

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

Palm Sunday Service

March 29, 2026



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

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Transition to Worship

Prelude and Procession

“Let Your Glad Hosannas Ring”
Chancel Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

****Call to Worship**

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

All: He said if we want to be great we must be servants and if we want to be the most important we must be slaves of all.

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

All: Jesus asked his disciples if they had eyes but failed to see. We must be willing to open our eyes to see God’s presence in our midst.

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

All: He said we must receive the kingdom of God like a child in order to enter it.

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 invites us to exalt a peaceful king reigning over a kingdom of love.

Leader: Together let us worship our 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, we exalt you! Blessed is the One who came in the name of the Lord! Open our eyes to see what seems too amazing for our imaginations to comprehend. We desire to hear the words you are speaking and learn what we can only know with the help of your Spirit. In Christ's name we exalt you! Amen.

**Opening Hymn

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

NCH #213

1 “Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na,” the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
3 “Ho - san - na in the high - est!” That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
“Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!”

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection Sunshine and Shadow.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen
katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

Children's Message

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

Mark 11:1-11 NRSV

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Sermon

"The Blind Will See, or Will They?"

**Hymn of Reflection

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

UMH #454

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won-der - ful key
 send - est clear; and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare

Refrain

that shall un-clasp and set me free.
 ev-ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear. Si-lent - ly now I
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 O - pen my heart,

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
 88.98 with Refrain

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 where the powerful listen to and learn from the marginalized. The call to follow our suffering Savior, who calls the marginalized to his side, challenges us to prioritize others over ourselves. This morning as we share our treasures and this week as we share our time and talents, may we face the vulnerability of the world 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

"Dust and Ashes"

Brian Wren

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

NCH #778

**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.**

**Prayer of Dedication

Giver of Life, receive these gifts we return to you. Help us use them wisely to serve this congregation, our community, and the needy throughout the world. In this week, when we are tempted to walk past those in pain, inspire us to stop and listen to their cry. When we are tempted to want God's kingdom to be hierarchical with us at the top, encourage us to step down and lift others up. When we are tempted to serve Caesar instead of Christ, remind us that yours is an upside-down kingdom, a realm of love and fearlessness. Thank you for giving us your kingdom. Help us remember to receive it. Amen.

**Closing Hymn

"Gather Us In"

TFWS #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,



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

****Benediction**

Postlude

(please be seated for the Postlude)