

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Peace

By Leonardo Antonio di Chiara

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

O - pen our hearts, o - pen our minds. O - pen our
 lives to you, O lov - ing God. O - pen our God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 12/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the lyrics "O - pen our hearts, o - pen our minds. O - pen our". The second staff contains the melody for the lyrics "lives to you, O lov - ing God. O - pen our God." There are first and second endings indicated by brackets and numbers 1 and 2.

Call to Worship:

One: At times, frayed and frazzled, our lives jangling with tension and anxiety,

Many: **we gather to find that place of peace which God offers to us.**

One: At times, awash in worries and doubts, drowning in a sea of fears,

Many: **we gather beside the still waters where Jesus offers us a cup of grace.**

One: At times, weakened by the burdens of life, wandering as if lost in a wilderness,

Many: **we gather so the Spirit can restore our souls and show us the path to the kin-dom. AMEN.**

Opening Hymn

Children of God (verses 1 & 2)

Words and music on page 5

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

Rev. Karma Cloud

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 *Hallelujah*

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Lesson

Acts 9:36-43

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"Love In Action"

Rev. Craig Peterson

Anthem

World Peace Canon

Traditional, arr. Donald Moore

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Children of God (verse 3)

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

Recessional - Trumpet Tune
By Pietro Cattaneo

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leader: Rev. Ann Ralosky

Guest Preacher: Rev. Craig Peterson

Reader: Alexis Lourenco

Ushers: Rich Gilfert and Lex Lourenco

Coffee Hour Host: Annicia, Felix and Levi Durka

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

Music Leader: David Salyers

AV Techs: Brandon Jean-Philippe and Joe Mondo

A donation has been made to the food bank in loving memory of Patti Lou Decatrel, from Kevin, Alicia & Siobhan.

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.

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.

Children of God

$\text{♩} = 116$

Child-ren of God, let's love__ one an-oth - er. Love is a gift, a bless-

- ing of God__ Love one an-oth - er, sis - ters and broth-ers.

Love is a gift of God__

1. Let love be more than what we say__
2. Now per-fect love re-moves all fear__
3. Let us bear wit-ness to the Light,

— Make it the way that we live__ each day.
 — By this we know God is al - ways near.
 — liv-ing in love, do - ing what__ is right.

— Oh, oh, — Oh, oh, Child-ren of God, let's love__ one an-oth - er.
 — Oh, oh,

Love is a gift, a bless - ing of God__ Love one an-oth - er, sis-

- ters and broth-ers. Love is a gift of God__

Upcoming Events

Going Deeper into the Lord's Prayer—Wednesday Eves on Zoom from May 7-28 at 7:30pm

FCC member, Rev. Karla Wrona, will facilitate this conversation which will fold in many native language translations, thoughts, and intentions - all about reaching towards the mystery of God. As we share our wisdom and light - our souls grow stronger and brighter!

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.

"Women Of A Certain Age" Gathering ...

WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER

An informal gathering of women 65 and over who would like to develop friendships and share conversation. Contact Rev. Heather Cherrey at revcherrey@optonline.net for more info.

Underground Church (monthly—usually Third Saturdays,) 10:30am in the Sanctuary—Next Date is May 17

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 Vrban. If you are interested in joining this group, please text Lex at 856-332-7448.

Green Team Ministry Meeting (2nd Sundays) - MAY MEETING MOVED TO MAY 21 AT 6PM ON ZOOM

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