



Rally Around Sunday
*"Stewardship Is
Light Work"*

Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Reflection"
(M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

Ring of the Bell

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

One: We have lost our sense and our senses—our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are; we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our Earth and injuring ourselves:

All: We call a halt.

One: We want to rest.

All: We need to rest and allow the Earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

One: We declare a Sabbath,

All: a space of quiet: for simple being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again. Amen.

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

Gracious Lord, you are the artist of creation and the bearer of life; give us the wisdom and understanding to care for the Earth. Grant that as we see and experience all the blessings and mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Siyahamba / We are marching"

SoF #120

Readings

Sherry Bernick

Psalm 8; Romans 8:38-39, Contemporary Reading "Earth Ball" By: Olaf Skarsholt

Special Music

"Let the Mystery Be"
(Iris DeMent)

Alice Langby, Heather Jerrie

Sermon

"Season of Creation: Our Place"

Pastor René Mehlberg

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

“Coat of Many Colors”

Alice Langby, Heather Jerrie

(Dolly Parton)

***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)**

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: Accept the first fruits we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“This Is My Song / Finlandia”

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

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Oxana Khramova

(arr. M. Hayes)

The flowers today are from Deb and Alan Benoit, thanking everyone who volunteers to do various jobs at our church. Today, after our service, you will have an opportunity to sign up to volunteer and help our church run smoothly throughout the year.

Credits

- Liturgy pieces including Contemporary Reading from ELCA. “Awakening God’s Call to Earthkeeping.” ELCA Resources, August 14, 2024. <https://resources.elca.org/stewardship/awakening-gods-call-to-earthkeeping/>.
- Prayer of Gratitude from “Living Water” Season of Creation. Accessed August 30, 2026. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>.
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This Week

Monday, September 14, 6pm Christian Education Committee, R1

Wednesday, September 2: 9am Thursday’s Table meeting R1; **5:30pm** Choir Rehearsal;

6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

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.

Siyahamba/We are marching

Additional verses: dancing, singing, praying

We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are mar-ching in the light of God

We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are mar-ching in the light of the God.

light of God. We are mar-ching mar-ching we are mar-ching mar-ching we are

mar-ching in the light of the light of God. We are mar-ching mar-ching we are

mar-ching mar-ching we are mar-ching in the light of God.

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1978

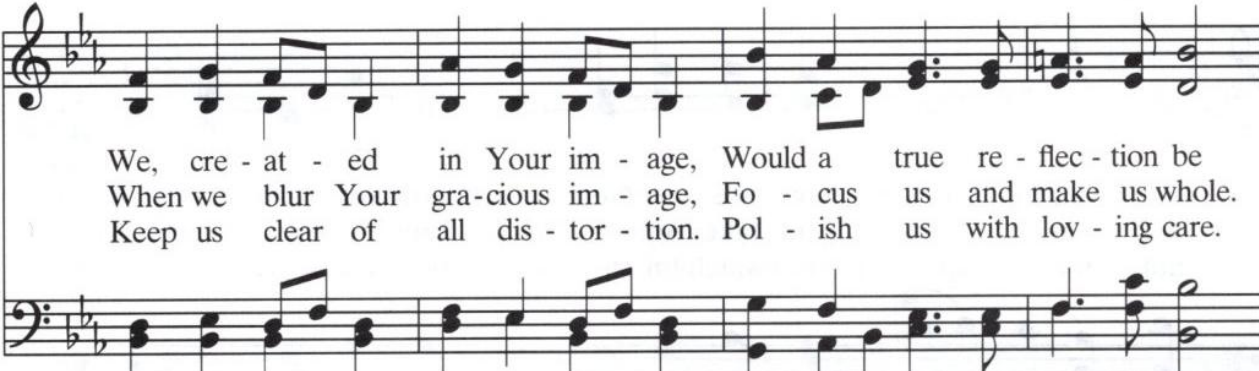
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797



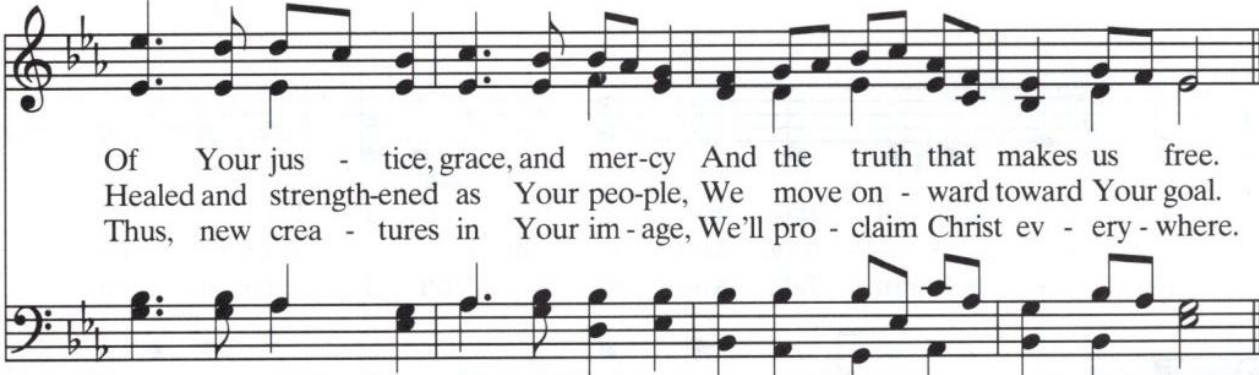
1. God, You spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
 2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min - is - try.
 3. God, Your word is still cre - at - ing, Call - ing us to life made new.



Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
 We re-spond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.
 Now re-veal to us fresh vis - tas Where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre - at - ed in Your im - age, Would a true re - flec - tion be
 When we blur Your gra-cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.
 Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.



Of Your jus - tice, grace, and mer-cy And the truth that makes us free.
 Healed and strength-ened as Your peo-ple, We move on - ward toward Your goal.
 Thus, new crea - tures in Your im - age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

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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