

January 19, 2025  
10:30am—11:45am

Second Sunday after Epiphany

## WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

### Prelude

*Canon in D*  
By Johann Pachelbel

### Opening Sentences

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

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

### Centering Words

### Centering Song

*Open Our Hearts*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 12/8 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the lyrics "O - pen our hearts, o - pen our minds." with a first ending bracket above the final measure. The second staff continues with "O - pen our lives to you, O lov - ing God. O - pen our" and includes a second ending bracket above the final measure. The third staff concludes with "God." and a double bar line.

### Call to Worship:

One: We come in these endless days, Precious God,  
people in need of the constancy of your love:

Many: **may we drink deeply from your fountain of life;  
may we continue to be guided by your Light.**

One: We gather in these weary days, Water-changing God,  
people looking for signs of hope and wonder:

Many: **may we drink deeply from your fountain of grace;  
may our weariness be wrapped in your Hope.**

One: We worship in these overwhelming days, Gifting God,  
people who try to point others to Jesus:

Many: **may we drink deeply from your fountain of joy;  
may our life be strengthened by your Life. AMEN.**

Opening Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verses 1 & 2)*

## 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-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, 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.

### Shared 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

#### Offertory

### WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

#### Sung Preparation for 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 *The Universe is Bending*

The u-ni-verse is bend-ing, stretch-ing long and  
stretch-ing out and it's lead-ing t'ward whole-ness by the  
shin-ing Light of God.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, with two triplets marked above the notes. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff concludes the melody for the third line of lyrics with a double bar line.

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

### Scripture Lesson

### John 2:1-11

2On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 5His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in

Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

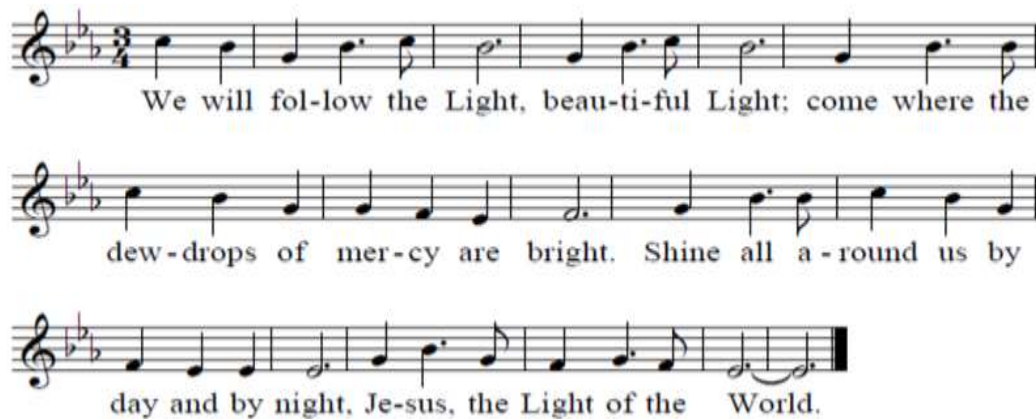
Sermon "Grounded in Joy" Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem *Glory, Hallelujah!* Hans Ericson, Elizabeth Honer, soloists  
By Mark Burrows, adapted Aaron Krauza, percussion

## WE GO INTO THE WORLD

### Announcements

Closing Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verses 3 & 4)*



We will fol-low the Light, beau-ti-ful Light; come where the  
dew-drops of mer-cy are bright. Shine all a-round us by  
day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the World.

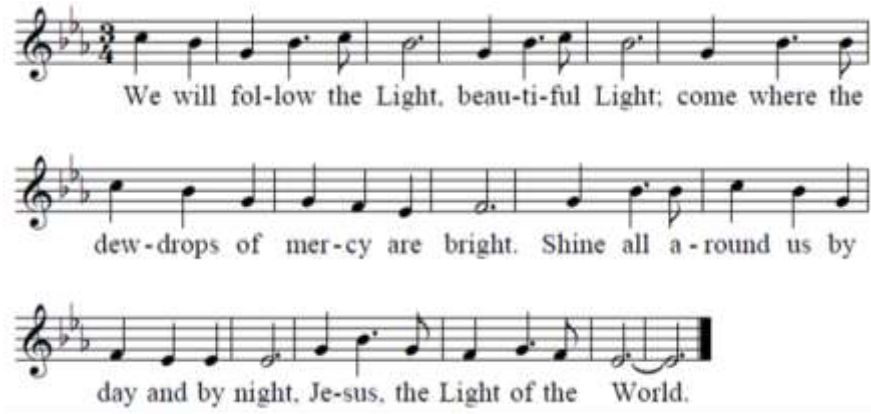
### The Closing Commission

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, action to protect our planet,  
and justice into oppressive structures. AMEN.**

### Benediction

Sung Benediction Response *Jesus the Light of the World* (Refrain)



We will fol-low the Light, beau-ti-ful Light; come where the  
dew-drops of mer-cy are bright. Shine all a-round us by  
day and by night. Je-sus, the Light of the World.

Postlude

*Epiphany*  
By John Leavitt

**SERVICE NOTES**

*Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.*

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Ann Ralosky and Rev. John Rogers

**Reader:** Jasmin Vrban

**Ushers:** Heather Cherrey and Deirdre Nance

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Gunta Alexander

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

**Music Leaders:** Julie Morgan and David Salyers

**AV Techs:** Jason Jinson and Joe Mondo

*The Brooks family has made a gift to the food bank to feed the hungry.*

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



*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](http://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.*



## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

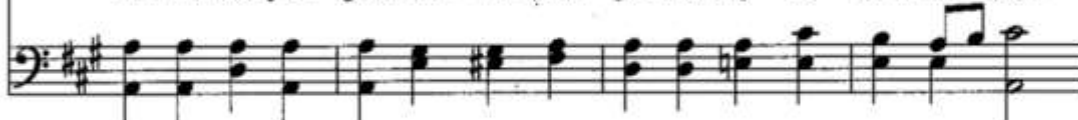
Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



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 - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;  
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, 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.



## Upcoming Events

### Underground Church (monthly), Saturday, January 25, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

An intimate and interactive worship experience that harkens back to the early church.

### Workshop for the Green Bank Curious, January 26, 12-2pm in the Sanctuary

Wondering how your banking can contribute to a greener world? Come check out this workshop sponsored by the FCC Green Team.

### Introduction to the Enneagram Workshop on February 1, 12:30pm in the Guild Room

Explore your personality through the work of the Enneagram. This introduction will be led by FCC member and certified Enneagram teacher, Cullen McVoy. It will touch on the concepts of this approach and leave room for further engagement.

## Ongoing Events

### Weekly Labyrinth Walks, Wednesdays 11am-1pm in the sanctuary.

All are welcome!

### UPDATE: Slow Motion Bible Study will be returning Thursdays, beginning February 6, at 7pm on Zoom!

New FCC member, Rev. Victor Peterson will lead an engaging exploration of our scriptures each Thursday evening on Zoom. More details to come!

### 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.

### Underground Church (monthly), Saturday, January 25, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

An intimate and interactive worship experience that harkens back to the early church.

*For more details check the calendar on our "Upcoming Events" page:  
<https://fccmontclair.org/upcoming-events-at-fcc/>*

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