

## **WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION**

### **Prelude**

*How Can I Keep From Singing?*  
By Robert Lowry, arr. Pam Turner

### **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*



### **Call to Worship:**

One: We come to this place of prayer,

Many: **for here we can bring our hopes and dreams,  
our hidden fears and the doubts we dare wear on our sleeves.**

One: We come to this place of grace,

Many: **for here we learn compassion and joy,  
and discover how deeply we are loved.**

One: We come with these people called the church,

Many: **to be blessed by the variety of gifts,  
to live as one for our God. AMEN.**

### **Opening Hymn**

*How Can I Keep from Singing?* (Vs 1 & 2)  
Words and music on pages 6 & 7

### **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**      Children's Moving Up Ceremony      Rev. Karma Cloud

*Today we celebrate our children's Faith, Compassion and Courage with our 9th Annual Completion Ceremony. We acknowledge their contributions to this congregation and their commitment to their spiritual growth!*

*We congratulate our Sunday School Graduates, Aria Brooks, Cody Campbell, Felix Durka, and Noah Rivera, who will be starting the Youth Program next year!! We are so proud of you!*

## **Offertory**

### **WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS**

**Sung Preparation for Prayer** *Deep Within Our Hearts*



**Children: Why We Pray**

**Prayers of the People**

**Prayers of the Children**

**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*



## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

### Scripture

Acts 16:16-34

<sup>16</sup>One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup>She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. <sup>19</sup>But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup>When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup>and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup>Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup>They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup>He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“Liberating Love”

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem

*God Is Our Strength*  
By Laura Farnell

## **WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION**

“Communion Is” Litany

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

One: God is with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Open your hearts.

Many: **Our hearts are open to God and to one another.**

One: Let us give thanks to the giver of all gifts.

Many: **It is good and right to give God  
our heartfelt thanksgiving and praise.**

Let us pray...

...and with our family in faith let us raise our voices with all the  
creatures of earth and heaven and say the words from our great hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy  
God of power and light.  
The whole universe shines with your light.  
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution

Consecration of the Gifts

Communion Music

*Jesus Is Here Right Now*  
By Leon Roberts, arr. JMorgan

Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Meal

One: Let us pray.

**ALL: Holy God,  
in gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people,  
we give ourselves to you.  
Take us out to live as changed people  
because we have shared the living bread  
and cannot remain the same.  
Ask much of us, expect much from us,  
enable much by us, encourage many through us.  
Let us become heralds of your new kin-dom. AMEN.**

## WE GO INTO THE WORLD

### Announcements

**Closing Hymn**      *How Can I Keep From Singing (verses 3 & 4)*

### 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

**Postlude**      *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*  
By Isaac Watts, arr. Craig Sellar Lang

### SERVICE NOTES

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

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

**Reader:** YOUTH

**Ushers:** Jasmine Batista & Deirdre Nance

**Coffee Hour Host:** Christian Ed Team

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

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

**AV Techs:** Brandon Jean-Philippe and Joe Mondo

*A gift has been made to the food bank by Saija Autrand, in recognition of people who hunger.*

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

# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

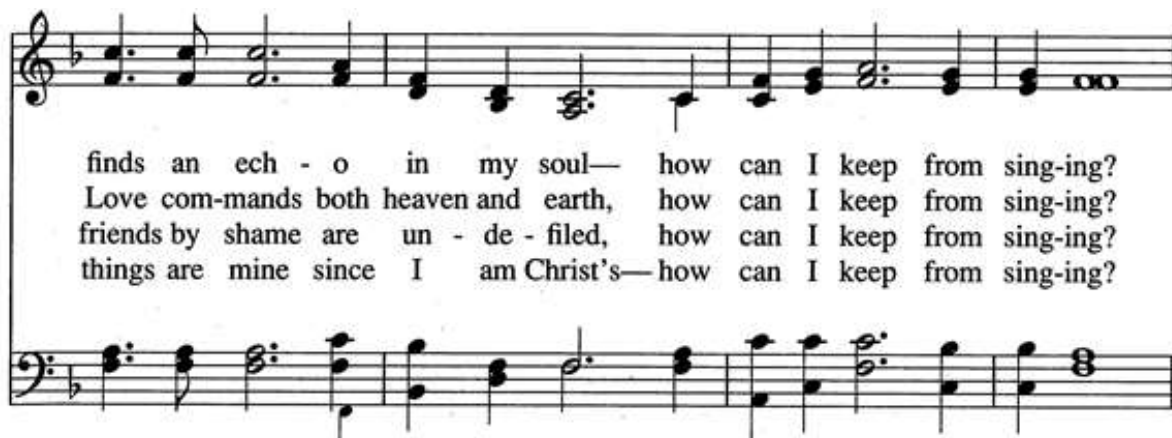
Anon. in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*,  
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.  
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Say - ior still is  
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
 liv - ing, What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



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with your camera or  
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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, 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.*

**WANT TO TRY SINGING WITH THE CHOIR THIS SUMMER?**

***An Invitation from our Music Director, Julie Morgan***

(No weekday rehearsals, we just put the music together on Sunday morning!)

As summer is here, the choir is now on official break from Tuesday night rehearsals until the fall – but we'll still be providing music every Sunday morning, of course!

Each week, I will email our singers to see who'll be around for the next Sunday, and when possible, I send around a copy/sound clip of the song that we'll work up that day.

We usually gather each Sunday around 9:30am and learn the morning's anthem, then sing it at our service at 10:30.

If you think you'd like to join us for this Summer "Pickup" Choir, please write to Julie at [jmorgan@mastervoices.org](mailto:jmorgan@mastervoices.org). We'd love to have you with us!



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Qigong at FCC—June 7, 10am in the Guild Room**

Part of the Taoist tradition, this exercise system uses very slow, deliberate movement, keeping your mind actively involved. The style of movement helps reduce physical and mental tension to help us remain grounded and centered. Class is led by FCC member, Joanne Kornoelje.

### **Nature Walk with The Green Team, June 7, 10am**

Our outing to The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will be an easy 1 hour-ish stroll right over the swamp on a flat 1.2 mile loop boardwalk path. Carpool from FCC 9am or meet at the center 10am. Please register at [greenteam@fccmtc.com](mailto:greenteam@fccmtc.com) so we know you're coming.

### **Let's show our FCC PRIDE at the Montclair Pride Festival, June 14!**

Join us at the Montclair Pride Festival [www.outmontclair.org/montclair-pride-2/](http://www.outmontclair.org/montclair-pride-2/). It's a fun and colorful day filled with musical performances, community and a lot of love! SIGN UP FOR A TABLE SHIFT at <https://tinyurl.com/pridejune14> or use the QR code.



### **Please Join Us for FCC's Congregational Meeting, June 18th, 7:30 PM on Zoom**

We will be voting on our slate of officers for the upcoming year. Only church members may vote, but we welcome any interested friends of the church to attend virtually. Please attend to ensure we have a quorum for this very important meeting.

## **Ongoing Events**

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

All are welcome!

### **Slow Motion Bible Study—Thursdays, 7pm on Zoom!**

FCC member, Rev. Victor Peterson, will lead an engaging exploration of our scriptures each Thursday evening on Zoom.

### **Underground Church (monthly—usually Third Saturdays,) 10:30am in the Sanctuary**

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

### **Full Spectrum Spirituality (FSS) - LGBTQ+ Gathering -Sundays Weekly During Coffee Hour in Room 5 (Parents Room)**

We will chat about life, spirituality, and whatever else comes up! Led by Lex Lourenco and Jasmin Vrbanc. If you are interested in joining this group, please text Lex at 856-332-7448.

### **Green Team Ministry Meeting (2nd Sundays) 12-1pm in the FCC Library**

Learn about FCC's climate justice initiatives, be part of planning our events, and live your faith by taking action for the planet.

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