



Christ United Methodist Church and  
First Congregational United Church of Christ

February 1, 2026



## Gathering Music

### Greeting and Announcements

### Transition to Worship

Prelude

“Jesus Lord, We Look to Thee”

*Foundry Collection, 1742*

### Welcome

### \*\*Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?

**People: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

Leader: In our life together as the body of Christ, what worship does God desire of us?

**People: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

Leader: When we share the good news with all creation, what worship does God desire of us?

**People: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness, and humility!

**People: We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

### Opening Prayer

Oh God, our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer- how do we thank you? How do we show our gratitude? Do you want signs and sacrifices? Do you want gold and cattle? Can we turn over our children to you? Would that repay our debt, make everything right? Tell us, what do you require in return for all your goodness? Oh God, our teacher, example, companion- you have shown us what is good, and call us to remember that what you require is not repayment of debt or settling the score, but obedience. Show us, God, when to do justice, how to love kindness, and where to walk humbly with you. Amen.

Hymn

“Give Thanks”

TFWS #2036

Music score for "Give Thanks" in G clef, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music with corresponding lyrics. The first staff begins with a fermata over the first note. The second staff starts with a bass note. The third staff features a dynamic instruction "1, 3 | 2, 4" above the notes. The fourth staff ends with a fermata over the first note of the fifth staff, which is labeled "Coda". The lyrics are as follows:

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the  
Ho - ly One, give thanks be-cause he's  
giv-en Je - sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And  
now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the  
poor say, "I am rich be-cause of what the Lord has  
done for us." And us." Give  
us." Give thanks!

Performance markings include a fermata over the first note of the first staff, a bass note at the start of the second staff, dynamic markings "1, 3 | 2, 4" over the third staff, and a fermata over the first note of the fourth staff. The fifth staff is labeled "Coda" with a fermata over the first note.

WORDS: Henry Smith (Luke 1:49-53)  
MUSIC: Henry Smith

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GIVE THANKS  
Irregular

## Scripture Lessons

*Micah 6:1-8*

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

*Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Sermon**

“What is Good”

*Rev. Paul Holland*

**Hymn**

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

*TFWS #2158*

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,

Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
 if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?  
 time for me will be no more;

I'll be sat - is - fied as  
 Who with me my bur - den  
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

*Refrain*

Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea,

dai - ly walk-ing close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

## Invitation to Generosity

## Offertory

## “Sanctuary”

arr. Lloyd Larson

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First Congregational UCC Donations:



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**\*\*Doxology**

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

UMH # 94

**Sharing Prayer and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The 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.

**Call to Communion**

**“Let Us Be Bread”**

TFWS #2260

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro - ken and  
shared, life for the world. Let us be wine,  
love free - ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord. —

*Stanzas included in other editions.*

WORDS: Thomas Porter  
MUSIC: Thomas Porter

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LET US BE BREAD  
Irregular

**The Invitation**

**The Communion Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Blessing**

**Receiving Communion**

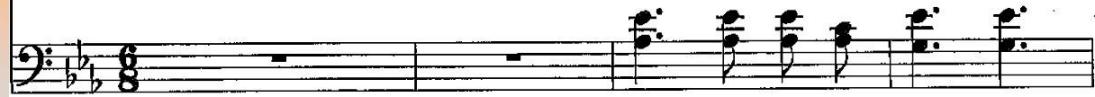
**Closing Hymn**

**“Lord, Make Me More Holy”**

**NCH #75**



1 Lord, make me more ho - ly. Lord, make me more ho - ly.



Lord, make me more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly un - til we meet a - gain.



2 Lord, make me more faith-ful, . . . Faith-ful, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.

3 Lord, make me more hum-ble, . . . Hum-ble, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.

4 Lord, make me more righ-teous, . . . Righ-teous, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.

*The origins of this African-American spiritual have been traced to the area of Charleston, South Carolina, where it may have been sung as a closing hymn for worship. It is one of a number of devotional songs expressing the desire to attain the spiritual character of Jesus.*

Tune: **LORD, MAKE ME MORE HOLY**

6.6.6.6.6.

*African-American spiritual*

**Benediction**

**May the holy wisdom of God guard your ways and guide your paths. May the living truth of God enlighten your hearts and open your minds and may the living Spirit of God give you life, and life to the full! Amen**

**Postlude**

(please be seated for postlude)

“Jesus Shall Reign”

*arr. Cindy Berry*

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