WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude
*Spirit of the Living God*
arr. by Mark Hayes

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

Centering Words

Call to Worship
One:   There are great expectations!
Many:  One is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

One:   The threshing floor will be cleared;
Many:  the chaff will burn with unquenchable fire;

One:   Good tidings will come to the afflicted.
Many:  This one will bind up the brokenhearted and set the captives free.

One:   Those who mourn will find comfort.
Many:  The heavens shall open and all will hear, “You are my Son, the Beloved: with you I am well pleased.”

Opening Hymn
*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (verse 1 – see page 5)
Words by Charles Wesley, music by John Zundel

Passing of the Peace

Children’s Sermon
Rev. Karma Cloud

Prayers of the People

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 Prayer Response

Isaiah 43:1-7   Restoration and Protection Promised
But now thus says the Lord,  
who created you, O Jacob,  
who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’,  
and to the south, ‘Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.’
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

The Baptism of Jesus
Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “God’s Beloved” Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks

Anthem Child of God FCC Choir
Words by Herman Stuempfle, Jr., Music by Luke Mayernik

The Closing 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.

Closing Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verse 4 – see page 5)

Benediction

Postlude I’ve Got Peace Like a River
arr. by Mark Hayes
**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.*

**Worship Leaders:**  Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks and Rev. Heather Cherrey  
**Reader:**  Martha Eidmann-Hicks  
**Music leaders:**  Julie Morgan, David Salyers  
**Facebook Live Tech:**  Matthew MacDonald

_An anonymous member of the congregation has made a donation to our local food banks_

_In gratitude for the Iona Community for much of our worship language_

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**You can make a donation or sustaining gift online at any time!**

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](http://www.fccmontclair.org/giving).

You can also text a donation to **877-346-1045** followed by a space, and then the amount of your donation (follow the one time set up instructions.) **If you give by check they must be made out to “First Congregational Church,”** (not “FCC”) and can be mailed to 40 So. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ, 07042. Thank you.

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**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.
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di- vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Let us all in you in-herit, let us find your prom-ised rest;
Sud-den-ly re-tur-n, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis- it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

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