



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Amazing Grace"
(Ch. Tomlin and L. Giglio, arr. C. Tornquist)

Oxana Khramova

Ring of the Bell

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

Leader: In this beautiful, terrible world

All: guide us into living resistance.

Leader: We can't fix everything in this broken world, so

All: guide us into living resistance of what is possible.

Leader: As we dream of a better world,

All: guide us into the living resistance work to make those dreams a reality.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

O Great Mystery, we are here doing our best to live and love resisting hate, resisting greed, resisting all the things that you never called good. As we continue our journey here on earth, lead us in holy lifelong resistance work, in its many forms, of which you will be proud. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Hymnal #298

Readings

Exodus 1:8-9, 15-21

Luke 13:10-17

Resistance Commitment

Karen Miller

Special Music

"Bourees from Suite in B minor"
(J.S. Bach)

Leah Langby

Sermon

"Lifelong Resistance"

Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Music

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

Hymnal #369

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

"Minuet from Suite in B minor"
(J.S. Bach)

Leah Langby

*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)

Loving One, we give you our gifts as symbols of our lives in love for you and one another. May these gifts be used for the common good so all your children, near and far, experience connection, belonging, community, and dignity. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Guide My Feet"

Hymnal #354

*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

"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"
(M. Smith, arr. C. Tornquist)

Oxana Khramova

*The flowers today are in celebration of Jim Collins August birthday from his mother, Lyn.
Happy Birthday, Jim!*

Credits

- Call to Worship and Opening Prayer inspired by *Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day* by Kaitlin B. Curtice, Grand Rapids, MI; Brazos Press 2023; *Resistance Commitment* pages 191-192.
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This Week

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

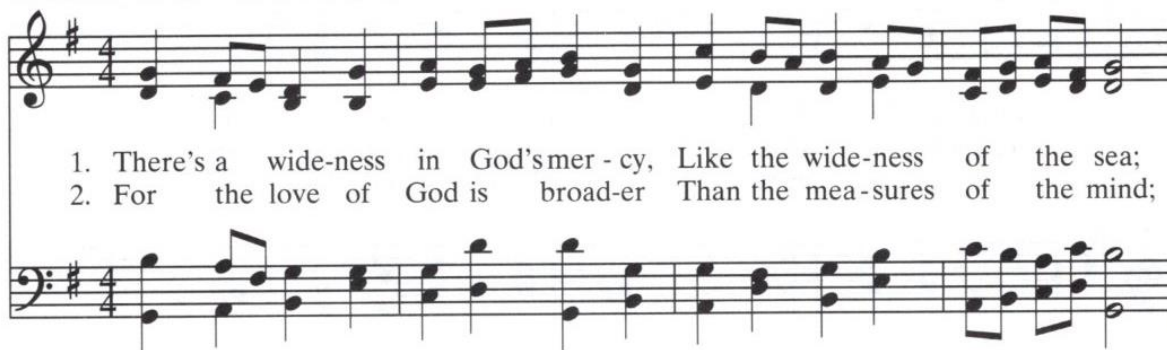
We covenant as a congregation to welcome, celebrate, and include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their families into the full life of our church. We take this stance publicly and proudly, knowing that silence is inadequate to confront the violent theology that is 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.

298 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

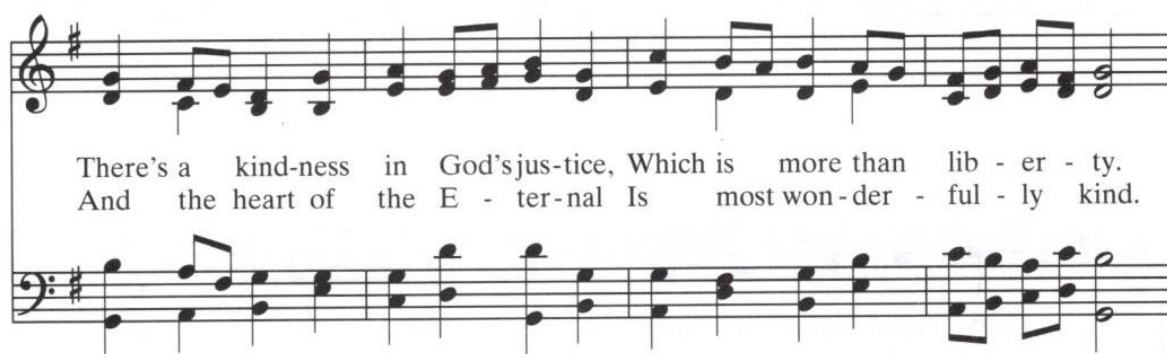
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Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

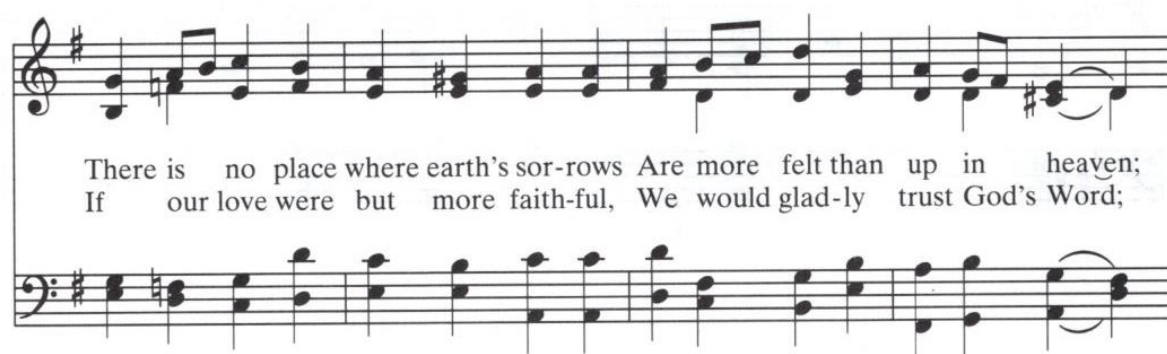
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)



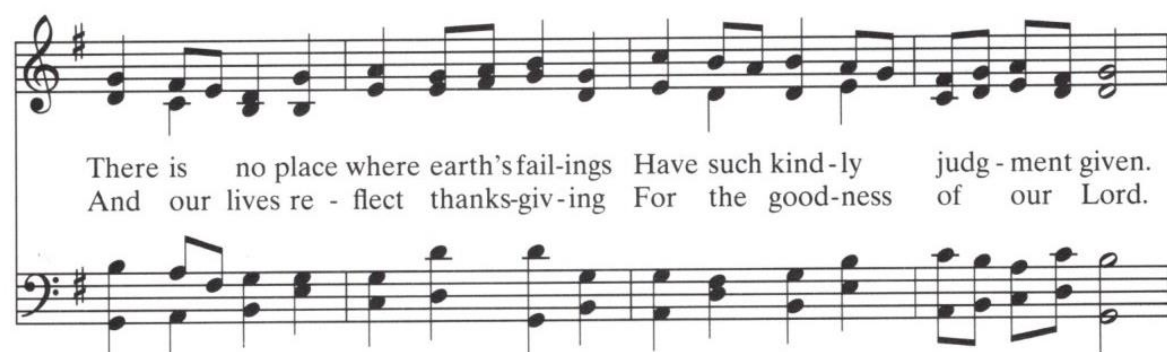
1. There's a wide-ness in God'smer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;



There's a kind-ness in God'sjus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.

369

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE Irregular

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual
Arr. Wendell Whalum (1932–1987)

1. I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2. I'm gon-na work so (work so)
3. I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4. I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y - where, Lord,

an - y - time! I'm gon-na live so (live so)
I'm gon-na work so (work so)
I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can

use me an - y - where, Lord, an - y - time!
(my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

Music: Arrangement © by the estate of Wendell Whalum. Used by permission.

Guide My Feet

354

GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual
Harm. Wendell Whalum (1932–1987)

1. Guide my feet
2. Hold my hand while I run this race,
3. Stand by me
4. I'm Your child

yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Stand by me
I'm Your child

yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
Stand by me
I'm Your child

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

5. Search my heart . . .

6. Guide my feet . . .