



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

**April 26, 2026
Worship Service**

Thank you for participating in worship with First Congregational United Church of Christ/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 - inspired by 1 Peter 1:3-9**

Leader: Praise be to God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ! We were given new birth and new hope when Christ rose from the dead.

All: Such riches can never spoil or fade or perish.

Leader: This glorious inheritance is kept in heaven for us, who are protected by God's power, though now for a little while we may suffer grief from all sorts of trials.

All: These trials will test the genuineness of our faith and will result in praise, glory, and honor when Christ is revealed.

Leader: Our faith in Christ is of greater worth than gold. Gold may perish, but our faith is steadfast.

All: Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him. And even though we cannot see him now, we believe in him and are filled with great joy because we expect to see Christ revealed.

Leader: Come, disciples of Christ, together let us worship our God who sustains us through trial and comforts us in our suffering.

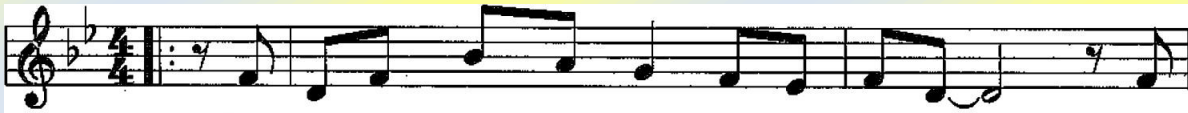
Prayer of Invocation

Gracious Creator and Sustainer of all life, we confess that being a disciple is hard. Be present with us in this hour as we take courage in knowing that Christ walks beside us in our suffering. Resurrection followed the suffering of Christ, and so we look around us, hoping to see where the Spirit's power might appear in our midst. We long to see transformed hearts, changed minds, healed relationships, the prosperity of the poor, and the freedom of the captives. Together, we worship you. Amen.

**Opening Hymn

"You Are Mine"

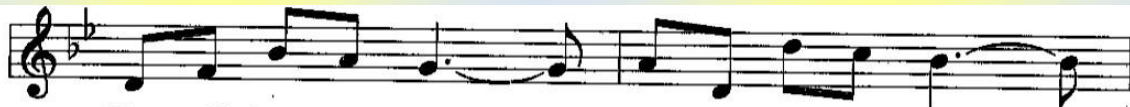
TFWS #2218



1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —
4. I am the Word that leads all to free-dom, I



I will lift you from — all your fear. —
I am eyes for all who long to see. In the —
heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame. —
am the peace the world can - not give. —



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. _____
 come and rest in _____
 all will know my _____
 up, now walk, and _____



me. _____
 name. _____ Do not be a - fraid, I am
 live! _____



with you. I have called you each by name.



Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine. _____

WORDS: David Haas (Ps. 46:10; Isa. 43:1; John 14:27)
 MUSIC: David Haas
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YOU ARE MINE
 Irregular with Refrain

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 Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19 NRSV

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Sermon

"God's Presence in Suffering"

**Hymn of Reflection

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

UMH #521

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me. (walk with me)
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)

I want Je - sus to walk with me. (walk with me)
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me. (walk with me)

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (walk with me)

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual
 MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1986
 Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

SOJOURNER
 888.9

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 worship a risen Savior! We've received our precious faith from God and our Savior Jesus Christ. This faith enables us to live a godly life through our knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to act with divine goodness. God's comfort, life, and love is continually given to us in abundance. This morning, tomorrow, and the next day, let us generously give these riches to others.

All: "A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25

Offertory

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

Almighty God, use our gifts to transform the world as you transform our hearts by the discipline of giving. Then our faith in Christ will not be ineffective or unproductive. We rejoice in your good gifts! We rejoice in new hope and new birth! For Christ's sake, increase our faith! Amen.

**Closing Hymn

"We Live by Faith and Not by Sight"

NCH #256

Unison

1 We live by faith and not by sight;
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing
 and may our faith a - bound To call on you when
 in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
 we re - joice: our Sav - ior and our God!
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.
 Samuel McFarland, c. 1816
 Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

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****Benediction**

Postlude

(please be seated for the Postlude)

Acknowledgments

Liturgy inspired by the language of 1 and 2 Peter. Pastor Laura often quotes phrases or sentences from the NIV translation of Scripture when preaching. This is not intended as plagiarism but is due to her familiarity with that version of the Bible. Sometimes in story-telling, it may be impossible while listening to differentiate between what is paraphrased and what is quoted. In this service, she plans to visit Mark 8:34-38, Mark 10:28-31, and 1 Peter 2:20-25.

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