



WELCOME to WORSHIP

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Morning Prayer"
(P.I. Tchaikovsky)

Oxana Khramova

Ring of the Bell

*Call to Worship / Advent Wreath Lighting (*Stand as you are able)

One: We gather together in this place:

All: prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,

One: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

All: we who dare to dream God's dream.

One: We sing with Elizabeth and Mary.

All: Our spirits rejoice in God, our savior!

One: We bless the God of justice and joy,

All: who lifts up the lowly and vulnerable.

One: God's mercy is upon us all,

All: from generation to generation.

One: Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

All: We have come to wonder and praise.

The Advent Candles are lit.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

God of surprises, you interrupt our world with joy and hope beyond our wildest dreams. When we feel forgotten or despair, bless us with your holy joy. When our world feels barren, bless us with the gift of possibility. We pray as people of deep faith, entrusting ourselves and our world to the holy unknown, brought to birth in Jesus, our light and life. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymnal #9

Readings

Sheila Stori

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:39-55;

Contemporary Reading "Affirmation of Joy" from Illustrated Ministry's "The Will to Dream" Advent series

Special Music	"In Light We See, In Light We Are Seen" (Elaine Fine)	Ava Mattson Oxana Khramova
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Message	"The Will to Dream: Unexpected Joy"	Pastor René Mehlberg
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Transitional Hymn	"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"	Hymnal #48
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Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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	"Adagio in B minor" (Joachim Andersen)	Ava Mattson
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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.**

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

Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you because the voices of the prophets remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the kin(g)dom of God comes much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love. Amen.

Closing Hymn	"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"	Hymnal #29
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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	"Wade in the Water" (arr. M. Hayes)	Oxana Khramova
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The flowers today are in celebration of Pamela Wesolek's 50th birthday, today, Dec. 14th, from her parents Deb and John Wesolek.

Credits

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This Week

Tuesday, December 16, 11:30am: Church Council, R1

Wednesday, December 16: 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.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain

Latin, c. 12th century

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854
Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854
Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!
cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

ADVENT

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

German carol, 15th century
 Trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)
 Alt. *Rejoice in the Lord*, 1985

*Alte Catholische Geistliche
 Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599
 Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung,
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in mind,

Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing, By faith - ful proph - ets sung,
 With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.

It came a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right She bore for us a

win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

African-American spiritual

Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Fine

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth,
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born,

D.C.

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.