



United Spirit Community Church
A federation of First Congregational United Church of Christ
and Christ United Methodist Church

Worship Service
September 6, 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 you experience God's presence in
the service today and carry God's peace with you throughout your week.*

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Prayer and Transition to Worship

Prelude

“Praise to the Lord Almighty”

*William Kirkpatrick
Arr. Victor Labenske*

Call to Worship

One: Children of the Holy One, why do you gather this morning?

Many: We gather to worship our God, the creator of wisdom. We hope in doing so, to become wise.

One: How will God's wisdom instruct you?

Many: We will learn to expertly discern what is good, admit our mistakes quickly, and know our God deeply. We will surround ourselves with good counsel. We will use our resources well and build a solid foundation for the future. God's wisdom will shift our perspective, instruct us to do justice, empower us to carry Christ's name with honor, and set us free. We will be peace-loving, considerate, merciful, and submissive. We will produce much good fruit.

One: Disciples of Christ, God is good. Together let us worship our God who gives wisdom to all who ask.

Opening Song

“Morning Has Broken”

UMH #145

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Am Em/G F Em Dm G

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

C F C Am Dm/F

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

D7/F# C/G F G7 C

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931 (Lam. 3:22-23)

MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

BUNESSAN

55.54 D

Words by permission of David Higham Associates, Ltd.; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Opening Prayer

Holy One, Ancient One, you are the great one! Scripture says your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts are higher than our thoughts. This morning, we gather to learn your ways and to learn to think like you. Give us courage to give up short-term comfort for long-term good. Help us consider the good of all and not just the pleasure of ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, we pray, amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

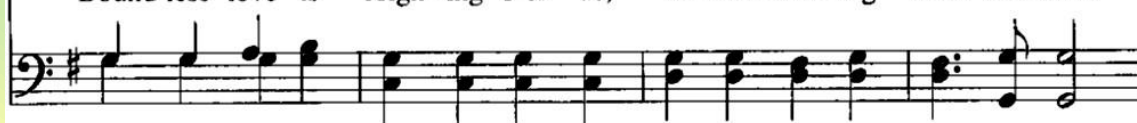
NCH #4



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;




Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.




Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov-ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing-ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,




Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.



Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759-1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 24:3-4 NRSV

One: By wisdom a house is built,
Many: and by understanding it is established;
One: by knowledge the rooms are filled
Many: with all precious and pleasant riches.

Matthew 7:24-29 NRSV

One: Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house,

Many: but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

One: And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—

Many: and great was its fall!

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

Sermon

“More Tidbits of Wisdom”

Time of Prayer

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

One: Though sometimes provision seems scarce, abundant life surrounds us. God gives, and gives, and gives life to us and every creature. We have the opportunity to give as God gives and to receive and enjoy the freedom of generosity. Let us always remember:

Many: “One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.” Proverbs 11:24-25 CSB

Offertory

“I Know Whom I Have Believed”

James McGranahan

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:



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1826 (Rev. 4:8-11)
MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1861

NICAEA
11 12.12 10

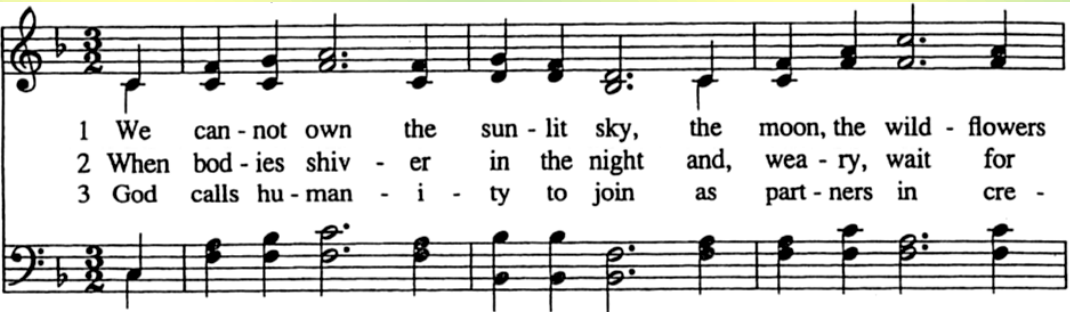
Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we freely give to our community the gifts you've given to us. We look beyond our own pleasures, so that there is enough to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and clothe the naked. Multiply our gifts, so that all might be blessed. For the sake of the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

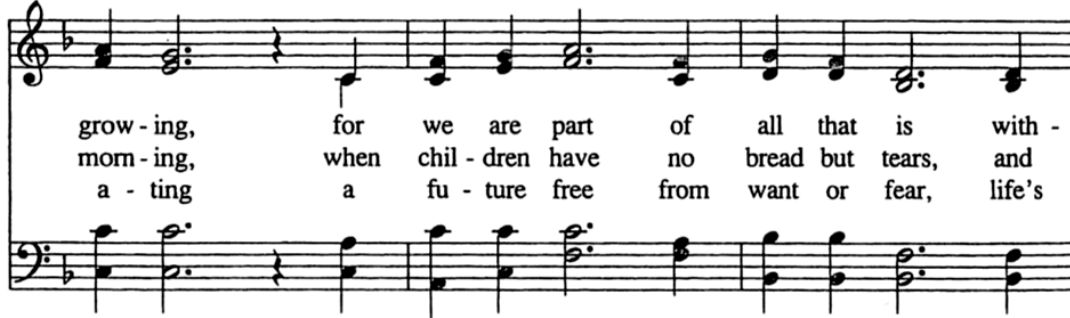
Communion**Closing Hymn**

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

NCH #563



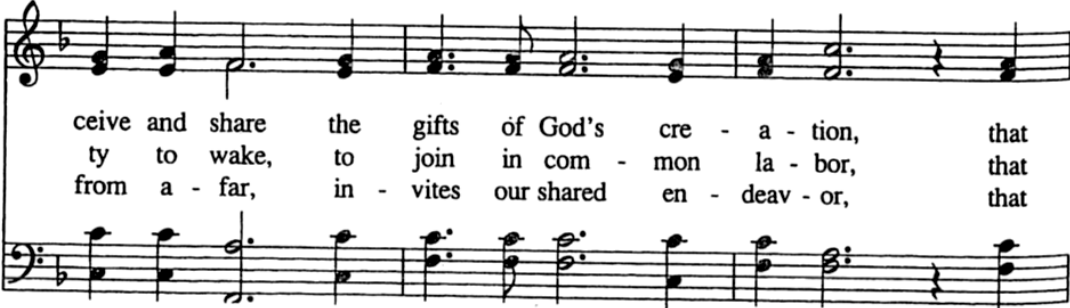
1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -



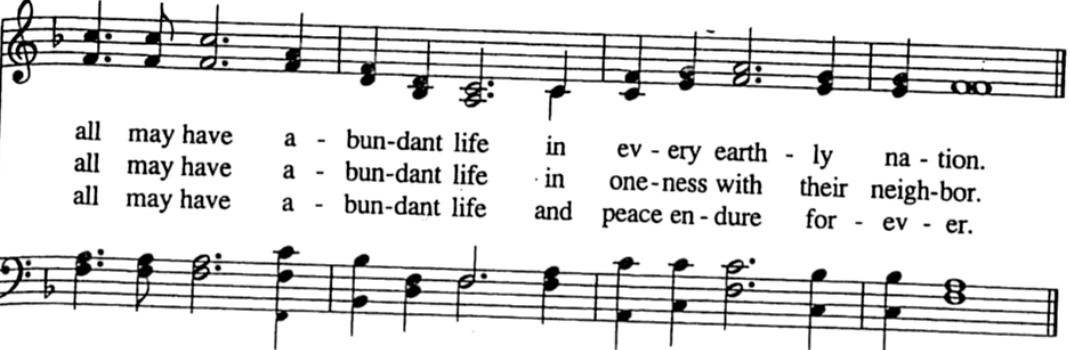
grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that



all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
 all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.
 all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

Benediction

Sending Song

"Go Forth For God"

UMH #670 vs. 3

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
strength - en the faint, give cour - age to the weak;
hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right;
to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,

in God's good Spir - it dai - ly to in - crease,
help the af - flict - ed; rich - ly from a - bove
ren - der to no one e - vil; Christ at length
and serv - ing Christ, our ev - ery gift em - ploy,

till in the king - dom we see face to face.
God's love sup - plies the grace and power we seek.
shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his light.
re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's power.

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
 Go forth for God, go to the world in love.
 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.
 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

WORDS: John R. Peacey, 1975
 MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; harm. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1940, alt.
 Words by permission of Mildred E. Peacey

GENEVA 124
 10 10.10 10.10

Postlude

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Felice de Giadini

Acknowledgments

Liturgy inspired by 1 Corinthians 1, Isaiah 55, and James 3:13-17. The benediction is cited from <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/2012/09/19/wisdom-call-to-worship-prayers/>. 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.

All music is part of the public domain or is used with permission by St James Music Press, license No. 29302; OneLicense, license No. A-727303; and CCLI, license No. 23172435A.