



**First Congregational United Church of Christ
and Christ United Methodist Church**

January 25, 2026

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Transition to Worship

**Call to Worship

One: We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

All: God, help us find your glory.

One: We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

All: God, help us notice your glory.

One: We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

All: God, help us encounter your glory.

One: May the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, through the unexpected and the least likely.

All: God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

**Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope, and salvation. Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls. Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe. Glory of God, fill each temple of the Holy Spirit present today. Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place. Amen.

**Opening Song

“Gather Us In”

The Faith We Sing Songbook #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-ge-th-er,
 we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. _____
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. _____
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. _____
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone. _____

WORDS: Marty Haugen (Matt. 5:13)
MUSIC: Marty Haugen

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GATHER US IN
Irregular

Scripture Reading

John 6:1-14

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

Sermon

Music Reflection

"Take My Life and Let it Be/I Surrender All"

arr. Tom Fettke

Time of 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

Offertory

"These Are They Which Follow the Lamb"

John Goss

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 UMC Donations:



****Doxology**

UMH # 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
 Praise God, all creatures her 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

****Closing Hymn**

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

NCH #394

Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.

Tune: MCKEE C.M.
African-American melody
 Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939
 Alternate setting: ST. PETER

Benediction**Postlude**

“Blessed Be Your Name”

arr. Victor Labenske

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Acknowledgments*Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025**Kwasi I. Kena, The Africana Worship Book, Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 53.**The Pastor's Workshop – Austin Hill*