



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

****Call to Worship**

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

All: He said those who want to be great must be servants and those who want to be first must be slaves of all.

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 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 be God-like, to be conformed into the image of Christ, to be transformed into the likeness of God.

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

****Opening Prayer**

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, give us wisdom to choose your kingdom over the ways of the kingdom of Caesar. 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 Song**

"Holy Is the Lord"

*W & S Green Book #3028***Children's Message***Janet Koostra***Scripture Reading***Mark 12:13-17 NIV*

Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.

Sermon

"Playing God"

*Pastor Laura Ymker*****Song of Reflection**

"The Image"

*Matt Redman***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, we are created in the image of God and are called children of God.

Let us freely delight in knowing we are welcome to play like children as we act like our divine parent. Our God is generous and came to serve and pay the price to free many. This morning as we share our treasures and this week as we share our time and talents, may we delight in acting like our God. 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

“We Are An Offering”

Dwight Liles

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**

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!**

****Closing Song**

“Let It Shine”

Barbara Hamm

****Benediction**

Postlude

(Remain standing for the postlude)

“Let It Shine-Reprise”

Barbara Hamm

Acknowledgments

Music performed by our Praise Worship Music Team