



Welcome to Worship

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Worship & Installation of
Rev. René Mehlberg
as Pastor

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"On Eagle's Wings"
(M. Joncas, arr. D. Wagner)

Bell Choir

Ring of the Bell

***Call to Worship** (*Stand if you are able)

Leader: God of love, you create us in love.

All: You create us so that you may love us.

Leader: Christ, you come to us in love and show us how to love.

All: You send us into the world to love.

Leader: Holy Spirit, you fill us with your love so that it is your love, not ours with which we love the world.

All: Renew your love in us, that we may love as you have loved us.

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

God of love, you are love itself. Where love is, there you are. In our thirst for your love, speak your love to us, renew your love in us, and let your love flow through us for the sake of your world. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"Gather Us In"

SoF #44

Readings

Sally Conklin

1 Kings 3:9

Micah 6:8

John 13:34-35, "A Reminder" by Sarah Bessey

Anthem

"Rainbow Connection"
(P. Williams and K. Ascher)

Chancel Choir

Sermon

"Holy Imagination: You are loved. We are loved."

Rev. Michael Jones

Transitional Music

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Hymnal #304

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

"Give Me Jesus"
(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.**

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

Gracious God, we give you our gifts as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace, and use them according to your will. Trusting in your gentle leading, may we follow you into the world to share your love and to do your will, to tend the lost and wounded and hungry for the sake of the healing of the world, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

Installation of Rev. René L. Mehlberg

Greeting

(when prompted)

All: In the celebration of this ministry, let us worship the Creator, who brings life, justice, and mercy into our world and lives. Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. And let us open ourselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit living within us and in our midst.

Presentation

Exhortation

(when prompted)

Members: We, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Menomonie, covenant with Pastor René Mehlberg, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Prayer of Installation

Declaration

(at end)

All: Thanks be to God!

Presentation of Gifts

***Closing Hymn** “From Cornerstone to Cornerstone” Hymnal inside back cover

***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 “Let All Things Now Living” Oxana Khramova
(arr. M. Hayes)

*The flowers today are from Kathy Colvin celebrating her grandson Gabriel Davidson’s high school graduation on May 23rd,
rejoicing in Pastor René’s installation, and
remembering her dad, Jerry Svoboda, on his 100th birthday on May 28th.*

Credits

- Portions of the liturgy was taken from “Unfolding Light: Daily Reflections and Worship Resources” by Steve Garnaas Holmes; <https://unfoldinglight.net/2022/04/04/5th-sunday-of-easter-may-15-2022/>; used with permission.
- Sarah Bessey, “A Reminder,” in A Rhythm of Prayer: A collection of Meditations for Renewal, ed. Sarah Bessey (New York: Convergent, 2020), 24-27.
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This Week

Tuesday, May 20, 4pm: Early Service Planning meeting, Room 1

Wednesday, May 21, 9am: Thursday’s Table meeting, Room 1

Wednesday, May 21: 4pm Kid’s Club; 5:30pm Chancel Choir; **no** Bell Choir

Friday, May 23, 10am: Refugia, Room 1

Special Offering for the Wisconsin Conference Member in Discernment Scholarship Fund.

Please consider giving to this scholarship fund to assist those in the discernment process.

You can give online by scanning the QR code or

Make a check out to Wisconsin Conference UCC and mail to: W1000 Spring Grove Rd, Ripon, WI 54971.



Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ in Menomonie, WI

Thank-you for worshipping with us, especially any visitors or guests!

Visit our website to learn more about our faith community:

<https://www.menomonieucc.org>.

Check out the calendar of events: <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>.

We'd love to see you again!

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.

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Jesus Loves Me!

304

JESUS LOVES ME 7.7.7.7 with refrain

Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859

William Batchelder Bradbury, 1861

1. Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so;
2. Je - sus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long a - go,

The first system of the hymn features a vocal melody in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic pattern in the right hand and a single bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are provided for two verses.

Lit - tle ones to Him be - long; They are weak, but He is strong.
Tak - ing chil - dren on His knee, Say - ing, "Let them come to Me."

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The piano part features a more active right hand with chords and moving lines, while the left hand remains simple. The lyrics describe the love of Jesus for children.

Refrain
Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

The third system is the beginning of the refrain, marked with the word "Refrain". The melody is simple and declarative, and the piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support.

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

The fourth system concludes the hymn with a final statement of the refrain. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand.

From Cornerstone to Cornerstone

Words and Music by Thom Flug

With these hands I will build my church and
One by one we will wel - come all to
As we ga - ther to cel - e - brate the

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two flats. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note, followed by eighth and quarter notes, and then a half note. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes.

fur - nish it with love - from cor - ner - stone to
our com - mu - ni - ty. Drink from the cup and
ev - er - las - ting Word, a con - gre - ga - tion

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the treble staff. The lyrics are split across three lines, with the melody following the phrasing of the words.

cor ner - stone with gui - dance from a - bove. Com -
pass it on to those who would be free. To
of the peo - ple stands with one ac - cord. As

The third system concludes the piece. The melody features a final half note in the treble staff, while the bass staff continues with a few more notes. The lyrics end with 'As'.

mit - ted to this pil - grim - age, my
de - mon - strate our fel - low - ship, to
we have grown to meet the need that

work will ne - ver - cease - to an - chor my foun -
serve the com - mon - good, we ded - i - cate our
we may all be - one - u - ni - ted in our

da - tion with en - dur - ing bonds of peace.
lives to u - ni - ver - sal ser - vant - hood.
mis - sion, a new e - ra has be - gun.