

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Variations on "Nothing Can Trouble"
From the Taizé Community

Joyce Mauer, *guitar*
Vivianne Potter, *violin*

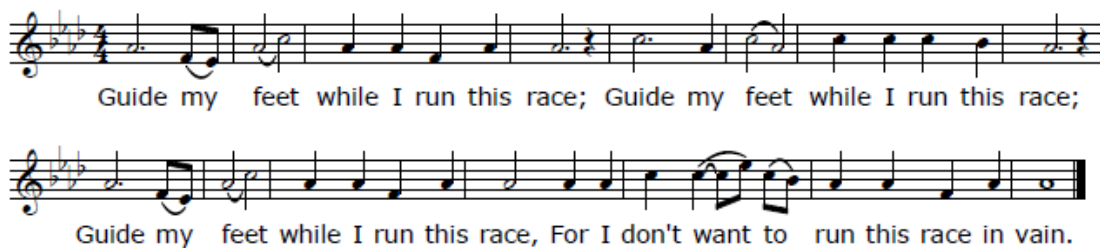
Opening Sentences

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 come to worship our God,
to listen to the One who calls us here.

Many: **We come trusting God to lead us in the coming days,
as surely as were our ancestors in the faith.**

One: We come to worship our God,
to shout with joy to the God of all people.

Many: **We come to the Creator of all things,
to be refreshed in the waters of life.**

One: We come to the circle of God's children
embraced by the One who never forsakes us.

Many: **We come to worship our God,
to sing aloud to the One who loves us. AMEN.**

Opening Hymn

O For a World (verses 1-3)
Words and music on page 4

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ is with each of you.

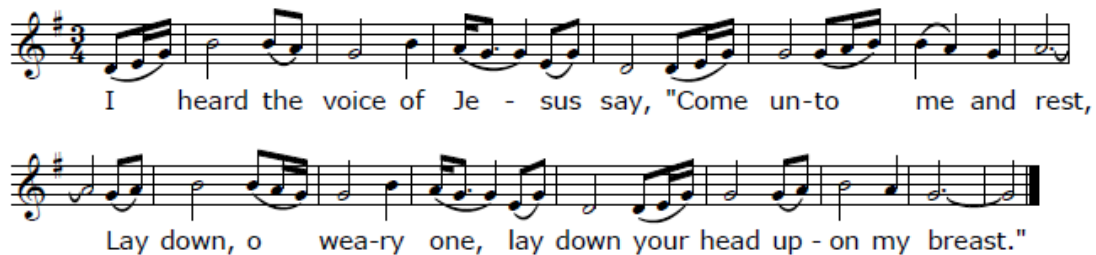
Many: **And also with you!**

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

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

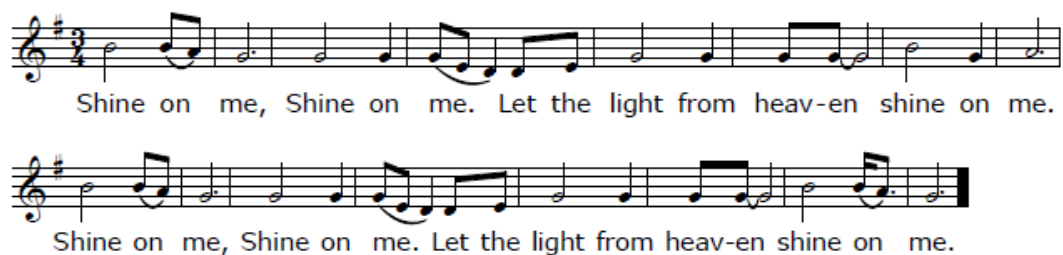
**Prayers of the People**

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**

Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹⁴On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” ¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “Dinner Party Politics”

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem *Who Is the Alien?*

Words by Mary Louise Bringle, music by Lori True

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Hymn *O For a World (verses 4 & 5)*

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

Musette
By J.S. Bach

Joyce Mauer, *guitar*
Vivianne Potter, *violin*

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spect's each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Looking to get involved at FCC?

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



*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.

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leader: Rev. Ann Ralosky

Liturgist: Dr. Phyllis Stone

Reader: Jen McClure

Ushers: Rev. Heather Cherrey & Dawn Colapietro

Coffee Hour Host: Dawn Colapietro, Patti Desmond and Tracey Stephens

Coffee Hour Setup Team: Steve Cutaia, Mike Harney, Jim Murtha and Gavin Murtha

Music Leader: Julie Morgan

AV Techs: Brandon Jean-Philippe and Jason Jinson

A gift was made to the food bank by Tracey Stephens and Jack Cuffari in honor of their granddaughter Marcie's 2nd birthday.

Gratitude to the Iona Community for some of our worship language

Upcoming Events

Summer/fall clothes for God's Giveaway Drive—through September 8th!

Please bring all items to the narthex or the Guild Room (by the hearth) on Sundays. If you need to drop off during the week please call the church before coming (973-744-4856.) We could also use help sorting and delivering—please email Dilys Burke at faithinaction@fccmontclair.org.

Mark your calendars — Welcome Back Sunday Worship and Picnic on September 14!

Join us as we gather back and begin a new season at FCC! We will welcome our FCC choir, full Sunday School program, and blend our waters together in a special ritual. All followed by a delicious picnic on the front lawn! Come see old friends and make new ones!

Women of a Certain Age conversation group returns September 5

“Women of A Certain Age” are ready to meet again. We are a group of women, roughly over the age of 65, maybe retired (whatever that looks like today), **who meet the first Friday of each month from 11am to 1pm in the FCC library.** We gather to form connections and to strengthen our bonds of friendship within the FCC community. .

Questions? See Rev. Heather Cherrey, or email her at revcherrey@optonline.net.

Ongoing Events

Weekly Labyrinth Walks — returns September 3

If you would like to walk the labyrinth, please call to church office between 9am and 5pm and check on availability.

Slow Motion Bible Study—returns September 4

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

Underground Church —on hiatus until September (date TBD)

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! 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. **September meeting will be Wednesday, Sept 17 on Zoom.**

For more details check the calendar on our “Upcoming Events” page:

<https://fccmontclair.org/upcoming-events-at-fcc/>

Let's gather at FCC for Welcome Back Sunday AND our Fall Picnic on September 14! Remember your water jars!



**Let's gather together at FCC -- we can't wait to see you again!
And bring your water jars for the "Blending of the Waters" ceremony!**

After summer's adventures we are excited to gather together in our beautiful sanctuary as we begin a new church season! We'll share inspiring worship, gorgeous singing by our full FCC Choir and, of course, share in our special "Blending of the Waters" ritual. Remember to bring your water jars!

Come for worship, stay for a special Coffee Hour Picnic!

It isn't a homecoming without good food! After worship join us on the front lawn for a special Coffee Hour lunch! We'll eat, we laugh, meet new people and catch up with old friends, and then we go back for seconds! **We'll provide the entrees and drinks, we're asking that you bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert.** If cooking is not your passion, we could also use your help with set up and clean up.

IMPORTANT: Please **RSVP** at <https://tinyurl.com/PicnicSept14> so we can make sure to have enough food. (And please note whether you can help with setup, cleanup or food contribution.)

Questions? Contact Deb Duhamel at debbieduhamel@hotmail.com or 857-891-0951, or Barbra Murtha volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com with any questions.