

Gather 'round: What do you think?



~ Welcome Visitors! ~

We are glad that you chose to join us for worship this morning. We hope that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you will feel welcome here.

Land Acknowledgement: Our Earth, "On Sacred Ground"

As we gather on this beautiful sacred ground on which our church building sits, we acknowledge that the land we occupy is the sacred ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the 11 Tribes of Wisconsin. In gratitude, we honor this land and the untold generations of its indigenous caretakers. Because of their stewardship, the rivers ran clean, the air was pure, and the trees and the land thrived. As we celebrate God's abundance and listen to the possibilities the seeds we will be planting have to teach us. As you progress in your life's journey, we invite you to protect the water, air, and land. To learn and honor the rich history of native cultures, ancient wisdom, the diversity of thought, and the call for an interconnected future.

"We Do Not Inherit the Land From Our Ancestors; We Borrow It From Our Children." Chief Seattle

Memorial UCC's land acknowledgment written by Art Shegonee

GATHERING TOGETHER

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal in the holder by your pew chair.

Children: Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. That is why we are excited to have children of all ages with us throughout the service on the first Sunday of each month. On other Sundays, children are invited to attend Sunday School following the message for all—though they are still welcome in worship. If you want to have your younger children (ages 0-4) taken care of during the service, we have a nursery available at 9:30 am.

Prelude *Morning Has Broken* Penny Rodriguez

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *All Are Welcome* Marty Haugen

***Call to Worship¹**

One: All that was, all that is, all that ever will be dwells in the life of God.

All: We are inseparable from generations past and generations future.

One: The lives of the ones who came before us are present all around us.

All: The needs of those to come call upon us today.

One: What are we doing with all we have inherited – the wonderful and the distressing?

All: What will we leave behind?

One: May God's blessing be upon us as we strive to live faithfully in the days we have been given.

¹ Adapted from Bolton, Rev. Molly, "enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters," enfleshed, October 25, 2020, <https://enfleshed.com/>.

***Opening Prayer**

Eternal Wisdom, in the midst of all of life's noise, we long to recognize your voice. Where we have been led astray by the loudest and most visible, the power-hungry and the greedy, you call us back. Back to your way that nourishes. Back to what grounds and sustains. Today and always, may we be open to your Spirit whose truth leads us home. Amen.

Message for All *Gather 'round: Communion and Baptism* Pastor Kris

Baptisms of Miles Matthew Schmit and Jordan Ray Schmit

Congregational assent

Will you, who form the community of love in which Miles and Jordan will grow in their faith, keep this family in your hearts and prayers and give them an example of faith, hope and love that they may see in you the kind of life God intends for us all?

All: We promise our love, support and care.

Act of Baptism

***Hymn** *There's a Spirit of Love in This Place* (see insert)

Youth who would like to take part in the Worship Scavenger Hunt will be leaving the sanctuary at this time.

HEARING THE WORD

First Bible Reading **Psalm 25:1-9**

Special Music **Unexpected Places** **Heather Sorenson**

The Good News **Matthew 21:23-32**

Reflection **Gather 'round: What Do You Think?** **Pastor Kris**

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer *Come now, O God of Peace/O-So-So* **Geonyong Lee**

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-571-5870. Pastor Kris will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org

Prayer of Jesus

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.

SHARING A MEAL

Come to God's Extravagant Table—wherever you are.

- *For those who will be receiving the sacrament in church, the elements will be prepared for you.*
- *Those who are blessing and receiving the sacrament at home, please prepare a slice or small loaf of bread, corn tortilla, or rice cake to share and a cup or small cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.*

Invitation to the Table²

Words of Remembering

*Communion

Take the Bread and Wine

Faye López

Please come forward. Take a piece of bread and dip it in the juice or wine if you wish. The bread is gluten free. The grape juice is white; the wine is red. If you are worshipping at home, you may serve yourself. Or, if you are with others consider serving each other. All are welcome at this meal.

² Adapted from *A Wee Worship Book* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2010), 95

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Kris: Nourished by the Spirit to go beyond the walls of the building and share the Good News, let us give thanks...

All: God, through the Spirit present in this meal, we have been nourished in new ways. Jesus welcomes us just as we are into this sacred space. We go forth to retell the Story of this—Your Table—through which you reveal your grace, your abundant Love, and your vision for all to gather here. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

***Song for Going Out** *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

vss 1, 3, & 4

***Benediction**

Postlude

Canzone

Colin Curtis

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Music Director), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Rebecca Malke (Director of Faith Development), and Pastor Kris Gorton

Readers: Terry Hoffman and Barb Gallogly-Turner

Lighting the Christ Candle: Volunteer needed

Communion Preparation: Janine Bessemer

Ushers: Roger Elver and Steve Gorton

Media Room: Jeffrey Lipford

Camera Tech: Volunteer needed

Fellowship Hosts: Volunteer needed

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042

Refreshments and Conversation: Following worship, if you are with us in-person, you are invited to stay for conversations and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Worship generally runs until around 10:30 a.m. or shortly after.

Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.



Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you!

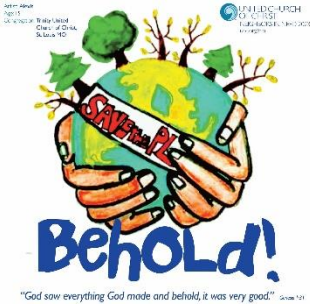


Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities:

Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not need a PayPal account to make one-time or recurring donations. Visit memorialucc.org and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at halpincjo@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Pastor Kris would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact her at pastorkris@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org. You can also follow us on Facebook (@FitchburgMemorialUCC), Twitter (@MemUCC), or join our Facebook group Memorial UCC: Ever-Widening Circles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

In 2023, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on environmental justice.

Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

Visit <https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/neighbors-in-need/neighbors-in-need-donation> to make your donation online, visit MUCC's donation link and choose Neighbors in Need, or leave a check in the offering plate with NIN in the memo line.

VEGGIE CHILI DINNER!

TODAY Sunday, October 1, 6 pm, come to Memorial for a simple supper. The confirmation students will be getting together for their first Bible Bootcamp session from 3:45-6 pm. And then... we EAT!

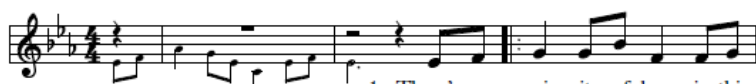


Pastor Kris will make vegetable chili and cornbread. You are welcome to contribute an item to the meal, but do not need to. The COMMUNITY and CONVERSATION are the most important ingredients! If you will be coming please let Kris know so she can plan accordingly (pastorkris@memorialucc.org)... but don't hesitate to stop by even if you have not RSVP'd!

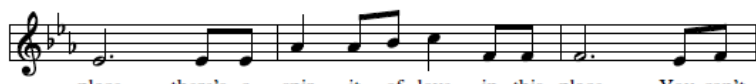
MUCC BOOK GROUP: Monday, October 2 at 8:30 am at The Rolling Pin Bakery

The book to be discussed is *HIJAB BUTCH BLUES: A memoir* by Lamya H. All are welcome!

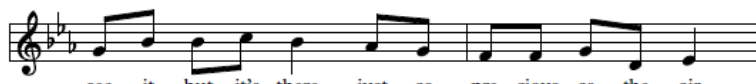
3148 There's a Spirit of Love in This Place



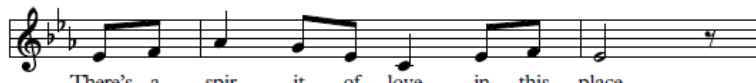
1. There's a spir - it of love in this
(2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this



place, there's a spir - it of love in this place. You can't
room, there's the pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre - cious as the air.
ten - der - ness is found peace that pass - es hu - man bounds.



There's a spir - it of love in this place.
There's the pres - ence of peace in this room.



O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia,



name, we bless your name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia!



name. O al - le - lu - ia



(unison) There's a spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

WORDS: Mark A. Miller

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

MEDEMA

Irr.

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God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

Gen. 2:7; John 10:11-16

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1987

1 God the Spir - it, guide and guard - ian, wind - sped
 2 Christ our Sav - ior, sov - ereign, shep - herd, Word made
 3 Great Cre - a - tor, life - be - stow - er, truth be -
 4 Tri - une God, mys - te - rious be - ing, un - di -

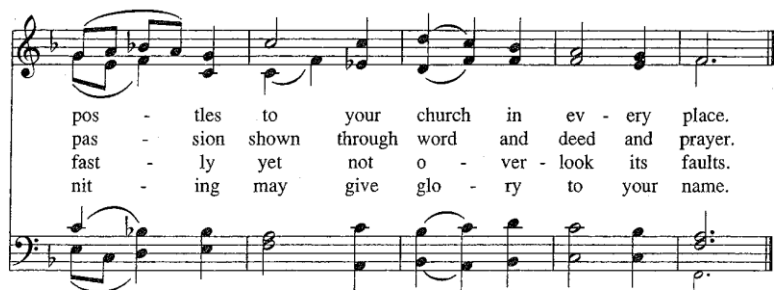
flame and hov - ering dove, Breath of life and voice of
 flesh, love cru - ci - fied, Teach - er, heal - er, suf - fering
 yond all thought's re - call, Fount of wis - dom, womb of
 vid - ed and di - verse, Deep - er than our minds can

proph - ets, sign of bless - ing, power of love: Give to
 ser - vant, friend of sin - ners, foe of pride: In your
 mer - cy, giv - ing and for - giv - ing all: As you
 fath - om, great - er than our creeds re - hearse: Help us

those who lead your peo - ple fresh a - noint - ing
 tend - ing may all pas - tors* learn and live a
 know our strength and weak - ness, so may those the
 in our var - ied call - ings your full im - age



of your grace; Send them forth as bold a -
 shep - herd's care; Grant them cour - age and com -
 church ex - alts O - ver - see its life stead -
 to pro - claim, That our min - is - tries u -



pos - tles to your church in ev - ery place.
 pas - sion shown through word and deed and prayer.
 fast - ly yet not o - ver - look its faults.
 nit - ing may give glo - ry to your name.

A gift from Carl P. Daw, Jr., to Episcopal colleague Jeffery Rowthorn for his consecration as bishop suffragan of the Diocese of Connecticut, this text calls on the Triune God to aid and bless the person being ordained in his or her ministry.

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Alternate tune: JEFFERSON