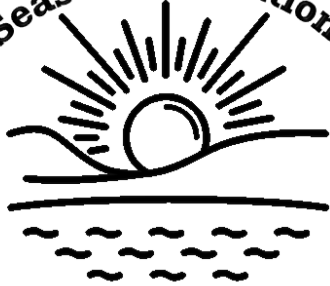


Season of Creation



“Creation Waits”

Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Holy Communion
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting “Song Without Words in E major”
(F. Mendelssohn)

Oxana Khramova

Ringling of the Bell

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

One: God above us – trees, birds and sunshine, stars and moonlight –

All: God above us.

One: God beneath us – earth, rocks and rivers, roots and caverns –

All: God beneath us.

One: God around us – seas, winds and cities, animals and people –

All: God around us.

One: God within us – hope, tears and laughter, love and wonder –

All: God within us.

One: God above us, God beneath us, God within us,

All: We celebrate that you made us, you love us and you call us to work and rest with you.

*Prayer for Creation

One: We pray. Thank you, God, for beauty: the twinkle in an older person’s eye, a child’s shout of laughter; greening trees and frozen waterfalls, stunning buildings and amazing flowerbeds.

All: Thanks for beauty.

One: Thank you, God, for creativity: the skills of a tapestry weaver, the imagination of a web designer; for bakers and dancers and crossword compilers, for spiders’ webs and city murals.

All: Thanks for creativity.

One: Thank you, God, for abundance: for seeds and raindrops, for grains of sand and infinite galaxies; for seagulls, plankton and shoals of mackerel, for wriggling worms and moss.

All: Thanks for abundance.

One: Thanks for your world, God, and our part in it.

All: Help us to love creation as you love it, to take risks to value it as Jesus did, and draw us into the wildness and wonder of your Holy Spirit today and every day. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "O Sing to the Lord" Hymnal #472

Readings Sherry Bernick
Hosea 4:1b,3; John 7:37-39; Contemporary Reading "A Cosmic Mutuality." from the Center for Action and Contemplation

Anthem "How Shall We Greet Him"
(T. York, M. Barrett) Chancel Choir

Sermon "Season of Creation: Creation Waits" Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn "We Will Protect Each Other"
(Lu Aya and the Peace Poets) attached

Prayers of the People

Offertory "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
(W. Runyan, arr. Ph. Keveren) 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** "For the Beauty of the Earth" Hymnal #473

***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 "Because He Lives, Amen" Oxana Khramova
(W. Gaither, arr. Ph. Keveren)

The flowers today are to celebrate Veronica Ellingson's birthday on Oct 7, from her mother Kathy Colvin.

Credits

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- "A Cosmic Mutuality." Center for Action and Contemplation, October 6, 2020. <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-cosmic-mutuality-2020-10-06/>.
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This Week

Monday, October 4, 10am: Care Ministries, R1

Wednesday, October 7: 9:30am Tour of Homes crafts, R1; **11am** Chair Yoga, FH; **4pm** Kid's Club R2; **5:30pm** Chancel Choir, Sanctuary; **6:30pm** Bell Choir, Music Room

Thursday, October 8: 10am Mission for Peace and Justice, R1; **6pm** Church Council, 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.

We will protect each other

Lu Aya and the Peace Poets



Cantad al Señor O Sing to the Lord

11.11.11.10

Brazilian folk song
Trans. Gerhard Cartford (b. 1923)

Brazilian folk melody

Unison
Em

1. Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo,
2. Por - que el Se - ñor ha he - cho pro - di - gios,
3. Can - tad al Se - ñor, ala - bad - le con ar - pa,

1. O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
2. By His ho - ly power our God has done won - ders.
3. So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.

Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo,
Por - que el Se - ñor ha he - cho pro - di - gios,
Can - tad al Se - ñor, ala - bad - le con ar - pa,

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
By His ho - ly power our God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.

Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo,
Por - que el Se - ñor ha he - cho pro - di - gios,
Can - tad al Se - ñor, ala - bad - le con ar - pa,

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
By His ho - ly power our God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.

Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!

O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
And sing to our God, and sing to our God.

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;)

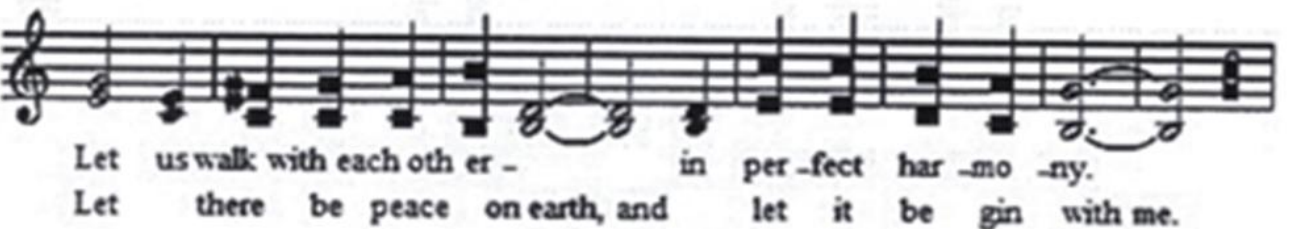
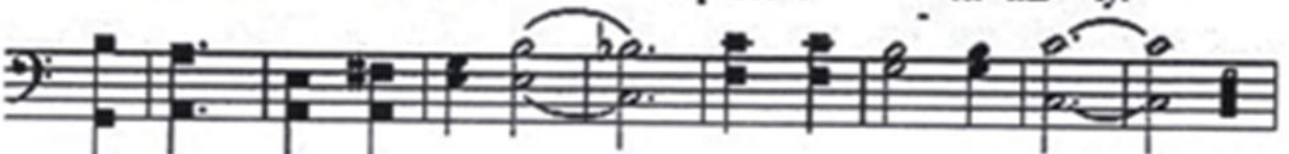
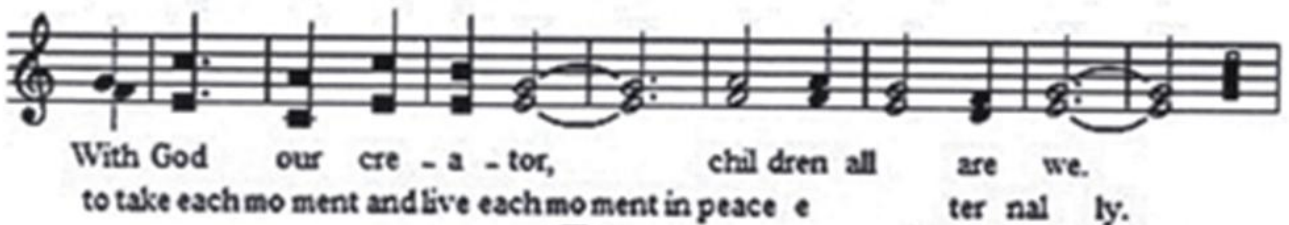
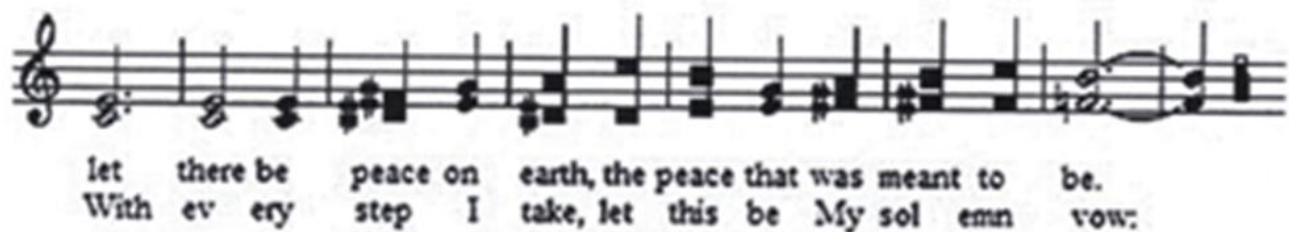
Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)
 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)

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



For the Beauty of the Earth

473

DIX 7.7.7.7.7

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864



1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
 2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
 For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore
 Lifteth holy hands above,
 Offering up on every shore

Her pure sacrifice of love,
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise
 This our hymn of grateful praise.