



United Spirit Community Church

a federation of First Congregational United Church of Christ and Christ United Methodist Church

Worship Service

July 5, 2026



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

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Prayer and Transition to Worship

Prelude

“O Worship the King”

Johann Michael Haydn

Call to Worship

Leader: As the deer pants for streams of water,

All: so my soul pants for you, my God.

Leader: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

All: When can I go and meet with God?

Leader: Now. For wherever you go, God is there, waiting to hear the sound of your voice. What will you say to the Holy One?

All: I will cry out to God for justice. I will cry out for the safety of myself and others. I will cry out for protection and provision. When justice is delayed, I will cry out again and again until my prayer is answered.

Leader: Children of God, together let us worship our God who acts quickly on our behalf to bring justice into our world.

Opening Song

“Psalm 139: The Searcher of Hearts”

The Psalter

1. O Lord, my in - most heart and thought Thy search - ing eye doth see;
 2. Each spo - ken word, each si - lent tho't, Thou, Lord, dost un - der - stand;
 3. If I the wings of morn - ing take To some re - mot - est land,
 4. From Thee, O Lord, I can - not hide, Tho' dark - ness cov - er me;
 5. Search me, O God, and know my heart, Try me, my tho'ts to know;

Wher - e'er I rest, wher - e'er I go, My ways are known to Thee.
 Be - fore me and be - hind art Thou, Re - strain - ing by Thy hand.
 Still I shall be up - held by Thee And guid - ed by Thy hand.
 The dark - ness and the light of day Are both a - like to Thee.
 O lead me, if in sin I stray, In paths of life to go.

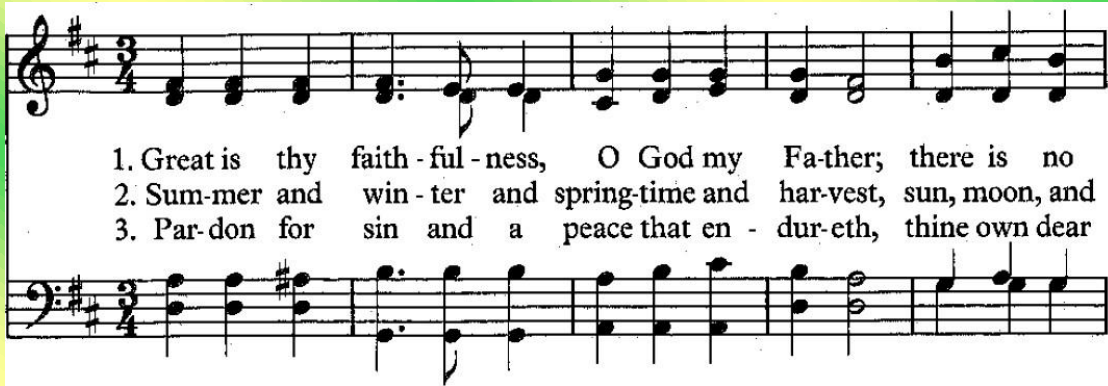
Opening Prayer

Almighty God who hears us, we come to you together. Some of us are weary. Others are excited. Some are joyful. Others are sad. Some are healthy. Others are sick. Yet we come to you as one, asking for you to move with your Spirit in our midst to heal our hearts and bodies, strengthen our spirits and bodies, and free us from oppression. Hear our cry for justice! For the sake of unfailing love and eternal life, we pray in Jesus' name, amen.

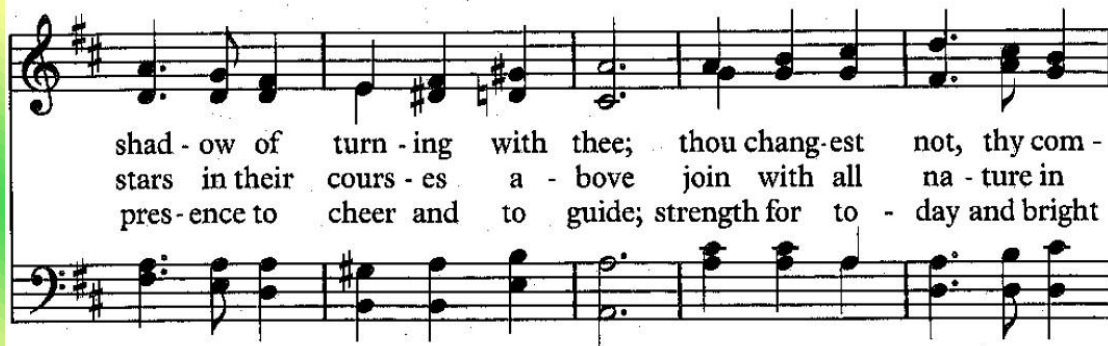
Hymn of Praise

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

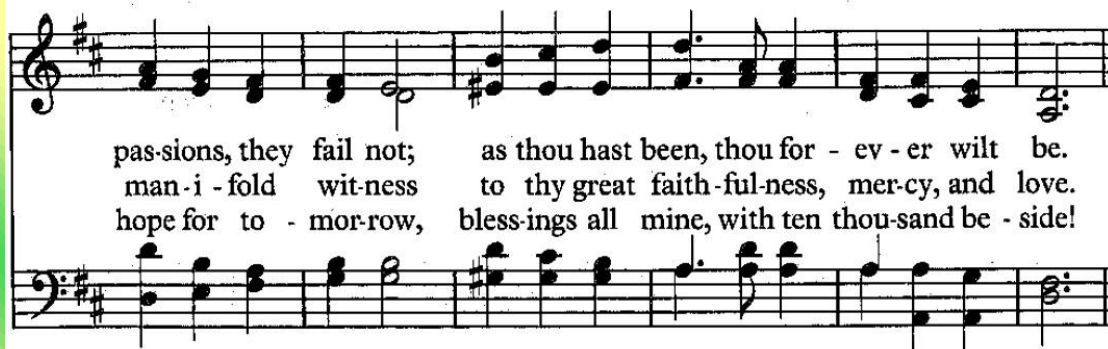
UMH #140



1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

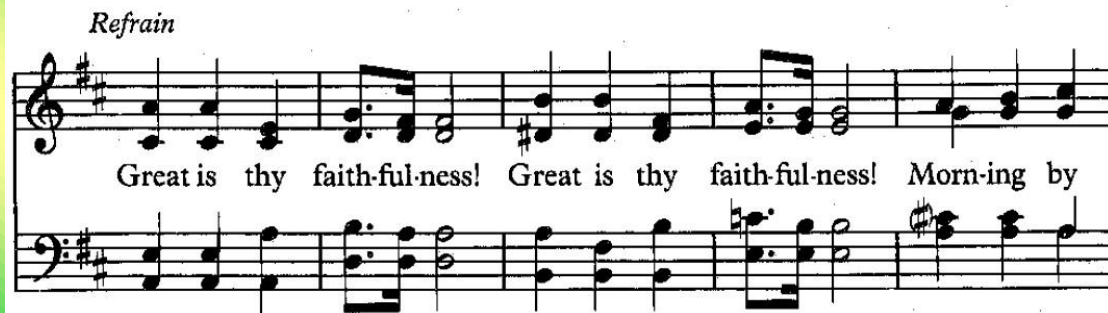


shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 (Lam. 3:22-23)

MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

© 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

FAITHFULNESS
11 10.11 10 with Refrain

Scripture Reading

Psalm 20 NRSV

The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May he send you help from the sanctuary,
and give you support from Zion.
May he remember all your offerings,
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices. Selah

May he grant you your heart's desire,
and fulfill all your plans.
May we shout for joy over your victory,
and in the name of our God set up our banners.
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with mighty victories by his right hand.
Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses,
but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.
They will collapse and fall,
but we shall rise and stand upright.

Give victory to the king, O LORD;
answer us when we call.

All: In these ancient words, let us hear the living word of God today.

Sermon

“When You Pray, Be Faithful”

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, as God's holy people, let us be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Let us not be unjust judges. Rather let us respond with God's immediate compassion to all in need. Let us be God's eyes, heart, and hands in our world.

All: Whatever we do, in word or deed, let us do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God our Creator through him.

Offertory

"America, the Beautiful"

Sung by Ray Young

Presentation and Doxology

Derived from Psalm 117



1. Praise our Lord God, all ye na-tions, All ye peo-ple, praise proclaim; For God's grace and lov-ing-kind-ness O sing prais-es to God's Name. For the greatness of God's mer-cy Constant praise to God's accord; Evermore God's truth endureth; Hallelujah, praise the Lord.

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Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, who answers our prayers, accept these gifts we return to you. Multiply them to do your work in our world. May our gifts feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and make peace amongst people. For the sake of Jesus Christ, our hope of glory, we pray, Amen.

Communion

Closing Hymn

“This Is My Song”

NCH #591

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
Jean Sibelius, 1899
Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

Benediction

Sending Song

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

NCH #82

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

For marriage services, this stanza may be sung between stanzas 1 and 2 above.

In this un-ion I have joined you hus-band and wife,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er as heirs of life:
Each the oth-er's glad-ness shar-ing,
each the oth-er's bur-dens bear-ing,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er as heirs of life.

American hymnwriter and translator Jaroslav Vajda crafted this benediction text as though God were "dismissing the congregation after worship, while drawing together a review of the events that transpired during the service." The wedding stanza was a later addition.

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.4.
Traditional Welsh melody
For another harmonization, see 425

Postlude

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

arr. Victor Labenske

The congregation is invited to exit the sanctuary at this time.

Acknowledgments

The call to worship contains Psalm 42:1-2. Other liturgy is inspired by Colossians 3, Luke 18, and Matthew 25. “Psalm 139: The Searcher of Hearts” and the doxology are from *The Psalter*, a publication of the United Presbyterian Board of Publication in 1912.

Pastor Laura often quotes from the NIV translation when preaching. It may be impossible while listening to differentiate between what is paraphrased and what is quoted.

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