



## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude/Candle Lighting**

"Adoration"  
(M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

**Ringling of the Bell**

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

Leader: Hope is like a seed, small yet full of possibility.

**All: Hope takes root in our communities and grows into movements of love and justice.**

Leader: Hope is our vision, fed by our imagination and our passion for a new and better world for all God's creation.

**All: We gather to worship, celebrate, and strengthen each other, so together and as we leave this space we plant seeds of hope across the land. Amen and Amen!**

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

God of creation, we give you thanks for the seeds you scatter: for mustard seeds of faith, for seeds of justice, for seeds of hope. We thank you for the communities that nurture your creation and one another. We thank you for small beginnings that grow into mighty works of love. Plant your hope in us, O God, and help us grow into a living witness of your kingdom. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn**

"God Reigns o'er All the Earth"

attached

**Readings**

Karen Miller

Psalm 8; John 1:1-5; "Warned" by Sylvia Stults

**Special Music**

"Loving the Questions"  
(Bryce Black)

Bryce Black and Dean Langby

**Sermon**

"A New Season.... for Planting Seeds of Hope!"

Pastor

René Mehlberg

**Transitional Music**

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

SoF #27

**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

"This Planet"  
(Bryce Black)

Bryce Black and Dean 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)

Generous One, for the blessings and bounty you have given us, we give back to you to help the lost, the hungry, the hurting, the forsaken. Guide us in stewarding these gifts for all your creation and your children to experience care, connection, community, and love. Amen.

## \*Closing Hymn

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

Hymnal #268

## \*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

"Important Event"  
(R. Schumann)

Oxana Khramova

*The flowers are from Karen Miller, as a tribute to the Sun. "Coined there among lonely horizontals you exist openly. Our needs hourly climb and return like angels. Unclosing like a hand, you give for ever."*  
*Verse is from Philip Larkin's poem "Solar".*

## Credits

- Call to worship and Opening Prayer adapted from Liturgical Resources for Climate Hope-Themed Worship Service; written by the Rev. Allyson Sawtell and Sue Mueller; <https://www.ucc.org/climate-hope-toolkit-for-sun-day/>
- "Warned" by Sylvia Stults accessed September 17, 2025 from <https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/sunday-musings-c77>
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## This Week

**Monday, September 22, 10am:** Care Ministries, R1

**Tuesday, September 23, 4pm:** Early Service committee, R1

**Wednesday, September 24:** 5:30pm Chancel Choir; 6:30pm Bell Choir

**Saturday, September 27, 10am:** Braver Angels workshop, United Methodist Church

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.

# God Reigns o'er All the Earth

21

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7-10

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a system of music. The first system includes a four-part vocal introduction. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the  
2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in  
3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by-gone days, Christ's  
4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.  
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
faith - ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.  
all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in  
God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still. Through  
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun, through  
God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's

rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.  
all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.  
time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven - ly mu - sic run.  
pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

*The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.*

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.  
Traditional English melody  
Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

♩ = 66

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

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# 268 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7 D

Catherine Arnott Cameron, 1967; alt.

Attr. William Moore, 1825  
Harm. Charles Anders, 1969

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens In - fi - nite in  
2. We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of Since the child-hood  
3. As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, May it chal-lenge

Bb7 Dm C Dm C Bb7

time and place, Flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance  
of our race; Known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing  
us a - new: Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose,

Am Bb7 C F F Dm7

Through the si - lent fields of space: We, Your chil - dren  
Through un - trav - eled realms of space; Probed the se - crets  
Serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring You. May our dreams prove

B♭7 Gm7 B♭7 Am7 B♭7 Gm7 C

in Your like - ness, Share in - ven - tive powers with You;  
 of the at - om, Yield - ing un - i - mag - ined power,  
 rich with prom - ise, Each en - deav - or well be - gun;

F Dm C Gm7 Am B♭7 C6 C F

Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, Show us what we yet may do.  
 Fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion Or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
 Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance Till our goals and Yours are one.