WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

150 Years of Justice, Compassion and Joy!

Prelude

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

Mission Statement (page 6)

Announcements

Gathering Words

Call to Worship:
One: As we offer a welcome to stranger and friend,
as we are embraced in their kindness,
Many: we choose to be people of life and blessing.
One: As we serve others in God's name,
as we receive blessings from those we do not know,
Many: we choose to walk in God's way.
One: As we choose our words carefully with respect,
as we commit ourselves to speaking truth with love,
Many: we create a community of trust, connection and grace.

Opening Hymn Breathe On Me, Breath of God (verses 1-3)
Words and music on page 7.

Unison Prayer of Affirmation
We believe in God
whose love is the source of all life
and the destiny of our lives.
Whose love was given a human face
in Jesus of Nazareth.
This love was crucified,
but rose beyond the evil
in a glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust. And in the name of Jesus the Christ, we commit ourselves to the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, and to care for the earth. We commit to share in the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the Spirit of love, and, in the company of the faithful, to be the church for the glory of God.

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
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 comes from the song, “Children Will Listen” from Stephen Sondheim’s musical “Into the Woods.”

Sung Call to Scripture   Let It Shine

Scripture Lesson   Matthew 5:33-37
33“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ 34But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

Sung Response to Scripture  
Order My Steps

\[\text{D} \quad \text{A/C}\# \quad \text{Bm} \quad \text{A} \quad \text{G} \quad \text{D/F}\#\]

Let it shine, let it shine, the light of the world that

Em7  A  Bm  Am  D  G  D/F#  Em7  A  D

Last time, Fine

shows the way; let it shine, let it shine, and show us peace to-day....

Order my steps in your Word, dear Lord,
Lead me, guide me, everyday.
Send your anointing, this I pray;
Order my steps in your Word.
Please, order my steps in your Word.

Sermon  
“The Weight of Words”  Rev. John Rogers

Musical Meditation

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WISDOM

Offertory

Offertory Music  
God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak
Words by Frances Ridley Havergal, music arr. by Robert Schumann

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

Breathe on Me, Breath of God (verses 1 & 4)
Words and music on page 7.

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

Sung Response to Benediction
Refrain from “For Everyone Born”
Postlude

Following worship you are invited to remain seated quietly in the Sanctuary during the postlude or join us for coffee hour in the Guild Room. All are welcome!

SERVICE NOTES

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.

Reader: Deirdre Nance
Ushers: Rich Gilfert and John Ralosky
Coffee Hour Host: Wolfer-Agnew Family

A donation has been made to the food bank by Martin Edwards and Emily Smith in celebration of Martha Smith’s birthday

(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.
A cabaret of show tunes, ballads and other love songs

Friday, February 21st at 8pm & Saturday, February 22nd at 7pm
Proceeds to benefit the Programs of FCC

Individual admission is $20 and includes complimentary refreshments. Tickets may be purchased online at bit.ly/FCCCabaret2020 or in person after service today, Feb. 16.

Please contact Liz Donald at liz77donald@gmail.com regarding sponsorship opportunities and/or to place an ad in the program. Donations are also welcome.
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.