



WELCOME to WORSHIP

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting "Nearer My God to Thee"
(S. Adams and L. Mason, arr. M. Bailey) Oxana Khramova

Ringing of the Bell

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

One: Come, people of God—the dawn is breaking! A new day rises where sorrow had settled in.

All: **The dawn is breaking— and we rise with it.**

One: Where burdens have bent us low, the Holy One draws near, steadyng our steps.

All: **The Holy One draws near— and we gather our courage.**

One: Where yokes have weighed on shoulders and spirits, God is loosening what has held us down.

All: **What held us down is lifting— and we move toward freedom.**

One: Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy.

All: **Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy.**

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

Embodied Presence, remind us of the sacred value of our bodies. In a world that demands we produce, consume, and repeat, we choose to pause. To breathe. To listen. To remember that we were not made for exhaustion, but for embodiment, wonder, and rest. We are here to reclaim our time, our energy, and our right to simply be.

Amen.

Opening Hymn "Today We All Are Called to be Disciples" Hymnal #434

Readings Ellen Ochs

Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-13, 17-23;

Contemporary Reading: *A story told about a Mexican fisherman.*

Special Music "Prayer, from Jewish Life"
(Emest Bloch) Dean Langby

Sermon	“Resisting Empire: Rejecting Hustle, Embracing Slowness”	Pastor René Mehlberg
Transitional Hymn	“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”	Hymnal #369
Ministry Moment	“There Your Heart Will Be”	
Prayers of the People		
Lord’s Prayer		
<p>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.</p>		
Offertory	“Courante from G major unaccompanied cello suite” (J.S. Bach)	Dean Langby
*Doxology		
<p>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.</p>		
*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)		
<p>Holy One, You gather us in, wash us in grace, and remind us we are your Beloveds. Bless these gifts and the lives from which they come. May they ripple out in acts of compassion, in courage where it is needed, in justice that is gentle and strong, in resistance to evil and empire. We offer what we have with joy and trust, for the sake of your dream of flourishing. Amen.</p>		
*Closing Hymn	“This Little Light of Mine”	SoF #142
*Benediction		
*Sung Benediction (unison)		
<p>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.</p>		
Postlude	“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (arr. M. Hayes)	Oxana Khramova

*The flowers today are in celebration of Emily Win’s 39th birthday on January 22nd
from her parents Doris and Than Win.*

Credits

- Armas, Kat. Liturgies for resisting empire: Seeking community, belonging, and peace in a dehumanizing world. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2025. Chapter 6: Rejecting Hustle, Embracing Slowness, pgs 109-110.

- Call to Worship from Howard, Rev. Michael Anthony. "Epiphany 3A - January 25." United Church of Christ, January 8, 2026. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-3a-january-25/>.
- Prayer of Dedication from Howard, Rev. Michael Anthony. "Baptism of Christ a - January 11." United Church of Christ: Worship Ways, December 24, 2025. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/baptism-of-christ-a-january-11/>.
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This Week

Tuesday, January 27: 5pm MAMC; R1; 6pm Palm Sunday Path, R1

Wednesday, January 28: 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

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples 434

KINGSFOLD CMD

H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985

English Country Songs, 1893
Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



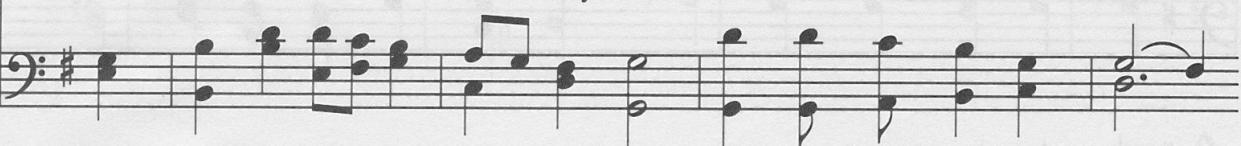
1. To - day we all are called to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord,
2. God made the world and at its birth Or - dained our hu - man race
3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down As in a might-y stream,
4. May we in ser - vice to our God Act out the liv - ing Word,



To help to set the cap - tive free, Make plow-share out of sword,
To live as stew-ards of the earth, Re - spond-ing to God's grace.
With righ-teous - ness in field and town To cleanse us and re - deem.
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.



To feed the hun - gry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,
But we are vain and sad - ly proud, We sow not peace but strife,
For God is long-ing to re - store An earth where con - flicts cease,
As stew-ards of the earth may we Give thanks in one ac - cord



To serve the poor and home-less first, Our ease and com-fort last.
Our dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud That threat-en-s all of life.
A world that was cre - at - ed for A har - mo - ny of peace.
To God who calls us all to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

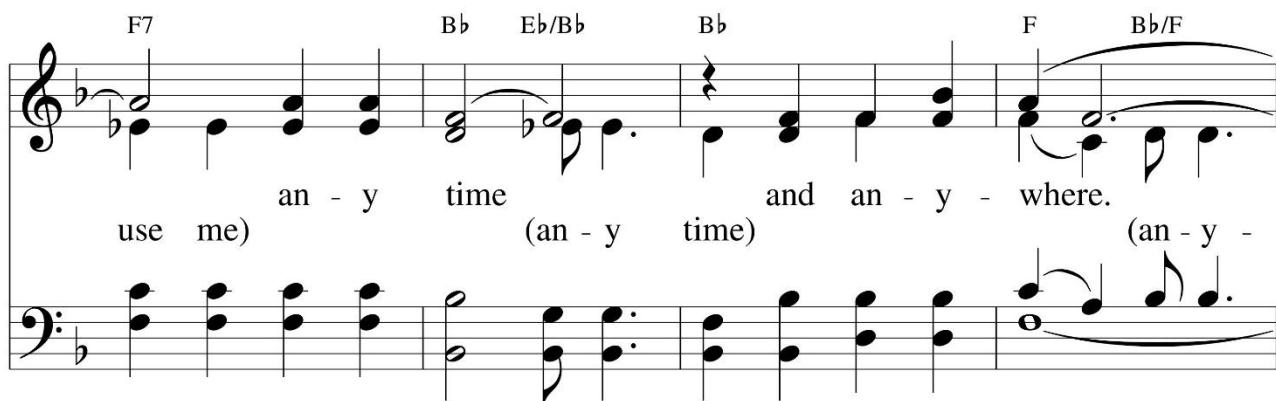


I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 574

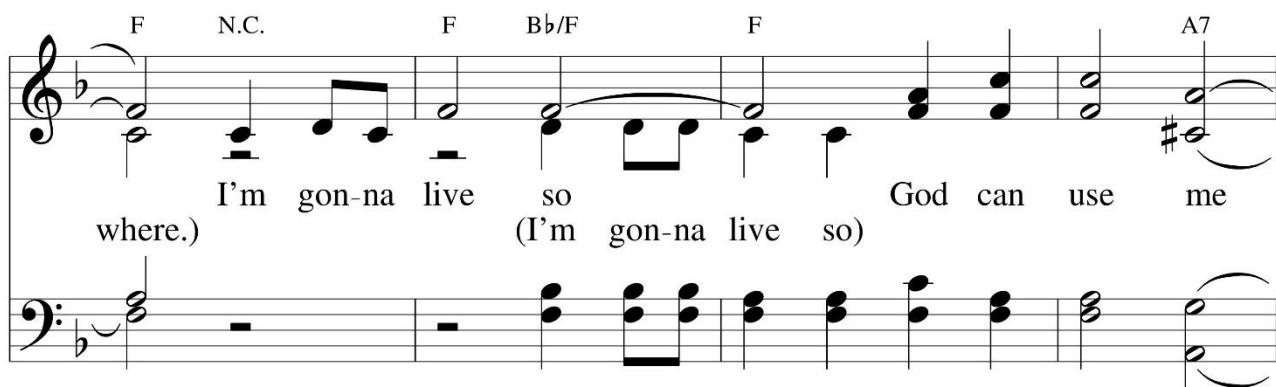
1 I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me (God can



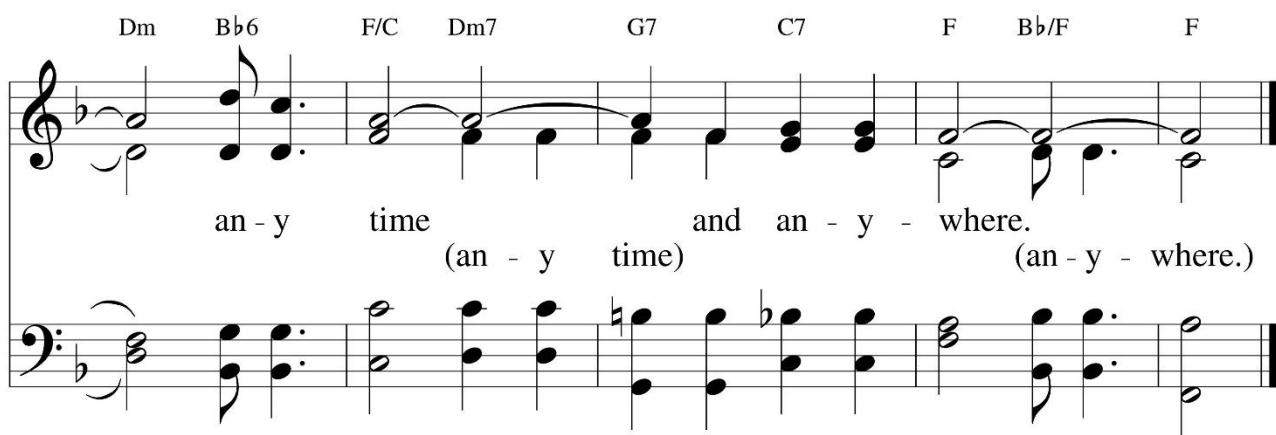
use me) an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y -



where.) I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me



an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y - where.)



2 I'm gonna work...

3 I'm gonna pray...

4 I'm gonna sing...

This Little Light of Mine

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.
oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.
oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.
oh oh

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4. Shine, shine, shine, I'm gonna let it shine....
5. All in my home, I'm gonna let it shine....