



**Rev. Sara MacGivra Branom, preaching**

*Thank you for participating in a unified worship of First Congregational United Church of Christ and Christ United Methodist Church. We hope your participation in the service is meaningful in the ways you need it to be.*

**Gathering Music**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Transition to Worship**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Call to Worship**

One: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

**Many: We gather to hear God's liberating word of love.**

One: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

**Many: May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.**

One: May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

**Many: And may it be enacted in our lives!**

**\*\*Prayer of Invocation (unison)**

**Gracious God, anoint us anew with your Holy Spirit of love. By it, form our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of your good news. Grant us a renewed passion for your vision of a world where none are poor and where every weight is lifted. Cultivate your courageous compassion in us to move toward any who have been marginalized or run over by the world. Yes, bless and strengthen us to bless and strengthen others. We pray this in the name of the one whose life fulfilled your holy vision, Jesus our Christ. Amen.**

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

**“Gather Us In”**  
vs. 1, 2 & 4

FWS #2236

1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,  
2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,  
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,  
4. Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing,

now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,  
we are the old — who yearn for your face,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but

see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day. \_\_\_\_\_  
called to be light to the whole hu-man race. \_\_\_\_\_  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth. \_\_\_\_\_  
now is the King-dom, now is the day. \_\_\_\_\_

Gath-er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in — the  
Gath-er us in — the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in — the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in — all peo - ples to-geth-er,

**Children's Message**

*What's in the Bag Today?*

**Sending Song (Sara)**

Jesus Loves You

NCH #327 (adapted)

Jesus loves you! This we know, for the Bible tells us so.  
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!  
Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so!

## Scripture Reading

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

## Sermon

### \*\*Hymn of Reflection

“O For a World”

NCH #575



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Spoken Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**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 sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Generosity**

*Our ministries rely on the generosity of our members and friends. If you would like to make a financial contribution to support our work in Great Falls and beyond, you can send checks to P.O. Box 6303, Great Falls, MT 59406 or use the corresponding QR codes.*

*First Congregational UCC Donations:*



*Christ United Methodist Church Donations:*



**Offertory**

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

*arr. L. Larson*

**\*\*Presentation and Doxology**

*UMH #94*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**


**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)**

**We give, O God, because you first love. You love creation. You love your church. You love us. Every one of us. We give, O God, in gratitude and hope that your love will not stop with us. Let us and the gifts we give be phenomenal expressions of faith and love. Amen.**

**\*\*Closing Hymn**

“Lead on Eternal Sovereign”

*NCH #573*



1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;  
 2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,  
 3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:  
 for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear;  
 and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer - ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,  
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,  
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong,  
 our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.  
 to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Participants in Today's Service**

- Minister ..... Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom
- Liturgist ..... Rev. Paul Holland
- Ushers.....Jenn and Zurie Goss
- Acolytes.....Jullian Valley and Ellie Bucher
- Accompanist.....Dean Jardee
- Media Coordinator ..... Eric Dunn
- Sound Manager .....Dave Neagle

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