



**WELCOME  
to WORSHIP**  
**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**  
Menomonie, Wisconsin  
First Sunday of Advent  
November 30, 2025

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude/Candle Lighting**

"Piano Piece III"  
(C. Franck)

Oxana Khramova

## Ringling 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 proclaim expectation with Isaiah!

**All: God's redemption is near!**

One: Through tears and through trials,

**All: we hold fast to our hope.**

One: Do not fear, for God is faithful.

**All: Our redemption rises with the dawn.**

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

**All: We have come to wonder and praise.**

### **\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

God who is, who was, and who is to come, we enter this season of Advent keenly aware of the brokenness in and around us. Comfort our longing spirits, and teach us again how to be people of profound hope. You never leave our side, but walk with us in our pilgrimage toward the renewed world you promise. We pray as expectant people, seeking again the assurance of your salvation, brought to birth in Jesus Christ, our hope and our Savior. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hymnal #2

## **Readings**

Dawn Ascher

Isaiah 2:1-5

Mark 13:24-37

Contemporary Reading, "Affirmation of Hope"

## **Special Music**

"Better Together"

Richie Price

(Jack Johnson)

## **Message**

"The Will to Dream: Vigilant Hope"

Pastor René Mehlberg

## **Transitional Music**

"Watcher, Tell Us of the Night"

Hymnal #20

## **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**

"Carolina in my Mind"

Richie Price

(James Taylor)

## **\*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)**

**Beloved Creator, we offer these gifts to you in the spirit of Hope. We place our trust in you and in those who faithfully care for your people, that these gifts will be used to protect and uplift those who are in need. Help us to remember our role to act as agents of your grace each and every day. Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

"Christ, Be Our Light!"

SoF #24

## **\*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**

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Oxana Khramova

(Ch. Allen, arr. M. Hayes)

*The flowers today are from Sally Conklin in memory of her mother, LaVonne Souther, and remembering her birthday on December 2nd.*

## **Credits**

- "The Will to Dream" Advent Series © 2025 is an Illustrated Ministry, LLC. product, purchased and used with permission.
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## **This Week**

**Tuesday, December 2, 5pm:** Mission for Peace and Justice Committee, R1

**Wednesday, December 3: 4pm** Kid's Club; **5:30pm;** Chancel Choir; **6:30pm** Bell Choir

**Thursday, December 4, 5pm:** Personnel Committee, R1

**Saturday, December 6, 10am-2pm:** Tour of Homes, various locations

**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.

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy  
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us;  
 yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

Let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
 Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of  
 Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



*Isa. 21:11-12**John Bowring, 1825; alt.*

1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav - eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!  
 Trav - eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.  
 Trav - eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter - ror are with-drawn.

Watch-er, does its beau - teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?  
 Watch-er, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-er, you may go your way; has - ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el!  
 Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!  
 Trav-eler, I re - joice to-day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

# CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell

## Verses



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark - ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou - bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

## Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.



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