

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Flores Fanfare
By Phil Lehenbauer

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that our God has made!
Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Introit

Jubilate Deo! (O, Be Joyful!)
By John Leavitt

Centering Words

Opening Hymn

Draw the Circle Wide (verses 1 & 2)
Words and music on page 5

Call to Worship

One: Come to the water, all you who are longing—
Many: **come drink deeply from the river of life.**

One: Come to the water, all you who are weary—
Many: **come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.**

One: Come to the water, all you who quest for justice—
Many: **come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.**

ALL: For God is here among us,
washing away the dust and grime of our lives,
and pouring out the Spirit on all in need.
Let's worship God together! AMEN

Blending of the Waters Ritual

Prayer Over the Waters:

One: Let us bless these waters together:
ALL: God of creation, source of all that is,
we bring before you the water of life.
Just as each of us comes from our own
place and path,
these waters began in many different places.
But just as all our paths combine in your love,
so we blend these waters into one blessed pool.
Pour your grace upon them that they may be a

source of refreshment and hope.
We pray this through the one who offers us
living water. 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

Rev. Karma Cloud

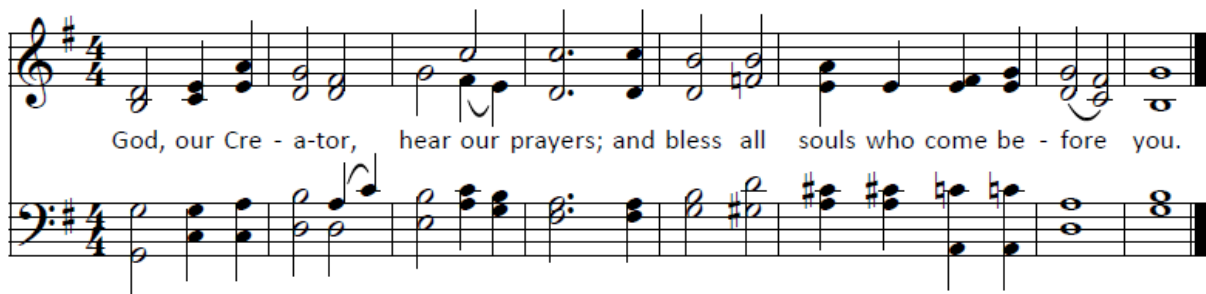
Stewardship Moment

Alex Schwarm

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Preparation for Prayer *God, Our Creator*



Prayers of the People

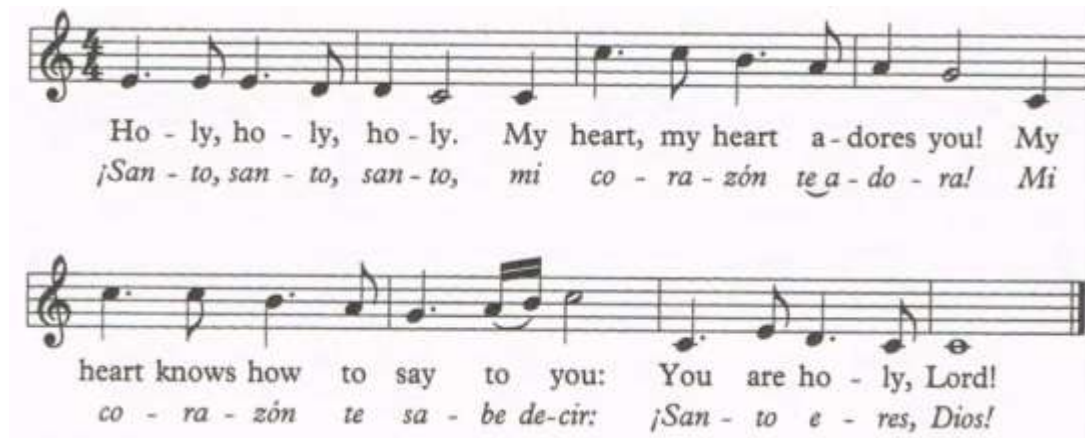
Response: One: God in your mercy,

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 *Holy, Holy, Holy/ Santo, Santo, Santo*
(first in English, then in Spanish)



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Luke 15:1-10

15Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3So he told them this parable: 4“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “When God Seeks”

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem *Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love*

By Aaron Keyes, Keith Getty, Matt Papa, and Luke Brown,
arr. Joseph Martin

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Hymn *Draw the Circle Wide (chorus and 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 *Joyful Recessional*
 James Michael Stevens

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

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

Reader: Deirdre Nance

Ushers: Dawn Colapietro & Rich Gilfert

Coffee Hour Host: Welcome Back Sunday Picnic!

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

Music Leader: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

AV Techs: Brandon Jean-Philippe and Jason Jinson

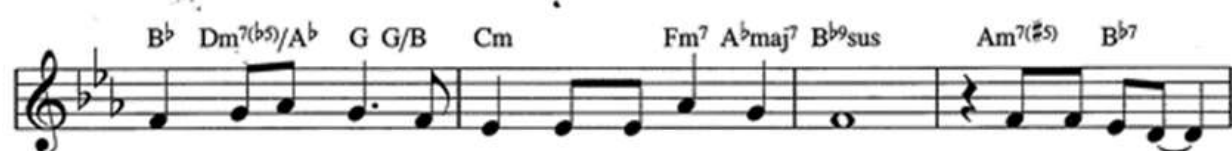
A gift was made to the food bank by Nneka Brooks to feed the hungry.

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

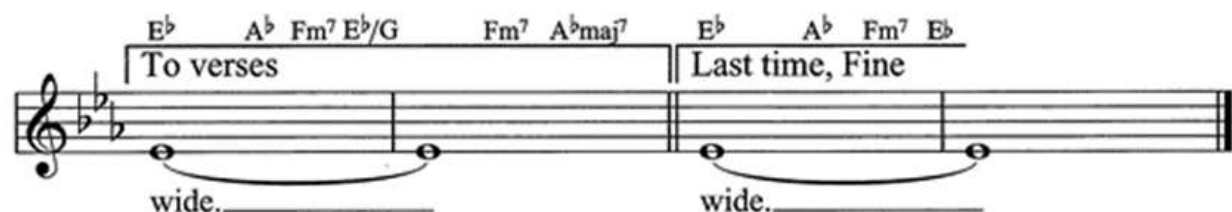
Draw the Circle Wide



Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid - er still. Let this be our_



song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_



wide._____

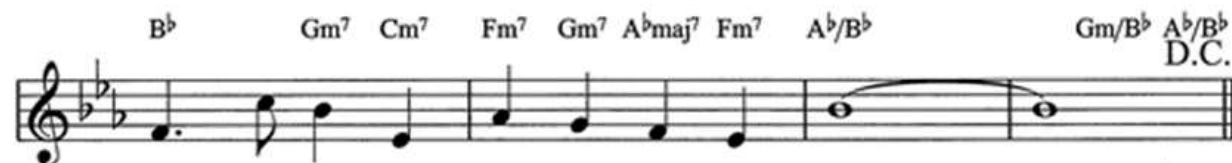
wide._____



1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er



- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
great and small; let our lov - ing
dreamed be - fore; let the dream of



held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms._____
know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call._____
Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door._____

Upcoming Events

A “Sun” Day Weekend! September 20 & 21

FCC and Interfaith Climate Action NJ are helping to create events for “SUN DAY”, a national weekend (9/20 & 9/21) of advocacy, education and social events for Clean Energy & a healthy earth. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/Sunday-2025> and scroll to Montclair for event details!

Ongoing Events

Weekly Wednesday Labyrinth Walks 11am—1pm

Each Wednesday our labyrinth is open for spiritual walking. No experience necessary!

Slow Motion Bible Study on Zoom each Thursday Eve at 7pm

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

Underground Church—Next gathering is Saturday, September 27, 10:30am in the Sanctuary

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

Women of a Certain Age conversation group first Friday, 11am-1pm in FCC library

We are a group of women, roughly over the age of 65, maybe retired, who gather for conversation and friendship. Questions? See Rev. Heather Cherrey, or email her at revcherrey@optonline.net.

CANCELED for 9/14 (due to picnic): Full Spectrum Spirituality (FSS) LGBTQ+ Gathering -Sundays weekly after worship 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.

MOVED: 9/14 Green Team Ministry Meeting moved to September 17, 7pm 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. To attend, email greenteam@fccmtc.com for the link.

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

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.