

## **WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION**

### **Prelude**

*Something for Jesus*

By Robert Lowry, arr. Don Phillips

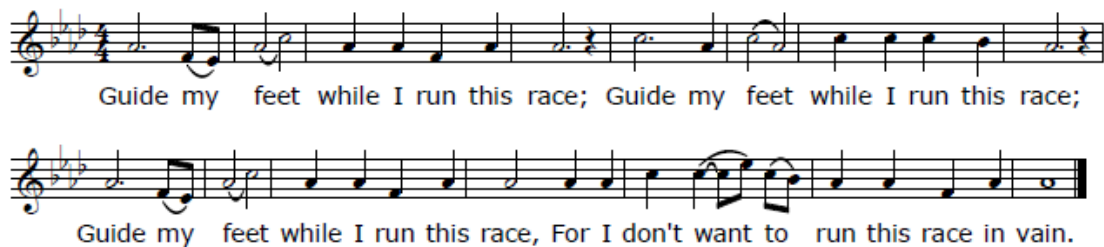
### **Opening Sentences**

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 God:

Many: **who knows us when we wake up and when we go to sleep,  
and in all the moments in between.**

One: We gather in the house of God:

**who has created a family for us here and in the many places  
we call home.**

One: We gather to be the people of God:

Many: **who calls to us to follow in love, in faith, in service. AMEN.**

### **Opening Hymn**

*Lead Me, Guide Me (Verses 1 & 2)*

Words and music on pages 5 & 6

### **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.*

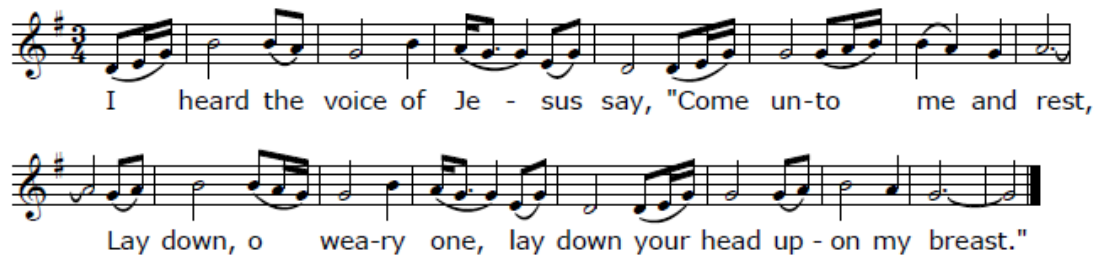
### **Children's Moment**

Rev. Karma Cloud

### **Offertory**

## WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

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



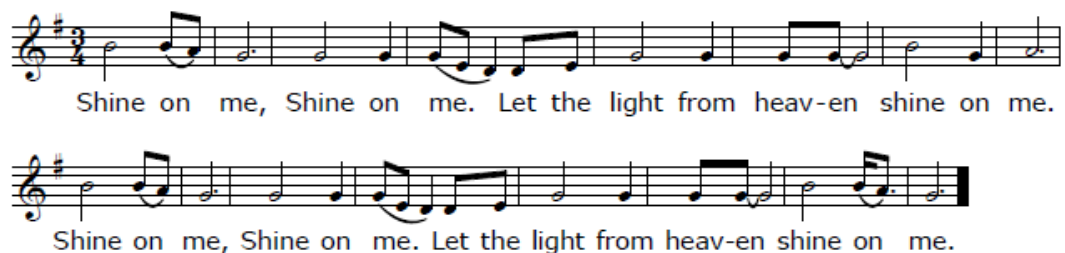
### Prayers of the People

**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, 25-33

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and

children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

“Disciple Adjacent”

Rev. Ann Ralosky

**Anthem**

*One By One*  
By Shayla L. Blake

## **WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION**

**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 Medley**     *Lord, Make Me More Holy/Teach Me, O Lord*

**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**             *Lead Me, Guide Me (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**                     *Come, All Christians, Be Committed*  
Sacred Harp, arr. Mark Hayes

**Looking to get involved at FCC?**

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Barbra Murtha, at  
[volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com). Or text at 201-403-5764.

# 474 LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

*You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for Your name's sake lead me and guide me...*

*Psalm 31:3*

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

For if You lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 3/4. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand, with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) in both hands. The vocal line is simple and melodic, following the lyrics. The piece concludes with a final chord in the piano and a sustained note in the voice.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r to  
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous-ness, Be my  
 3. I am lost if You take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness  
 aid when Sa-tan and sin op-press. I am put - ting all  
 blind with - out Thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways let me

D.C.  
 Thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 my trust in Thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 Thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

## SERVICE NOTES

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

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

**Reader:** Devion Hueston

**Ushers:** Rich Gilfert & Cindy Wills

**Coffee Hour Host:** Rebecca Dahmen

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

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

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

*Thank you to our Youth for their leadership this morning.*

*Dawn Colapietro has made a gift to the food bank in solidarity with the poor and hungry.*

*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](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.*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Summer/fall clothes for God's Giveaway Drive has ended!**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to help our neighbors in need! We are no longer able to accept clothing.

### **Qigong at FCC—September 11, 6:30pm in the Guild Room**

Come and practice some Qigong at FCC. Class is led by FCC member, Joanne Kornoelje, who has been practicing Tai Chi and Qigong for over 30 years.

### **Welcome Back Sunday Worship and Picnic on September 14! (See next page)**

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!

### **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—returns September 11**

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](mailto: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.

### **UPDATE: Next Green Team Ministry Meeting moved to September 17, 7pm on Zoom**

(No meeting on 9/14.) 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/>**



**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](mailto:debbieduhamel@hotmail.com) or 857-891-0951, or Barbra Murtha [volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com) with any questions.