

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Litany
By Robert Hebble

Opening Sentences

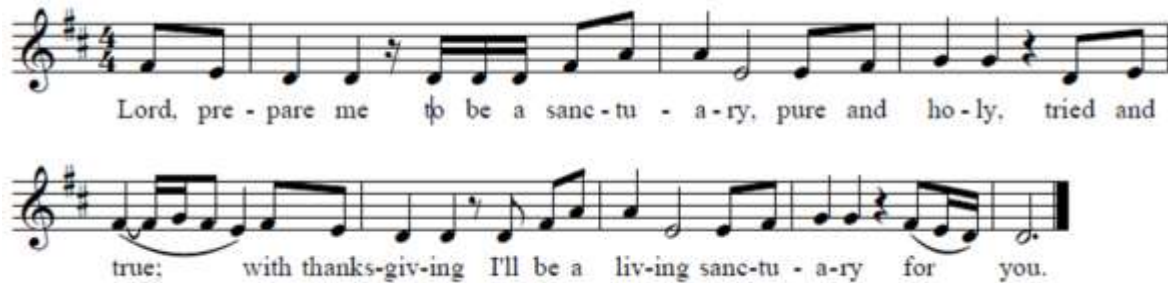
One: This is the day that our God has made!

Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Welcoming Words

Centering Song

Lord, Prepare Me



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - a - ry, pure and ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks-giv-ing I'll be a liv-ing sanc-tu - a-ry for you.

Call to Worship

One: We come because we are called to worship our God,

Many: **whose words restore us to life.**

One: We come because we are called to follow Jesus,

Many: **whose hopes for justice are clear and strong.**

One: We come because we are called to learn from the Spirit,

Many: **whose teachings help us to understand
how to live as God's people.**

**ALL: May our worship together center our hearts in God
and our hands in the world. AMEN.**

Opening

God of Grace and God of Glory (verses 1 & 2)
Words and music on page 6

Celebration of Creation

Excerpt from "When the Trees Say Nothing"
by Thomas Merton

Musical Response *What a Wonderful World*

*I see trees of green, red roses, too; I see them bloom for me and you,
And I think to myself "What a wonderful world."*

*I see skies of blue and clouds of white; the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."*

Passing of the Peace

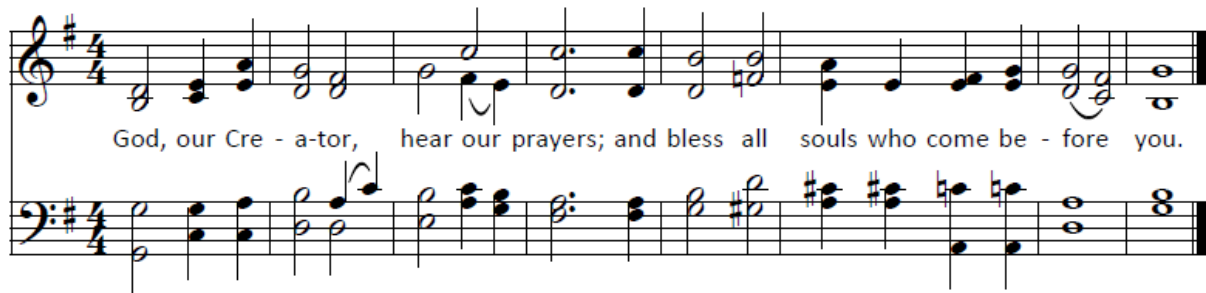
Children's Moment

Induction Ceremony

Rev. Karma Cloud

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Preparation to Prayer *God, Our Creator*



God, our Cre - a-tor, hear our prayers; and bless all souls who come be - fore you.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy/ Santo, Santo, Santo
Sung in English then Spanish

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My
 ¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
 heart knows how to say to you: You are ho - ly, Lord!
 co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Dios!

Announcements

Offering

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WISDOM

Sung Call to Scripture

Order My Steps

♩=115
 Or - der my steps in your word, dear Lord. Lead me, guide me ev - e - ry day;
 Send your a - noint - ing, this I pray. Or - der my steps in your word; please.
 or - der my steps in your word.

Scripture Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

7So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” 3Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. 4For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” 5Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen

Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” 6Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

9Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” 10So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

20Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, 22as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “A Timely Undressing of Hadassah:
Oops, Esther That Is!”

Rev. Dr. Althea
Spencer Miller

Anthem *Once to Every Soul and Nation*
Words by James Lowell; Music by Thomas J. Williams; arr. J. Morgan

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

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 planet,
and justice into oppressive structures. AMEN.**

Closing Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory (verse 3)*

Benediction

Postlude

Rondino
By Marius Monnikendam

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leaders: Rev. John Rogers and Rev. Dr. Althea Spencer Miller

Liturgist: Ceceila Alderman

Reader: Joseph Smith

Ushers: Jasmine Batista & Rich Gilfert

Coffee Hour Hosts: Geri Perret and Mark Ferguson

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 Pantry by John Ralosky in memory of his parents Angie and John Ralosky.

Gratitude to the Iona Community for some of our worship language



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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.

God of Grace and God of Glory

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.




1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Upcoming Events

Youth Group Presentation on Belize Trip — Today After Worship

This Sunday our youth group will offer a presentation on their summer service experience with the Youth Group from Jacintoville, Belize. Join them as they share pictures and memories of painting, leading an arts camp, and immersing themselves in the Q'eqchi' Maya and Garifuna cultures.

Vote With Love Postcard Project at FCC ...Now Through Oct 20

Handwritten postcards are a very effective way to motivate voters. Our goal is to send at least 500 hundred post cards to voters. To find out more and to sign up, visit our Vote With Love table in the guild room after worship or email amy.debaets@gmail.com.

Ongoing Events

Calling all nature lovers — the Olmsted Garden needs you!

Our beautiful garden has been planted, but needs care over the summer so it will thrive. We need folks to regularly mulch, water and weed the garden. Even just for an hour a day! If you would like to help, please contact Siobhan Morello at smorello@fccmtc.com.

Weekly Labyrinth Walks, Wednesdays 11am-1pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome!

Slow Motion Adult Bible Study — Thursdays on Zoom at 7pm

Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite translation of the Bible.

Underground Church — usually third Saturday each month, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

Join us for an intimate and interactive worship experience that hearkens back to the early church. Usually the third Saturday of each month, 10:30am in the sanctuary.

Full Spectrum Spirituality (FSS) Meeting, third Friday each month at

7:30pm on Zoom

Please note: this is an LGBTQ+ only event. 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/>

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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