



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.

Today's service features the celebration of Holy Communion. If you are participating in worship online, feel free to commune with us by providing your own bread and appropriate beverage.

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Transition to Worship

Prelude

The Cantabellé Ringers

****Call to Worship**

One: Followers of Jesus, today your Savior calls you to come up the mountain and pray. Will you come?

Many: We will go wherever Jesus leads us.

One: Will you follow when Christ's glory overwhelms your senses, and you sit astounded at God's greatness?

Many: We will go wherever Jesus leads us.

One: Will you follow when Jesus won't let you stay on the mountaintop, insisting that you return to the valley where people are hurting and in need of good news?

Many: We will go wherever Jesus leads us.

One: Disciples, come! Let us worship God, whose glory shines on the mountaintop and in the eyes of our neighbors.

Many: Come, let us worship God, whose glory shimmers all around us, even now!

****Opening Prayer (unison)**

God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal.

Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for your alive word of love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.

**Hymn

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

NCH #182

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:28-36 (CEB)

[Jesus] took Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes flashed white like lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him. They were clothed with heavenly splendor and spoke about Jesus' departure, which he would achieve in Jerusalem. Peter and those with him were almost overcome by sleep, but they managed to stay awake and saw his glory as well as the two men with him.

As the two men were about to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it's good that we're here. We should construct three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—but he didn't know what he was saying. Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered the cloud, they were overcome with awe.

Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!" Even as the voice spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen.

Sermon

****Hymn of Reflection**

"Christ, Be Our Light"

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

“Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring (From Cantata 147)”

Bach

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:



****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 Dedication (unison)**

O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to your holy mystery and your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: and also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator of heaven and earth. With your people on earth and all your company of heaven, we praise your name and their unending hymn:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

One: And now, we do As we prepare our hearts to receive, let us offer the prayer of our savior:

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.

Participating in the Table of Grace

The United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church both celebrate an open communion table, recognizing that Christ is the host and invites all to the feast.

After the servers are in place, you will be invited to receive the elements at the front of the sanctuary. A piece of bread will be handed to you. Those wishing to commune by intinction can dip the bread into the chalice to receive the bread and cup together. Others can eat the bread and receive the cup from the individual cups of grape juice. Empty cups can be deposited in a bowl as you return to your seat. Gluten-free alternatives are available on the table.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion (unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

UMH #133

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev - er -
2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er -
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,
Lean-ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing,
lean-ing on Je - sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean - ing on

ing, lean - ing,
Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

****Benediction**

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Call to Worship: Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.

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