

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
African-American Spiritual, arr. Florence Price

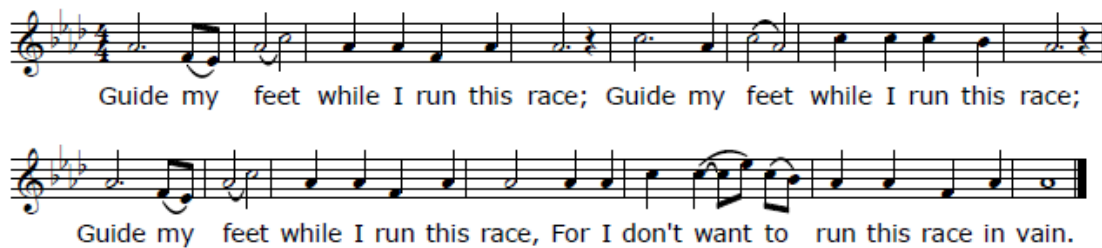
Opening Sentences

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

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

Centering Words

Centering Song *Guide My Feet* (Traditional African American Spiritual)



Call to Worship

One: We gather in the presence of our God, whose favor is on justice,
who loves the liberation of all.

Many: **We gather to celebrate freedom from oppression
and the full humanity of every person.**

One: We gather to celebrate the resilience and contributions of Black
Americans, and to pledge our continued work to build a just
society.

Many: **We gather to acknowledge that the road is long and steep,
but we do not travel it alone.**

One: In this community, made up of so many different stories and
struggles, we come together seeking reconciliation and love.

Many: **We gather to celebrate the freedom found in truth and the
grace found in healing**

ALL We give thanks to God who has brought us this far by
faith and offers us a future with hope.
AMEN.

Opening Hymn

Order My Steps
Words and music on pages 5 and 6

Passing of the Peace

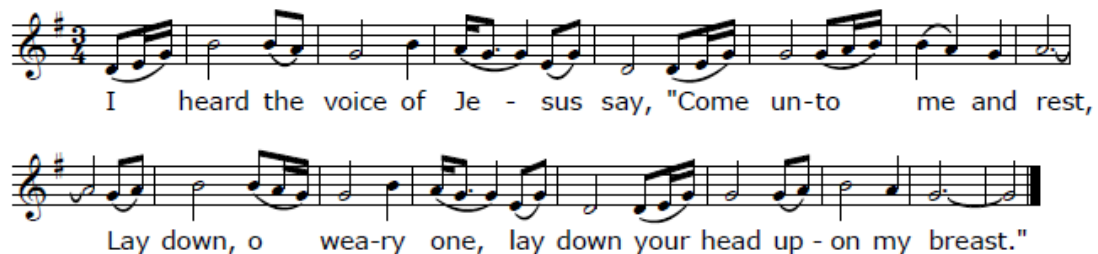
Blessing of Children

During the summer months we will not have a Children's Moment during worship. All children are invited to come to the labyrinth for a blessing and then go to their Sunday School experience.

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Preparation for Prayer *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*
(Traditional African American Spiritual)



Prayers of the People

Response:

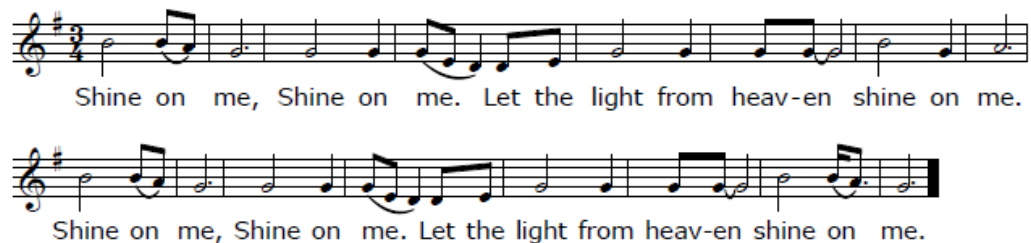
One: God, in your mercy

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 *Shine on Me*
(Traditional African American Spiritual)



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 46:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Matthew 5:1-12

5When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Song

Birmingham Sunday
By Richard Fariña

Jim Johnson, *soloist*

Sermon “Living Through June 18th: On the Brink of the New Thing”

Jim Johnson

Anthem

Feeling Good
By Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley

Daniel Belnavis and
Elizabeth Honer, *duet*

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Song

People Get Ready
Words and music on insert

Jazz House Kids
guest musicians

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

Joshua
African-American Spiritual, arr. Phillip Keveren

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

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

Guest Preacher: Jim Johnson

Readers: Deirdre Nance

Ushers: Jasmine Batista & Rich Gilfert

Coffee Hour Hosts: Amy DeBaets, Brian and Connor Mills

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

Music Leaders: Julie Morgan and David Salyers,

Guest Musicians: Jazz House Kids, Montclair

AV Tech: Brandon Jean-Philippe and Joe Mondo

A gift was given to the food bank by Martha Eidmann-Hicks in honor of the 42nd wedding anniversary (June 18) of her brother & sister-in-law, John & Pam Eidmann.

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

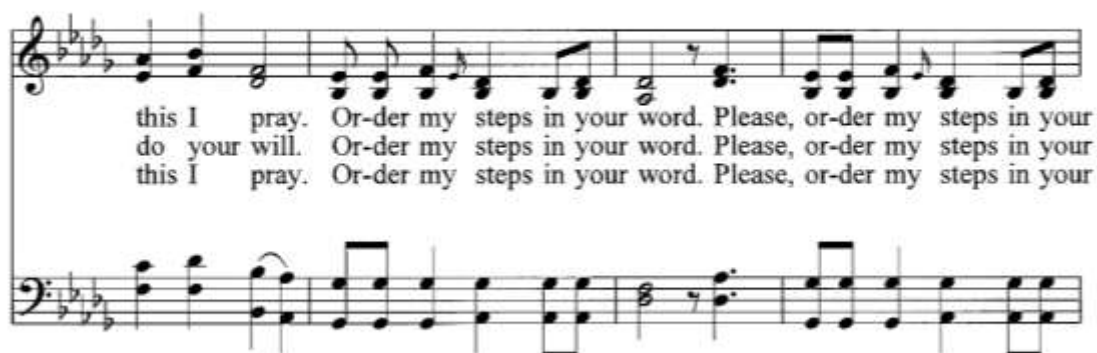
Order My Steps



1. Or - der my steps in your word, dear Lord,
 2. Hum - bly I ask you to teach me your will.
 3. Or - der my steps in your word, dear Lord,



Lead me, guide me, ev - er - y day. Send your a - noint - ing,
 While you are work - ing, help me be still. Then send me out to
 Lead me, guide me, ev - er - y day. Send your a - noint - ing,



this I pray. Or - der my steps in your word. Please, or - der my steps in your
 do your will. Or - der my steps in your word. Please, or - der my steps in your
 this I pray. Or - der my steps in your word. Please, or - der my steps in your

Refrain



word. I want to walk wor - thy. My call - ing to ful - fill.
 word. I want to walk wor - thy. My call - ing to ful - fill.
 word. I want to walk wor - thy. My call - ing to ful - fill.



Please or - der my steps, Lord, and I'll do your bless - ed will,
 Please or - der my steps, Lord, and I'll do your bless - ed will,
 Please or - der my steps, Lord, and I'll do your bless - ed will,



the world is ev-er chang-ing, but you are still the same.
 the world is ev-er chang-ing, but you are still the same.
 the world is ev-er chang-ing, but you are still the same.



If you or-der my steps I'll praise your name. I want to walk
 If you or-der my steps I'll praise your name. I want to walk
 If you or-der my steps I'll praise your name. I want to walk



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.

Looking to get involved at FCC?

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Barbra Murtha, at
volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com. Or text at 201-403-5764.

Upcoming Events

Hearts in - Hands on Meditation on the front lawn –weekly on Saturdays 9-10am

Ongoing through the summer on Saturday mornings. Meditation for peace, justice and the planet.
Bring an open heart and something to sit on.

Montclair 4th of July Parade—9:30am to 1pm

Join the FCC's Green Team, Interfaith Climate Action, GreenFaith, and others to march with the Sierra Club in Montclair's July 4th Parade! The parade route starts in Montclair's business district and ends at Edgemont Park, going approximately 1.25 miles. For more info and to sign up for this fun opportunity go to <https://tinyurl.com/July4register>. For other questions, contact greenteam@fccmtc.com.

Ongoing Events

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

All are welcome!

The labyrinth will be closed for July & August: last walk will be June 25.

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.

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Underground Church —Will be on hiatus until September

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/>

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 email Julie at jmorgan@mastervoices.org. We'd love to have you with us!