



First Congregational United Church of Christ/
Christ United Methodist Church

Worship Service
May 31, 2026



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

“Here I Am To Worship”

Mark Hayes

****Call to Worship -**

Leader: Here we are, arrived, alive, together on planet Earth; and we wonder, “Who is our Creator? How do we know the One who created us? Is there life beyond what we can touch?”

All: I think there is. I can hear the Divine voice all around me—speaking, speaking, speaking. Never silent. The sound surrounds me.

Leader: Are you sure? How do you know it’s the voice of your Creator? Could it be your own? Could it be the voice of death?

All: No, the grave is silent, and I cannot add a single hour to my life—let alone create it. I know it’s the sound of life, and I can hear its echo.

Leader: What does the voice sound like?

All: Sometimes it’s like the sound of thunder that follows a bolt of lightning. Loud, louder than the voices of a thousand people shouting in unison. Louder than everyone shouting together, because the Creator is greater than all.

Leader: Come, children of God, together let us worship our God who gives life, and strength, and mercy, and grace to all.

Prayer of Invocation

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Make us a river of your grace in this world. Let our voices unite in praise to our God. Lead us on a quest to discover the riches of your glorious goodness. Help us live in harmony with your will. May your kingdom come in our midst. In this hour, gather our hearts in unity as we listen for your Spirit's voice. Amen.

****Opening Hymn**

“How Great Thou Art”

UMH #77



1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won - der
 2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der,
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion



con - sid - er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.



I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing thun - der,
 when I look down from loft - y moun-tain gran - deur
 that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion,



thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played.
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!



Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to thee;

how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

**Authors's original words are "works" and "mighty."*

WORDS: Stuart K. Hine, 1953

MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953

© 1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Irr. with Refrain

Children's Message

Sending Song

"Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow"

to the tune of *UMH #479*

**Wind who makes all winds that blow,
 Gusts that bend the sapling low,
 Gales that heave the sea in waves,
 Stirrings in the mind's deep caves:
 Aim your breath with steady power
 On your church, this day, this hour.
 Raise, renew the life we've lost,
 Spirit God of Pentecost.**

Scripture Reading

Exodus 19:16-20:1, 20:18-21 NRSV

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain.

Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the LORD had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. When the LORD descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people not to break through to the LORD to look; otherwise, many of them will perish. Even the priests who approach the LORD must consecrate themselves or the LORD will break out against them.”

Moses said to the LORD, “The people are not permitted to come up to Mount Sinai; for you yourself warned us, saying, ‘Set limits around the mountain and keep it holy.’”

The LORD said to him, “Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you; but do not let either the priests or the people break through to come up to the LORD; otherwise he will break out against them.” So Moses went down to the people and told them. Then God spoke [the ten commandments].

Exodus 20:18-21

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.”

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.” Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Sermon

“The Voice of God that Thunders”

****Hymn of Reflection**

“We Worship You, God”

NCH #26

1 We wor - ship you, God; your power and your love
 2 We tell of your might, we sing of your grace,
 3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

are bla - zoned a - broad, a - round, and a - bove:
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 Your char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Your mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and broad is your path on the wings of the storm.
 and round it you cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Born in Bengal, India, Robert Grant became a lawyer in England, a member of Parliament, and for the last four years of his life was governor of Bombay. This text was inspired by William Kethe's paraphrase of Psalm 104.

Tune: LYONS 10.10.11.11.
 Attrib. to J. Michael Haydn (1737-1806)
 Alternate tune: HANOVER

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: Children of God, in John's gospel, Jesus promises his followers that rivers of living water will flow from within them. The gospel writer explains that by these rivers Jesus meant the Holy Spirit. We have the opportunity to live in unity with God's Spirit, to discover as disciples what it means to live in harmony with God's will. We have the opportunity to give generously as God has given generously to us. This morning, tomorrow, and the next day, let us give freely.

All: "If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing." I Corinthians 13:1 NIV

Offertory

"Spirit O God, Descend Upon My Heart"

arr. Cindy Berry

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!**

**Prayer of Dedication

Spirit of the living God, use our gifts to transform the world as you transform our hearts by the discipline of giving. Help us live as a river of your goodness, and not hoard what you've given to us as if we were instead a lake. Help us live in harmony as disciples on a quest to discover your will. Show us the unity of the Spirit. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! bold - ly or - dain - ing
 2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth has for - sak - en
 3 God the All - righ - teous One! earth has de - fied you,
 4 God the All - prov - i - dent! by your great chas - tening

thun - der and light - ning your strength to dis - play,
 all you make ho - ly, and slight - ed your way;
 yet to e - ter - ni - ty stands what you say;
 earth shall see free - dom and truth hold - ing sway;

Bring forth com - pas - sion where vi - o - lence is reign - ing;
 Bid not your wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:
 False - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side you:
 Through the thick cha - os your reign is still has - tening:

give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 you will give peace in your time, we pray.

Two English hymns, one by Henry F. Chorley, a friend of Charles Dickens, and another by Church of England priest John Ellerton, are combined in this text. The tune was originally written for the Russian national anthem.

Tune: RUSSIAN HYMN 11.10.11.9
 Alexis F. Lvov, 1833

