

Statement of Faith

Call to Worship

Affirmation (Thinksheet #2214)

Silent Meditation

Praise: "O How Glorious, Full of Wonder"

Scripture: Romans 8¹⁸⁻³⁹

Prayers, Silent and Open

Confession of Faith*

Closing Praise: The Doxology

Benediction

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This is the original, and still most used, form of the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith, which was the model for that of the United Church of Canada and some other churches. Some use is made also of several inclusive-language and doxological versions.

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being,
creates man in his own image
and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
he has come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and
races.

He calls us into his Church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be his servants in the service of men,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
his presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Approved by the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ held in Oberlin, Ohio, July 5-9, 1959, and submitted to the Synods, Conferences, Associations and Churches for their approval and use. The General Synod encourages the use of the Statement of Faith in congregational worship, in private devotions and for purposes of study.

The pastor who wrote this hymn in our UCC hymnal [THE PILGRIM HYMNAL, now replaced by the 1976 HYMNAL, which also includes it] combines the moods of transcendence and immanence in his ministry, as I've observed him through the years. Once he told me his disappointment when the church, which had worshipped a year in the basement because the upstairs had burned out, returned from the intimacy-immanence of the basement to the ultimacy-transcendence of "the sanctuary"! Why, asked he, is it so hard to keep the two dimensions together? Well, do you agree with me that he's managed it in this hymn?

[NOTE: He wrote this ca.1960, before the women's movement. He'd be pleased with my elimination of sexism in the last line.]

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O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

Based on Psalm 8
Curtis Beuch, 1914

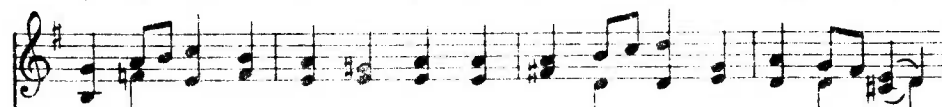
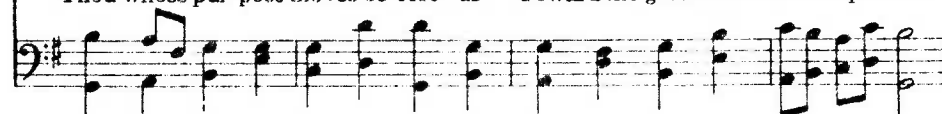
IN BABYLONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Traditional Dutch Melody



1 O how glo-rious, full of won-der ls thy name o'er all the earth;
2 When we see thy lights of heav-en, Moon and stars, thy power dis-played,
3 Thou hast giv-en man do-min-ion O'er the won-ders of thy hand,
4 O how won-drous, O how glo-rious ls thy name in ev-ery land!



Thou who wrought cre-a-tion's splen-dor, Bring-ing suns and stars to birth!
What is man that thou shouldst love him, Crea-ture that thy hand hath made?
Made him fly with ea-gle pin-ion, Mas-ter o-ver sea and land.
Thou whose pur-pose moves be-fore us Toward the goal that thou hast planned.



Rapt in rev-erence we a-dore thee, Mar-veling at thy mys-tic ways.
Child of earth, yet full of yearn-ing, Mix-ture strange of good and ill,
Soar-ing spire and ru-ined cit-y, These our hopes and fail-ures show.
'Tis thy will our hearts are seek-ing, Con-sci-ous of our hu-man need.



Hum-bly now we bow be-fore thee, Lift-ing up our hearts in praise.
From thy ways so of-ten turn-ing, Yet thy love doth seek him still.
Teach us more of hu-man pit-y, That we in thine im-age grow.
Spir-it in our spir-it speak-ing, Make us ~~sons of God~~ ^{servants} in-deed! A-men.

