"How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!"
Psalm 133:1 GNT

** indicates an appropriate time to stand as you are able.

Gathering Music

Greeting and Announcements

Prayer and Transition to Worship

Prelude

****Call to Worship (includes Psalm 31:6 NIV, 119:113 BLB, 139:21 NIV)**

One: A psalmist once wrote, "I hate those who cling to worthless idols; as for me, I trust in the LORD."

Many: We read those words and exclaimed, "Hate! How could God bless that?!?"

One: Another psalmist wrote, "The double-minded I hate, and Your law I love."

Many: We read those words and exclaimed, "Hate! How could God bless that?!?"

One: Yet another psalmist wrote, "Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies."

Many: We read those words and were appalled. With horror, we exclaimed, "Hate! How could God bless that?!?"

One: Beloved children of God, this morning we gather to follow the example of Jesus Christ—to pray for our enemies, to overturn hierarchy, and to abandon all hate as we press into unity with God and with each other. May we become one.

****Opening Song** "The Church's One Foundation" *NCH 386 verses 1-2, 4*

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the holy Catholic Church."

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Opening Prayer

Many: Here we are, Lord, not sure we want to become one. It's a nice idea, a beautiful fantasy. It looks okay on paper, but it's not possible as a reality. Don't you know that? Besides, do you realize what some of these other Christians are like? They aren't nearly as good as us. *We* accept *everyone*. As for them, well, some of them don't like queer people and others don't like women and others don't like—

One: Wait! What kind of prayer is that?

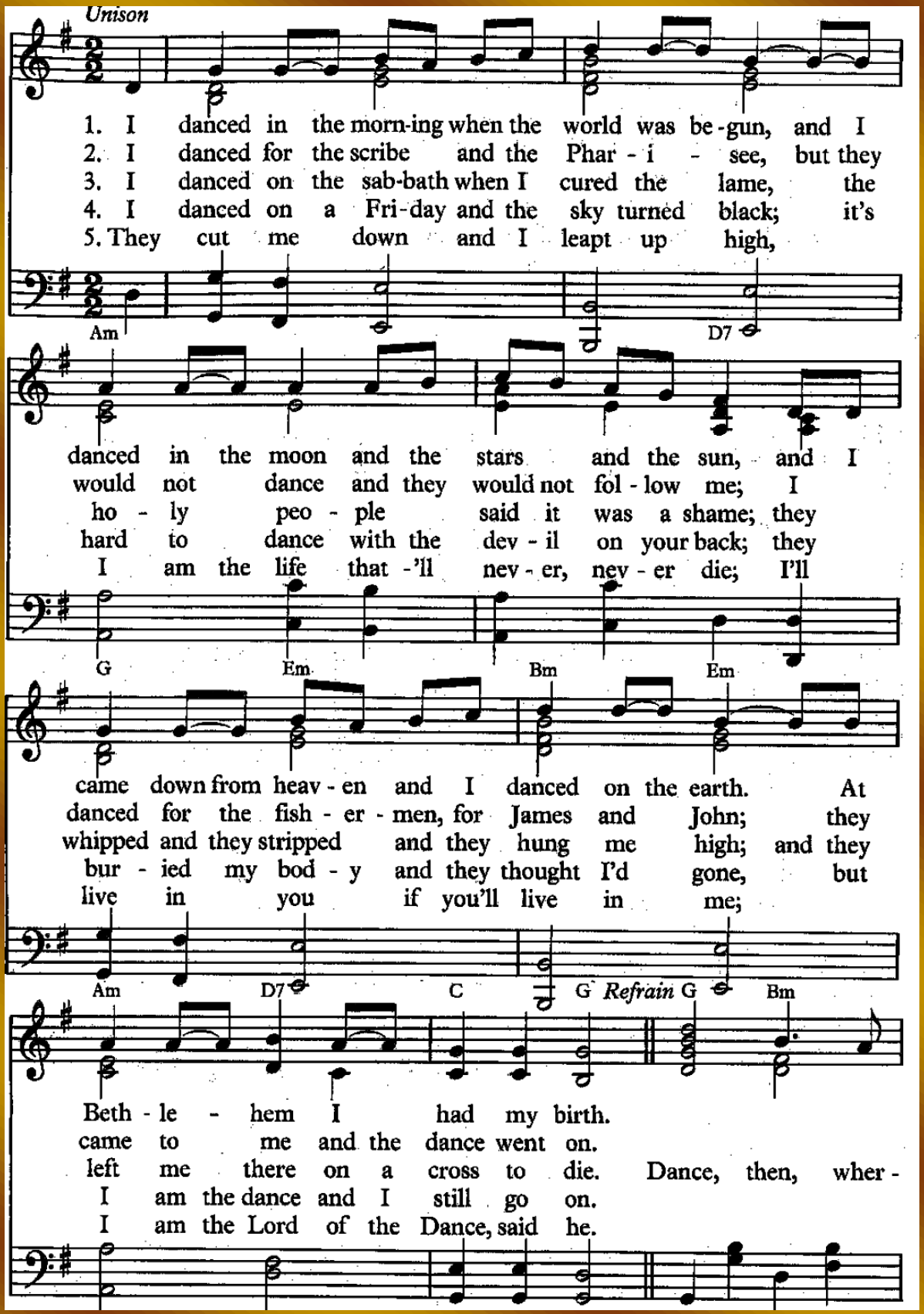
Many: An honest one. Do you want us to lie to God?

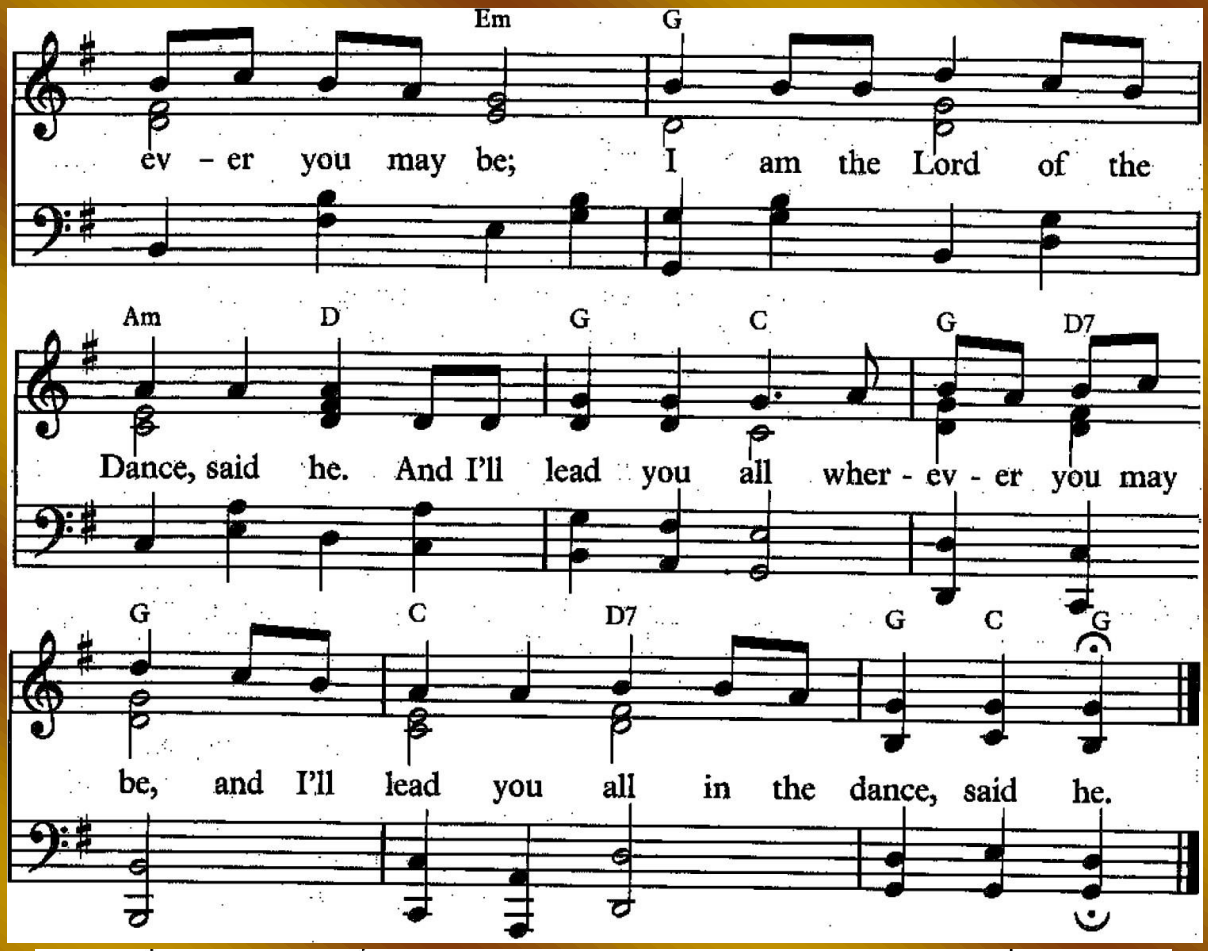
One: No, but how can God answer a prayer like that? What if we try again with a perspective more like Jesus'?

Many: Okay, fine. We'll start again.

All: Here we are, Lord, asking you to change our hearts. It's incredibly hard to not look down on other people—not because we are higher than them, but because we are blind to our own faults. Can you help us realize that you love all people just as much as you love us? Can you help us realize that you created them in your image too? Can you help us realize that some of our weaknesses are their strengths? Can you help us realize that we all have much to learn, room to grow, gifts to give? Can you help us step into your dream that we would all be one? Here we are, Lord, transform us!

Hymn of Rejoicing "Lord of the Dance" *UMH #261 1, 4-5*


Unison
1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i-see, but they
3. I danced on the sab-bath when I cured the lame, the
4. I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black; it's
5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,
Am
D7
danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
would not dance and they would not fol-low me; I
ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame; they
hard to dance with the dev-il on your back; they
I am the life that-'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll
G
Em
Bm
Em
came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth. At
danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; they
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they
bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone, but
live in you if you'll live in me;
Am
D7
C
G
Refrain
G
Bm
Beth-le-hem I had my birth.
came to me and the dance went on.
left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher-
I am the dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



WORDS: Sydney Carter, 1963
MUSIC: 19th cent. Shaker tune; adapt. by Sydney Carter, 1963; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988

LORD OF THE DANCE
Irr. with Refrain

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Scripture Reading *John 17:20-23 NIV*

One: My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

All: Oh God, help us be a living answer to Jesus' prayer!

Sermon *"That All of Them May Be One"*

Communion "No Other People's Children" *Elizabeth Alexander*
Chancel Choir

This is God's open house, so all are welcome at the table. Ushers will invite you forward. The choir will be served first. The congregation is invited to join the choir as they sing. The lyrics will be on the screen. Gluten-free bread is available—just ask. The wine is actually grape juice. You may dip your bread in the wine, er, grape juice, (Try not to dip your fingers too!), or take a small cup and after drinking place it in the bowls at the end of the front benches.

Time of Prayer

Email or call the church office or pastor with prayer requests. There is also a basket on the table in the lobby where you can put your written requests. Please indicate whether you would like your request to be private to the pastor and/or prayer circle or to be public in the newsletter or worship service.

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.

We Remember

Prayer

God, we thank you for each life, for each of these people we have named, the good they've done on earth, the joy they experience now, the love they've left behind. Our heart softens as we remember them. Our eyes fill with tears. Our grief rises as we ponder the separation of death. We long to see them; we long also to never die. Yet we too are mortal; and so one day again, there will be no distance, no separation between us and you, between us and them. Still, we are here; and it is now. You have work for us to do here and now. Help us live in the here and now. May we walk in your way. May we do your will. May we love well. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

One: Let us read together the words of the Apostle Paul:

Many: "I have given you an example that by working hard like this we should help the weak. We should remember the words that the Lord Jesus said, 'Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.'" Acts 20:35 God's Word Translation

Offertory "We Come to Say Thank You" *Pepper Choplin*

Chancel Choir

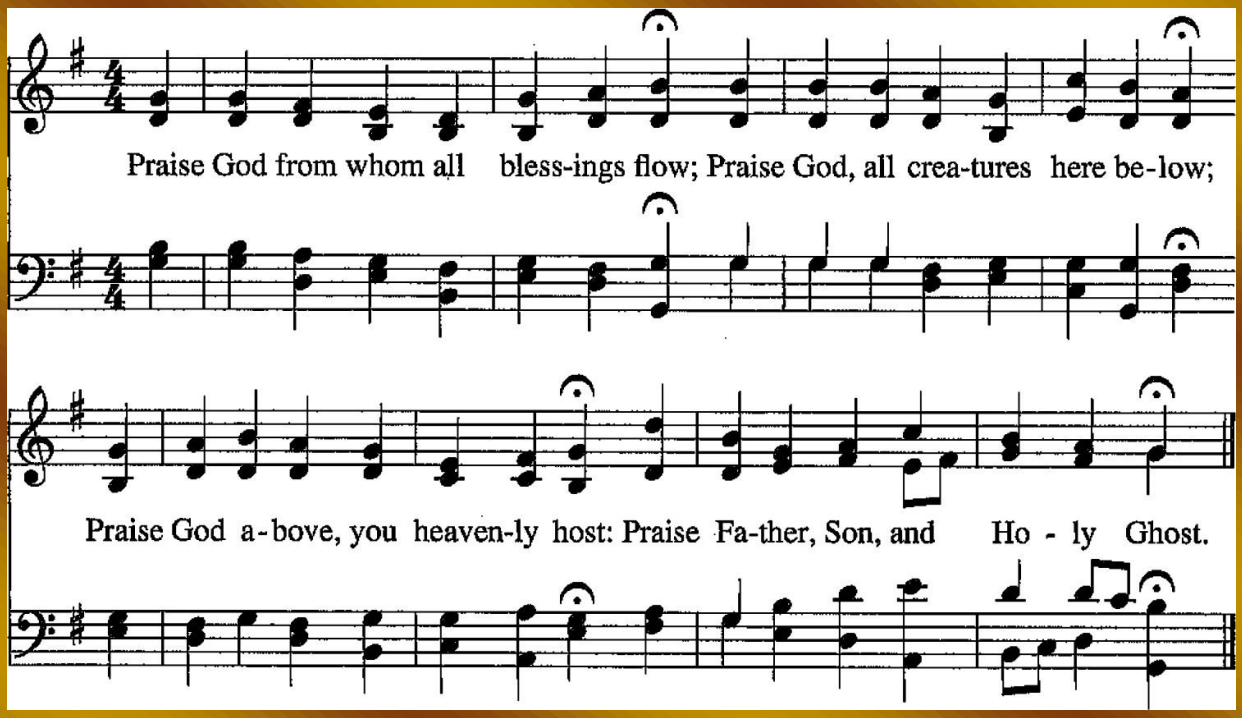
Our ministries rely on the generosity of our members and friends. If you would like to make a financial contribution to support our work in Great Falls and beyond, you can send checks to P.O. Box 6303, Great Falls, MT 59406 or use the corresponding QR codes.

First Congregational UCC Donations:

Christ UMC Donations:

****Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" *NCH #780*

Blessings abound where'er Christ reigns.
The prisoners leap to lose their chains.
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.



Prayer

Here we are, Lord, giving to our community the gifts you've given to us. Help them impact the world beyond our walls. We were born for such a time as this, and we are eager to serve your purpose in this generation. Lord, let us not ask you to bless what we do; but rather, help us to do what you promise to bless. Here we are, Lord, desiring unity with you and with each other! Here we are, Lord, transform us!

******Closing Hymn "Bind Us Together" *On Screen*
By Isaac Wardell

Benediction

****Sending Song** "May You Run and Not Be Weary" *TFWS #2281*

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Some of the liturgy is inspired by Esther 4:14, Acts 13:36, Psalm 141:3, Matthew 19:24, other scripture, and a friend's previous pastor. 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.