



## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude/Candle Lighting**      "What Should I, a Sinner, Do?"      Oxana Khramova  
(J. Pachelbel)

## Ringling of the Bell

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

Leader: Mary Oliver writes, "I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

**All: I do know how to pay attention."**

Leader: Kaitlin Curtice writes, "... prayer is those tiny moments.

**All: It's the poetry I've been writing since I was young.**

Leader: Maybe prayer is about the search."

**All: Remembering, "God cannot be given or earned. No, God is found."**

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

**O Great Mystery, prayer is one way we communicate with you as we share our worries, wonders, feelings, and so much more. May how we pray, how we communicate and connect with you be as expansive as your universe. Open us to listen for you in return, especially when what we ask for isn't answered as we desire. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**      "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"      Hymnal #369

**Readings**      Ron Welsch

Hosea 1:2-7; Luke 11:1-13

Excerpt from "Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith, and Accepting Grace"

**Special music**      "From a Distance"      Sara Morgan Martinek  
(J. Gold)

**Sermon**      "Prayer as Resistance"      Pastor René Mehlberg

**Transitional Music**      "Just A Closer Walk with Thee"      Sof #74

**Prayers of the People**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Good caring presence within us, around us, and above us; Hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder. Let the fullness of your goodness be within us and around us; Let all the world know your ways of caring and generosity.**

**May we find we have all we need to meet each day without undue anxiety.**

**Overlook our many stupidities, and help us to release everyone from their stupidities.**

**May we all know that we are accepted.**

**Strengthen us that we will reach out to the best, always with the faith to rise above the ugly realities of our existence.**

**And we celebrate the gifts you have given us –the rich kingdom of life's possibilities the power to do good and the triumphs of good and the moments when we have seen the glory and wonder of everything.**

**You are life's richness. You are life's power. You are life's ultimate meaning –Amen.**

## **Offertory**

**"Orphan Girl"**  
(Emmy Lou Harris)

Sara Morgan Martinek

## **\*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**

**"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

Hymnal #403

## **\*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**

**"For All the Saints"**  
(R. V. Williams, arr. M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

*The flowers today are in celebration of Deb and John Wesolek's 56th wedding anniversary on July 26th!*

## **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.
- Deanna A Thompson, Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith, and Accepting Grace (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2012), 61-62.
- Francis Macnab "The Lord's Prayer," Progressive Christianity, used with permission of Polebridge Press, November 4, 2012, July 16, 2025, <https://progressivechristianity.org/resource/the-lords-prayer/>
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## **This Week**

**Tuesday, July 29, 11am:** “Rally Sunday” Planning, Room 1

**Wednesday, July 30, 9am-3pm:** Red Cross Blood Drive

**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.

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## 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!

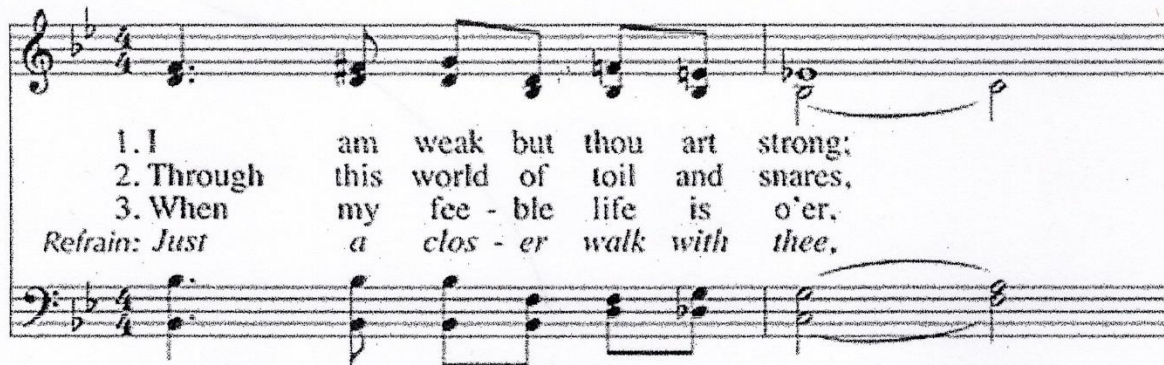
I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
I'm gon-na work so (work so)  
I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

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.

# Just a Closer Walk with Thee



1. I am weak but thou art strong;  
 2. Through this world of toil and snares,  
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er.  
 Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee.



Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
 If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?  
 Time for me will be no more;  
 Grant it. Je - sus, is my plea;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long  
 Who with me my bur - den shares?  
 Guide me gen - tly, safe - ly o'er  
 Dai - ly walk - ing close to thee.



As I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
 To thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.  
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

## 403

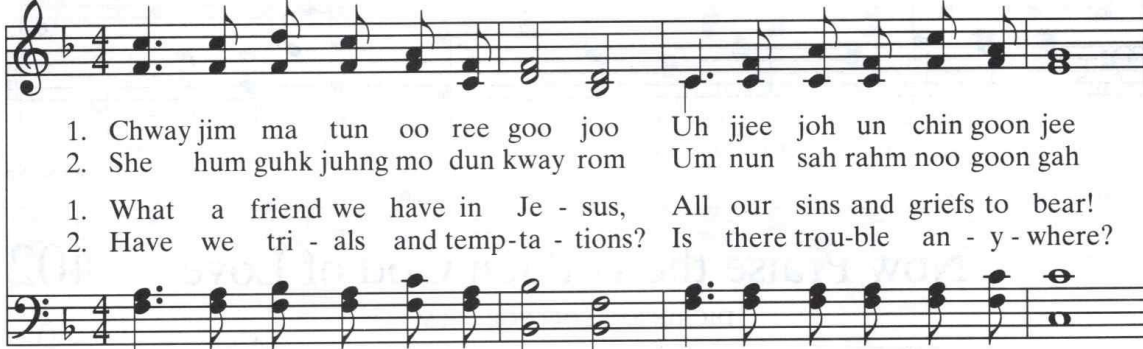
Jin Shil Ha Shin Chin Goo  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE 8.7.8.7 D

Joseph Scriven, c. 1855

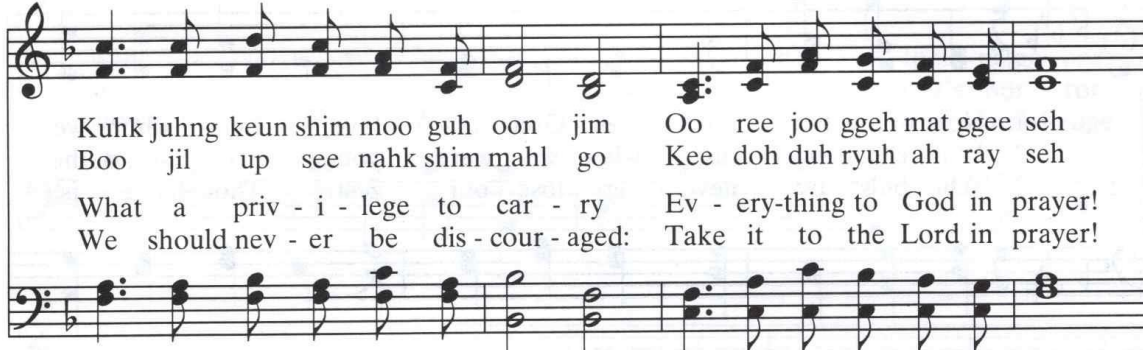
Transliteration of Korean: Myung Ja Yue

Charles Crozat Converse, 1868



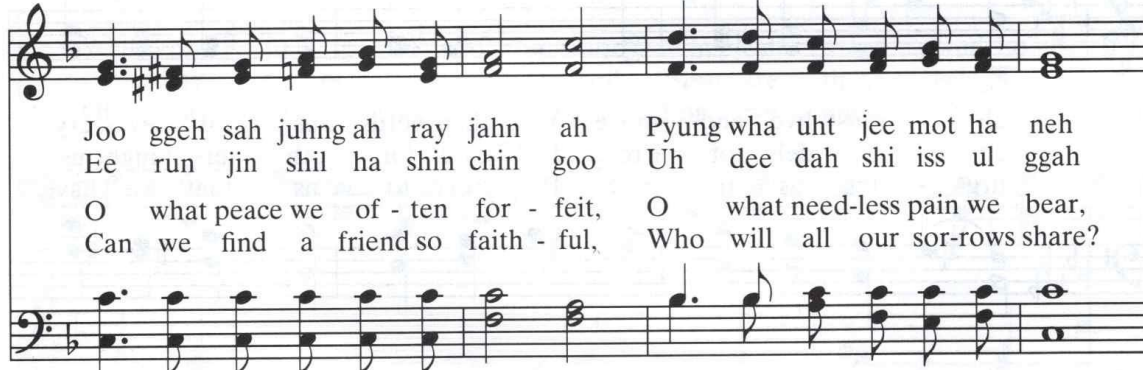
1. Chway jim ma tun oo ree goo joo Uh jjee joh un chin goon jee  
 2. She hum guhk juhng mo dun kway rom Um nun sah rahm noo goon gah

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y - where?



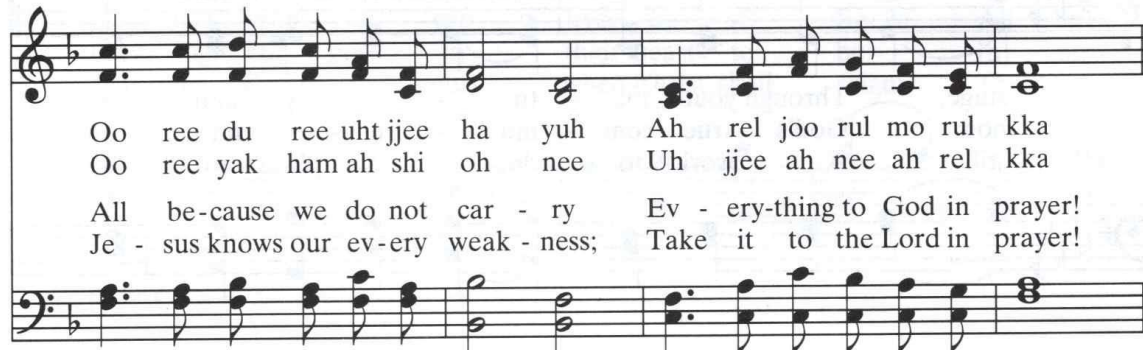
Kuhk juhng keun shim moo guh oon jim Oo ree joo ggeh mat ggee seh  
 Boo jil up see nahk shim mahl go Kee doh duh ryuh ah ray seh

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged: Take it to the Lord in prayer!



Joo ggeh sah juhng ah ray jahn ah Pyung wha uht jee mot ha neh  
 Ee run jin shil ha shin chin goo Uh dee dah shi iss ul ggah

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor-rows share?



Oo ree du ree uht jjee ha yuh Ah rel joo rul mo rul kka  
 Oo ree yak ham ah shi oh nee Uh jjee ah nee ah rel kka

All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev-ery weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!