

October 12, 2025

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Trusting Jesus (Hymn Medley)

Arr. by Marilyn Ham

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that God has made!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Centering Words

Opening Song.

Come to Me

Led by Hans Ericson

By Christopher Grundy



Call to Worship

One: Whether we live in an apartment or a house;
if we reside in the country, suburbs or the city:

Many: **God tells us to pray for the places where we live.**

One: Whether we are exiles or strangers, or captives,
if we are young, old, insider, outcast:

Many: **God says, 'when you search for me, you will find me.'**

One: Whether we have been wandering and lost;
or if we have lived in the same place all our lives:

Many: **God says, 'I will gather you from all your places
and bring you home.' 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.

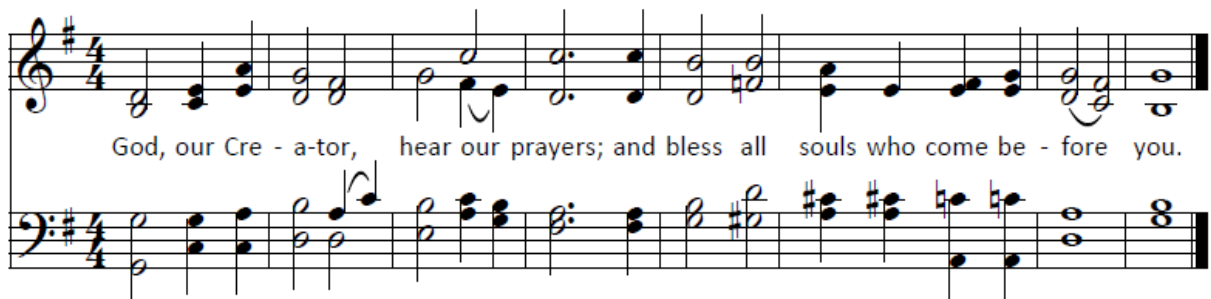
Children's Moment

Rev. Karma Cloud

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Preparation for Prayer *God, Our Creator*



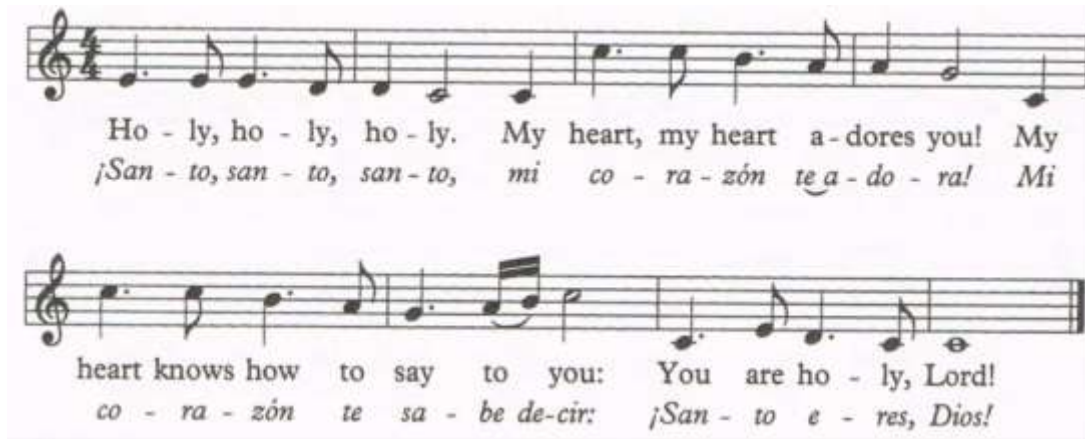
Prayers of the People

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)
 On next page



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

29 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. It said: 4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"Bloom Where You Are Planted"

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem

I Will Trust in the Lord
By Lloyd Larson

Dean Tarriff, soloist

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Come to Me (new words below)

I trust in you.

I will live in faith.

I know... You are with me

I will trust in you for all my days.

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

Postlude in F
By César Franck

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 ...using our new Church Center service.

ONLINE: Scan the QR Code below or go to
<https://fccmtc.churchcenter.com/giving>

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

Qigong at FCC, October 16, 6:30pm in the Creation Room (upstairs)

Join FCC member, Joanne Kornoelje, for some Qigong.

New Member Inquiry Classes begin October 19 after worship

If you've been attending FCC and feel we may be your spiritual home, this class is for you! We'll meet in person after church on Oct 19 and then via Zoom on Oct 22 and 29. Questions? See Rev. Ann.

Smart Choices for Healthy Aging panel at FCC, Oct 26, 12:30pm in the Guild Room

Join us for a panel conversation led by John Ralosky on strategies for secure and healthy aging for you or your loved ones.

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.

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.

Underground Church—Saturday, October 18, 10:30am in the Sanctuary — Meets every third Saturday

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

Full Spectrum Spirituality (FSS) LGBTQ+ Gathering—Sundays weekly after worship in Room 5 (Parents Room)

We 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.

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

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

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

Reader: Quassan Castro

Ushers: Rev. Heather Cherrey & Bryn Coughlan

Coffee Hour Co-Hosts: Rev. Phyllis Crichlow, Rebecca Dahmen and Barbra Murtha

Coffee Hour Setup Team: Steve Cutaia, Jared Delancey, Jim and Gavin Murtha, Josh and Linda Williams

Music Leader: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

AV Techs: Brandon Jean-Philippe and Siobhan Morello

A donation has been made to the food bank by Rich Gilfert in Memory of Carl & Virginia Gilfert.