere la - ment, the wis - dom born of tears,
4 How beau-ti-ful, two con - ti - nents, and is - lands in the sea



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.