



WELCOME to WORSHIP

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Easter Sunday
Worship & Communion
April 5, 2026

Easter dawns in grief and darkness. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb not expecting a miracle, but to tend to a loss. Easter is not a denial of crucifixion's horror, nor a naive claim that suffering is gone. It is the unveiling of God's solidarity with int. Resurrection is not spectacle – it is the quiet revolution of love that refuses to stay buried.

Declaration

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Choral Introit

"Creation Sings"
(Shelton Ridge/Shirley Erena Murray)

Chancel Choir

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship** (*Stand if 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 day of resurrection, you who have known grief, you who long for new life, you who carry "Alleluias" in your hearts.

All: In Christ, we gather at the empty tomb.

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 Hymn

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Hymnal #123

Matina Campetti and Cathie Weissman

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

God of resurrection, you held Mary Magdalene in your care when she wept in the garden. Be with us in our own weeping: from grief, from fear, from depression or defeat. Meet us in the garden, risen Christ. Speak our names with tender mercy. Comfort our hearts with the promise that death has been defeated. Weeping and sorrow may last for the night, but joy will return in the resurrection dawn. Amen.

Readings

Dawn Ascher

John 20:1-18; Contemporary Reading, "Affirmation of Faith: Fulfilling Imagination *from Illustrated Ministry's "The Work of Imagination" Lent series*

Special Music

"Risen, Hallelujah!"
(Douglas E. Wagner)

Bell Choir

Sermon

"Fulfilling Imagination"

Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn

"Every Morning is Easter Morning"

attached

Prayers of the People**Offertory**

"Nearer, My God, to Thee"
(L. Mason, 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.

***Benediction**

***Closing Hymn** “Hallelujah Chorus” separate sheet
(G. Handel)

Postlude “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” Oxana Khramova
(J. Darwall, arr. M. Hayes)

*Thank you to all who purchased plants for today’s Easter service.
Please remember to take them with you after the service.*

Credits

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This Week

Monday, April 6: Office is closed for Easter Holyday

Tuesday, April 7, 5:30pm: Mission for Peace and Justice, R1

Wednesday, April 8: 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>

Lyra Davidica, 1708

Stanzas 1-3, Lyra Davidica, 1708

Adapted from *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749

Stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740

Desc. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1955

Descant

1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise e - ter - nal as God's love; Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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Unison

Ev-'ry morn-ing is Eas-ter morn-ing from now on!

Ev-'ry day's re-sur - rec - tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

1 Good-bye guilt, good-bye fear, good rid-dance! Hel - lo, Lord, hel - lo, sun!
 2 Dai - ly news is so bad it seems the Good News sel - dom gets heard.
 3 Yes - ter - day I was bored and lone - ly; but to - day look and see!

D.C.
 I am one of the Eas - ter Peo - ple! My new life has be - gun!
 Get it straight from the Eas - ter Peo - ple! God's in charge spread the word!
 I be - long to the Eas - ter Peo - ple! Life's ex - cit - ing to me! *(to Coda)*

8vb -----

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Eas - ter morn - ing ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn - ing

from now on!

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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



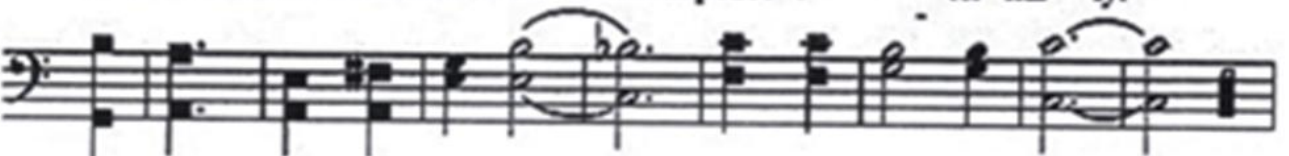
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be gin with me;
Let peace be gin with me; let this be the mo ment now.



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.

