WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

150 Years of Justice, Compassion and Joy!

Prelude

Prelude in F
by Albert Alain

Opening Sentences
One: This is the day that our God has made!
Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Mission Statement (page 7)

Announcements

Gathering Words

Call to Worship:
One: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!
Many: The light of God transfigures familiar faces!

One: At the heights of our worship, may God’s presence shine through the commonplace.
Many: At the depths of our pain and struggles, may God’s presence give us courage and peace.

ALL: May God’s light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days! AMEN.

Opening Hymn

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Words and music on page 6

Prayer of Affirmation
One: In the midst of hunger and war,
Many: we celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.

One: In the midst of oppression and tyranny
Many: we celebrate the promise of service and freedom.

One: In the midst of doubt and despair
Many: we celebrate the promise of faith and hope.

One: In the midst of fear and betrayal
Many we celebrate the promise of joy and trust.
One: In the midst of hatred and death
Many: we celebrate love and life.

ALL: In the midst of darkness and struggle on every side we celebrate the living light of Christ. AMEN.

Passing of the Peace
One: The peace of Christ is with each of you.
Many: And also with you!
Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Children’s Moment Rev. Karma Cloud
At this time, children of all ages are welcome to come to the chancel steps for the children’s message. Children 5 and older are welcome to join in the Sunday school in the upstairs classroom. Ages 4 & younger are welcome in childcare.

Moment of Connection
At this time you are invited to fill out the green Connection Card in your bulletin and later place it in the Offertory plate. Whether you are brand new or a long time member, please let us know you are here.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS
If you would like to share a prayer with the pastors or have a prayer lifted up during worship next Sunday, please fill out the prayer side of the green Connection Card and place it in the plate at offertory time. If you like to keep your prayer private, please use the yellow prayer request card.

Time of Silence

Prayers of the People
Response: One: God in your mercy,
Many: hear our prayers.

Lord’s Prayer
ALL: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come.
Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kin-dom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response to Prayer

Alleluia

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WISDOM

Modern Lesson is the poem “Beginners” by Denise Levertov

Sung Call to Scripture

Let It Shine

Scripture Lesson Matthew 17:1-9

17Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 5While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son,
the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” 6When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” 8And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. 9As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

One: May God’s wonder be revealed to us through the mystery of these words.  
Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Glory Unseen” Rev. Ann Ralosky

Musical Meditation

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WISDOM**

Offertory

Moment of Service Montclair Sanctuary Alliance Peter Wert

Offertory Music *Order My Steps* 
Words and music Glenn Burleigh, arr. Jack Schrader

Blessing of the Gifts

ALL: God of abundant grace,  
as we offer you the gifts of our hands  
we pray that you might also receive the gifts of our hearts.  
Take both of these humble offerings and transform them  
that they become agents of your shalom,  
creating both within and beyond these walls a realm  
of justice, mercy and peace. AMEN.

Doxology

*Doxology by Tom Fetke*
WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn

Lord, Be Glorified

_In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
   In my life, Lord, be glorified today._

_In my heart, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
   In my heart, Lord, be glorified today._

_In my walk, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
   In my walk, Lord, be glorified today._

The Commission

One: The spirit of God is upon us.
Many: God has anointed us
to bear good news to the afflicted,
to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom to the captives,
to open the prisons of those who are bound.
Let us go forth in the name of Christ to bring peace into broken relationships, healing to alienated persons, and justice into oppressive structures. AMEN.

Benediction

Farewell to the Alleluia

_It is an ancient practice of the Church to sing a "farewell to Alleluia" at the close of the service on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent. Alleluia means "praise the Lord." We will not sing or speak the "Alleluia" again until Easter Sunday when with great joy we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and new life._

Farewell to Alleluia

Vivianne Potter, violin
17th C. French carol, setting by Donald Busarow

_At the end of the anthem the choir will recess in silence and we are invited to follow in silence as well. All are welcome to join us in the Guild Room for the Coffee Hour afterwards._
Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.
Please contact the church office if you’d like to find out about ways to serve.

Liturgist: Rev. Heather Cherrey
Reader: Brittany Cunha
Keepers of the Alleluia: Matthew and Elias Yao
Ushers: Angel Rivera and Martin Edwards
Coffee Hour Host: Kathy and Rebecca Vazquez-Rhodes

A donation has been made to the food bank by Maurice Cook.

(Gratitude to the Iona Community in Scotland for much of our liturgical language)
The Mission & Vision of First Congregational Church

Mission Statement:
We are a progressive, open and affirming Christian church. We welcome people of all ages and identities to grow spiritually in a safe and engaging community. Inspired by God's love, we bring peace, healing and justice to the world by serving our neighbors and each other.

Vision Statement:
We imagine a world in alignment with Jesus' vision for peace, love and justice, where there is nourishment for those in need, radical hospitality, and sanctuary for all seekers.

You can go “All In” anytime by making an online gift to FCC!

There are many ways to give to FCC each Sunday. You can easily set up your sustaining gift, or your Sunday Offering, or a one time contribution online by going to www.fccmontclair.org/giving. You can also text a donation to 877-346-1045 and follow the one time set up instructions.

If you give by check they must be made out to “First Congregational Church,” (not “FCC.”) Thank you.

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