



Welcome to Worship

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Mothers Day
Bridge Sunday
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

“Trust and Obey”
(Michael Helman)

Bell Choir

Ringing of the Bell

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

One: God, in you we live and move and have our being.

All: We are your children, and we praise you.

One: You do not leave us orphaned, as Christ comes to us and dwells with us.

All: We are your Beloved, and we thank you.

One: You are in us, and we are in you, and your Spirit works through us.

All: We are your Body, and we worship you.

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

God of love, though you are infinite and unknowable, yet you make yourself known to us. You come to us in love, reveal yourself to us in love, and give us your Spirit of love. We open our hearts to you now. Speak to us, stir in us, so that we may know you, so that Christ may be in us and we in Christ, even as Christ is in you. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Mothering God”

attached

Readings

John 14:15-21

Contemporary Readings: “Job's Wife” and “The Mother’s Blessing”

Ellen Ochs

Special Music

“Nocturne in C Minor”
(Michael Helman)

Bell Choir

Sermon

“Love Forward”

Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn

“When Love is Found”

SoF #155

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

**"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
(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)

Generous God, we share our gifts like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing our neighbors. May each gift bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Hymnal #267

*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

**"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
(arr. M. Hayes)**

Oxana Khramova

On this beautiful Mother's Day, the flowers are to celebrate all mothers everywhere and to remember our mothers, Joy Douglas and Rose Wesolek, from Deb and John Wesolek.

Credits

- Call to Worship and Opening Prayer by Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. "Worship Resources." Worship Resources – Unfolding Light. Accessed May 5, 2026. <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/01/02/6th-sunday-of-easter/>.
- Furlong, Monica, ed. Women pray: Voices through the ages, from many faiths, cultures, and. S.I.: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2004; pgs 161-162, 201.
- Prayer of Gratitude from "The Work of Imagination" Lent Series © 2026, an Illustrated Ministry, LLC. product, purchased and used with permission.
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This Week

Monday, May 11, 5pm: Property Committee, R1

Tuesday, May 12, 4pm: Executive Committee, R1

Wednesday, May 13: 4pm Kid's Club; **5:30pm** Chancel Choir

Saturday, May 16, 2pm: Gathering to Remember Tom Richards

Link to the full church calendar: <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413

Music: NORWICH. Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

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When Love is Found

Brian Wren



When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be glad that two are



one. When love ex - plodes and fills the sky, praise God and share our Mak - er's joy.

2. When love is tried and loved-ones change,
hold still to hope, though all seems strange,
till ease returns and love grows wise
through listening ears and opened eyes.

3. Praise God for love, praise God for life,
in age or youth, in calm or strife.
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed
through death and life in broken bread.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

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ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6 with refrain

English melody, 17th century
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915
Harm. for *The Hymnbook*, 1953

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful: The Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings:
2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright-ens up the sky,
The ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.
How great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.*

**Repeat Refrain.*

Music: Harmonization copyright, MCMLV, by John Ribble; renewed 1983; from *The Hymnbook*, published by Westminster Press.