



WELCOME to WORSHIP

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

Many people contribute to the worship service and you may wish to show your appreciation for them. To allow for reflection throughout the service, we ask that you hold applause to the end of the service unless the Spirit moves you otherwise. During the service, please use the Encourage One Another card found in holders on the back of the pew in front of you to show your appreciation for someone's contribution to the service and drop the card in the offering plate. Thank you!

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Oxana Khramova
(arr. M. Hayes)

Ring of the Bell

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

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

One: Come into God's presence, you who live in this wide and wild world, navigating beauty and uncertainty, temptation and trial.

All: In Christ, we gather as children of God.

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

God of the wildness, you claim us and embrace us in love: we are yours. When we face uncertainties and temptations that cause us to question your provision, doubt our belovedness, or exploit our faith for worldly gain, lead us back, again and again, to words of scripture, and to the living Word, Jesus Christ. May we hold fast in faith and serve you with our whole hearts, this day and always. Amen.

Opening Hymn "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" Hymnal #456

Readings Dawn Ascher
Jeremiah 29:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11; Contemporary Reading, "Affirmation of Faith: Rooted Resistance" from *Illustrated Ministry's "The Work of Imagination" Lent series*

Special Music	"Menuet II" (J.S. Bach, arr. Sh. Suzuki)	Papancha, son of Oxana Khramova
Sermon	"The Work of the Imagination: Rooted Resistance"	Pastor René Mehlberg
Transitional Hymn	"Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls"	attached
Ministry Moment	"There Your Heart Will Be"	Luci Black

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	"Menuet I" (J.S. Bach, arr. Sh. Suzuki)	Papancha, son of 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.**

Blessing of Pledge Cards

***Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

Generous God, we share our gifts like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing our neighbors. May each gift bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	"All My Days"	SoF #2
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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	"All Things Bright and Beautiful" (arr. M. Hayes)	Oxana Khramova
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Credits

- Liturgy pieces from "The Work of Imagination" Lent Series © 2026, an Illustrated Ministry, LLC. product, purchased and used with permission.
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This Week

Sunday, February 22: March Bell deadline

Wednesday, February 25: 10am Women in Good Company; **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

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

456

MORNING HYMN LM

François Hippolyte Barthélémon, 1785
As in *The Church Hymnal*
for the Christian Year, 1917

Thomas Ken, 1695; alt.



1. A - wake, my soul, and with the sun your
2. Lord, I my vows to You re - new, Dis -
3. Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, All

dai - ly stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth, and
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; Guard my first springs of
I de - sign or do or say; That all my powers, with

joy - ful rise To pay your morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
thought and will, And with Your - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, In Your sole glo - ry may u - nite.

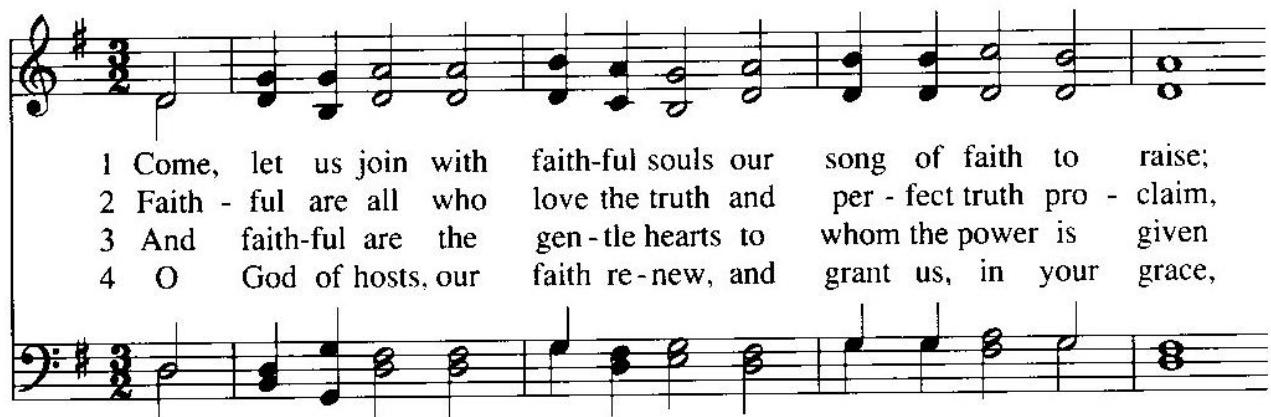
♩=96-104

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

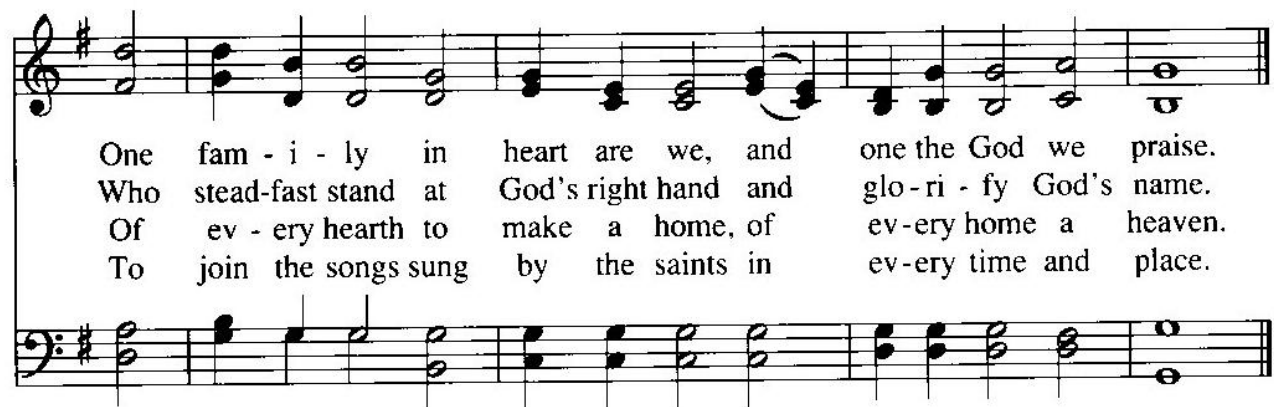
383

William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Rev. 5:11-14



1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
3 And faith-ful are the gen - tle hearts to whom the power is given
4 O God of hosts, our faith re - new, and grant us, in your grace,



One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev - ery home a heaven.
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev - ery time and place.

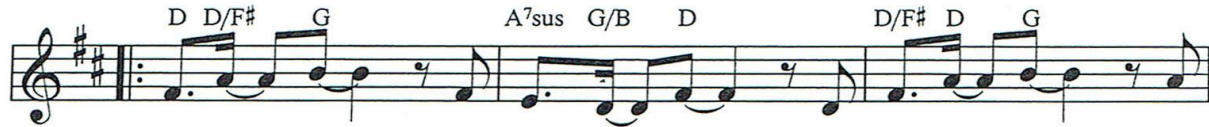
A leader of the Unitarian Church in England, William Tarrant edited a Unitarian weekly and for thirty-seven years ministered to the Unitarian Christian Church in London. This hymn was one of many he wrote for use by that congregation.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Arr. Lowell Mason, in *Modern Psalmody*, 1839

All My Days



1. You



know my_ words, be - fore they're said. You know my need and
I should fly_ be - yond the_ dawn, the shad - ows will_ not
ev - ery_ thought, each word we say,_ the whole of_ time, the
mend my_ heart and free my voice. From sin re - leased, I



I am_ fed. You give me_ life._ You know my_ ways, my
o - ver - come. If I lie_ down in deep - est_ night, still
pre - sent day,_ are held with - in_ your might - y_ hand too
will re - joice. O search me_ now, my spir - it_ cries, and



strength, my path_ for all my_ days, my strength, my_ path, for
you are_ there, my truth, my_ light, still you are_ there, my
won - der - ful_ to com - pre - hend, too won - der - ful_ to
let my_ song of praise a - rise,_ and let my_ song of



all my days.____ 2. If praise a - rise.____
truth, my light.____ 3. Our
com - pre - hend.____ 4. O

Words: Laurie Zelman

Music: Mark A. Miller

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