

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Festive Trumpet Tune
By David German

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: Creator of the world, eternal God,
Many: we have come from many places to find ourselves here.

One: Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,
Many: we have come with all our differences, seeking common and holy ground.

One: Spirit of unity, go-between God,
Many: we have come on journeys of our own, to a place where journeys meet.

One: So here, in this shelter house, let us take time together.
For when paths cross and pilgrims gather,
there is much to share and celebrate!
Many: In your name, three-in-one God,
the pattern of our community. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide (verses 1 & 2)
Words and music on page 5

Passing of the Peace

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

*We welcome the following people into membership of First Congregational Church:
Miriam Aquino, Brittany & Rob Baird, Edwin Cabrera & Nicole Lisi, Barbra Eden, Claire
Gowdy & Rich Torres, Kae Honerkamp, Alexis & Evan Intveld, Cullen McVoy, Deborah
Sandford and Jess Tasca.*

Congregational Welcome

ALL: We welcome you with joy

into the common life of this church.
We promise you our friendship and prayers
as we share the hopes and labors
of this community of faith.
By the power of the Holy Spirit
may we continue to grow together
in God's knowledge and love and be
witnesses of our risen Savior. Amen.

Hymn of Welcome *Draw the Circle Wide (refrain and verse 3)*

Children's Moment Rev. Karma Cloud

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Call to Prayer *Deep Within Our Hearts*

There's a song deep with-in our hearts, There's a light burn-ing in our souls,
And a path in the dark-ness lit from a - bove; God, help us sing your song,
Spir-it to shine your light, Je-sus, to live your love.

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

Hallelujah!

Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah!

Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah!

Hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah!

Announcements

Offering

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Sung Preparation for Scripture *Listening Now*

We're so thank-ful that You are still speak-ing, You're still

speak-ing, grac-ious God, for the sake of the world You are

seek-ing we are list-'ning, list-'ning now.

Scripture Reading **John 17:6-19** (from the translation "The Message")

I spelled out your character in detail to the men and women you gave me. They were yours in the first place; then you gave them to me, and they have now done what you said. They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is firsthand from you, for the message you gave me, I gave them; and they took it, and were convinced that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

I pray for them. I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world but for those you gave me, for they are yours by right. Everything mine is yours, and yours mine,

And my life is on display in them. For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world; they'll continue in the world while I return to you.

Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind.

As long as I was with them, I guarded them in the pursuit of the life you gave through me; I even posted a lookout. And not one of them got away,

Except for the rebel bent on destruction (the exception that proved the rule of Scripture). Now I'm returning to you. I'm saying these things in the world's hearing so my people can experience my joy completed in them. I gave them your word; the godless world hated them because of it, because they didn't join the world's ways, just as I didn't join the world's ways. I'm not asking that you take them out of the world but that you guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world.

Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth; Your word is consecrating truth. In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. I'm consecrating myself for their sakes so they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.

One: May God's wonder be revealed to us through the mystery of these words.

Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Ways of the World”

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Words by Handt Hanson and Kyle Pederson, arr. Kyle Pederson

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Farewell and Blessing

The Closing Commission

One: The spirit of God is upon us.

**All: 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, action to protect our earth,
and justice into oppressive structures. AMEN.**

Closing Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide (refrain and verse 3)

Benediction

Postlude

Postludium II
By Ron Boud



*Scan this QR Code
with your camera or
scanning app to
quickly donate
online!*

**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, your Sunday Offering, or a one-time contribution.

ONLINE: Scan this QR Code or go to www.fccmontclair.org/giving.

TEXT: You can 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.)

CHECK: If you give by check it must be made out to "First Congregational Church," (not "FCC") and can be put in the offertory basket, or mailed to 40 So. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ, 07042.
Thank you.

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.

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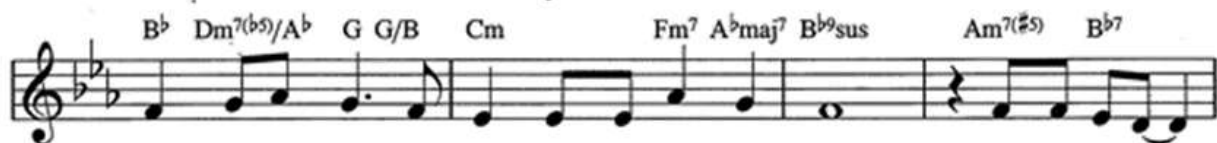
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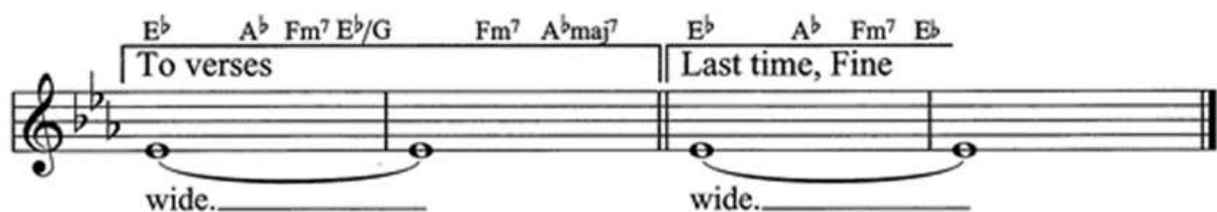
Draw the Circle Wide



Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our_



song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_

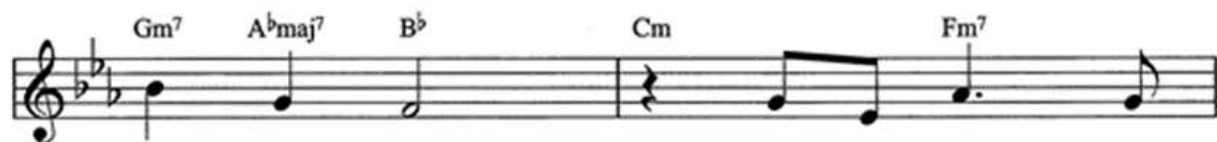


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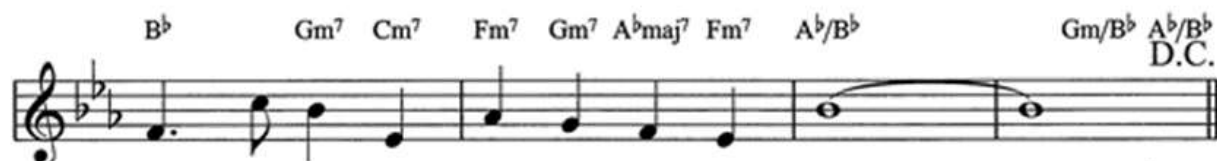
wide._____



1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
 3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er



- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
 great and small; let our lov - ing
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of



held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms._____
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call._____
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door._____

Upcoming Events

Full Spectrum Fun Friday for May 3rd is RESCHEDULED for May 31, 7:30pm

LGBTQ AND ALLIES INVITED. Going away party for Lori and Angie. Join us at Cloverleaf Tavern, 395 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ.

Underground Church—Saturday May 18, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

Experience the shared community of Underground Church worship.

Free Screening of Award-Winning Movie! May 19, 12:15pm in the Sanctuary

“The Biggest Little Farm”: inspiring true story of two city dwellers with a dream that helped transform a barren piece of farmland into a thriving, sustainable farm.

You’re Invited to a Potluck Dinner Hosted by the Green Team May 23, 6:30pm

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/FCC5-23> for a lively conversation about FCC’s commitment to climate justice & what it means to you. We want to get to know you/your ideas/interests, etc.

MMO Fundraiser Basket Raffle, May 30, 4-7pm on the MMO Front Lawn

MMO Programs (FCC’s preschool) invites you to attend their Spring Fling playground fundraiser. Join us for fun, food, entertainment, basket raffles, and silent auction items. All money raised will be used to renovate the MMO Programs playground.

Can't make the event? We'll miss you but hope you will support us by making a direct donation using this QR code or indicating “MMO Playground” in the memo line of your check or cash-in-envelope donation. Thank you for your support!



Next Book Discussion: June 5, 7pm in Room 5

"The Nature Fix" by Florence Williams delves into what is actually going on in our bodies when we are outside in a natural environment & why everything seems better/brighter.

Sixth annual FCC Trivia Night, Friday, June 7, 7:00 PM in the Guild Room

\$10 per person. All proceeds support the Youth Group Service Trip to Belize.

Pride Montclair Festival 2024—Help Us Represent FCC on June 8

We need volunteers—please go here to sign up: www.tinyurl.com/Pride-FCC

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays: Weekly Labyrinth Walks—11am-1pm in the sanctuary.

Full Spectrum (LGBTQ+) Events

• **First Friday Fun!** Join Full Spectrum monthly for a fun, social event.

• **Third Friday Full Spectrum Spirituality—Now on ZOOM:**

Special monthly small group discussion on spirituality, scripture and faith.

For more details check the calendar on our “Upcoming Events” page:

<https://fccmontclair.org/upcoming-events-at-fcc/>

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Ann Ralosky and Phyllis Stone

Reader: Reginald Webber

Ushers: Jasmine Batista & Heather Cherrey

Coffee Hour Host: Hospitality Committee

Coffee Hour Setup Team: Steve Cutaia, Tim Duhamel, and Mike Harney

Music Leaders: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

AV Techs: Matthew MacDonald and Mike Harney

A gift has been made to the Food Bank by Kathy Vazquez-Rhodes in honor of Rebecca Vazquez-Rhodes: "Best Mom and best wife EVER!"

Kathy has added a second gift in honor of Rebecca's grandmother, Doris Mishoe, because she is the best role model a woman can have.

Gratitude to the Iona Community for use of some of our worship language.