



First Congregational United Church of Christ
and Christ United Methodist Church

February 8, 2026



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

**Call to Worship (Inspired by Luke 12:1-33, 13:30, and 22:26)- Liz Lee

Leader: Jesus often reminded his disciples of the disordered nature of God's kingdom.

All: He said the first would be last and the last first.

Leader: Jesus often reminded his disciples of the humble nature of God's servants.

All: He said to rule we must serve just as Jesus served among us

Leader: Jesus often reminded his disciples of the vulnerable choices of God's servants.

All: He said we must take our possessions and give to the poor

Leader: This morning we gather to remember the true nature of power and weakness, generosity and fear, riches and humility, poverty and popularity.

All: We gather to celebrate that God's kingdom invites all to live generously and without fear, at peace with each other and God.

Leader: Together let us worship the God who transforms us.

Prayer of Invocation

Gracious God, Giver of Life, the One who turns our ideas around, the One who changes our minds, the One whose ways are higher than our ways, open our hearts to the true nature of your kingdom. We desire to hear the words you are speaking and learn what we can only know with the help of your Spirit. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear what you have to say to us in this hour. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

**Opening Hymn

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

TFWS #2173

Refrain

Shine, Je-sus, shine, — fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo-ry,
 blaze, Spir-it, blaze, — set our hearts on fire;
 flow, riv-er, flow, — flood the na-tions with grace and mer-cy,
 send forth your word, — Lord, and let there be light.

Fine

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin-ing
 2. Lord, I come to your awe-some pres-ence
 3. As we gaze on your king-ly bright-ness,
 in the midst of the dark-ness shin-ing;
 from the shad-ows in-to your ra-di-ance;
 so our fac-es dis-play your like-ness;

Je-sus, Light of the World, shine up-on us,
 by the blood I may en-ter your bright-ness,
 ev-er chang-ing from glo-ry to glo-ry,
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 search me, try me, con-sume all my dark-ness.
 mir-rored here may our lives tell your sto-ry.

Shine on me, shine on me, shine on me.

WORDS: Graham Kendrick (2 Cor. 4:6)

MUSIC: Graham Kendrick

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE
Irregular with Refrain

© 1987 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

Children's Message

Janet Koostra

Sending Song

“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 Readings- Marilyn Sheffels

Luke 12:22-34

“[Jesus] said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!’

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

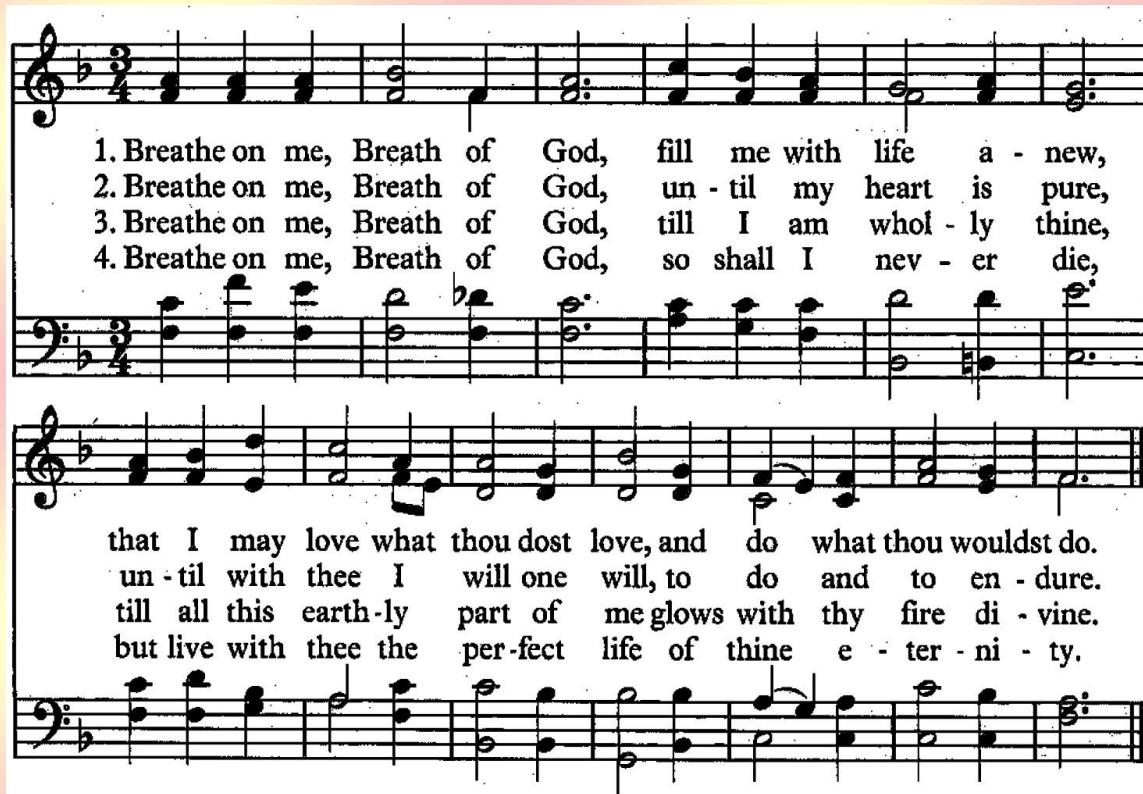
Sermon

“Do Not Be Afraid, Little Flock”

Laura Ymker

****Hymn of Reflection****“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**

UMH #420



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldest do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878 (Jn. 20:22)
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

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 the Offering

Leader: Disciples of Christ, together we've received a kingdom. We delight in this realm of God, where fear has no place and mutual generosity rescues those who are perishing. The call of Christ to serve as he served those around him while he was on earth challenges us to live a life worth living, to give to others instead of hoard for ourselves, to store our surplus in bellies instead of barns. This morning as we share our treasures and this week as we share our time and talents, may we face the need of our neighbors with the courage of Christ. May we be confident that we will not lack as the life of God flows through us into the world around us.

All: We give freely because we have freely received. We give generously because God has been generous to us. We give cheerfully because God loves a cheerful giver.

Offertory

“Evidence of Grace”

Gwyn Williams/arr. Mary McDonald

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:



****Presentation and Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

NCH #778

****Prayer of Dedication**

Giver of Life, receive these gifts we return to you. Help us wisely use them to serve this congregation, our community, and the needy throughout the world. In this week, when we are tempted to fear, inspire us to generosity. When we are tempted to hoard, encourage us to give. When we are tempted to value our barns over our neighbors' bellies, remind us that yours is an upside-down kingdom, a realm of love and generosity. Thank you for giving us your kingdom. Help us remember to receive it. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**

“Standing at the Future’s Threshold”

NCH #538



1 Stand-ing at the fu-ture's thresh-old, grate-ful for God's guid-ing hand,
2 Midst the teem-ing cit-ies' mil-lions, wit-ness to God's bound-less love,
3 O - pen-heart-ed in ex-chang-es with the faith-ful not our own,
4 Build-ing jus-tice as the bul-wark of the peace that God would give,
5 Je-sus Christ, e-ter-nal Sav-ior, Source of life and truth and grace,



Ask-ing no pro-tect-ed strong-hold, called to be a pil-grim band,
Reach-ing for each sys-tem's lost ones, seek-ing jus-tice with each move;
Trust-ing God's way with these strang-ers not to leave the truth un-known,
Mak-ing sac-ri-fice the hall-mark of the life we're called to live:
We would ask no spe-cial fa-vor, with the low-liest seek our place,



Seek-ing ev-er for new vi-sion of the gos-pel for our day,
Grant us cour-age, strength, and pa-tience to con-tend with vi-cious power,
Join-ing them in shared en-deav-or where we have Christ's clear com-mand,
Grant us, God, to bear our wit-ness to this peace in Christ, and move
Know the in-as-much of serv-ing, have your cross as our com-mand:



We move for-ward in God's mis - sion with our faith to show the way.
 Lead us for-ward in the faith that gives us hope in test - ing's hour.
 We have faith that calls us ev - er toward this good earth's prom-ised land.
 For-ward with our faith's own ac - cess to the life of hope and love.
 Lead us in this faith un - swerv-ing for - ward as your pil - grim band.

Paul Gregory served as East and Southeast Asia secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries from 1957 to 1986. This hymn was written for the conclusion of the 175th anniversary of that board, and looked to the mission challenges of the future. "Inasmuch" in stanza five is a reference to the command Jesus gives in Matthew 25:40.

Tune: LUX EOI 8.7.8.7.D.
Arthur S. Sullivan (1842-1900)

**Benediction

Postlude Theme and Variations on “Praise to the Lord, The Almighty” arr. *Craig Curry*
(please be seated for the Postlude)

Acknowledgments

All music used with permission by St James Music Press, license No. 29302