

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)

By John Leavitt

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that God has made!

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

Centering Words

Opening Song

Bless the Lord O My Soul (10,000 Reasons)

Led by Daniel

By Matt Redman

Belnavis & Hans Ericson

When indicated, please join in the refrain below:



Call to Worship

One: This is the day the Lord has made:

Many: **a day for praise and prayer;
a day for gratitude and generosity.**

One: This is the time God has given us:

Many: **a time for singing and silence;
a time for -speaking and listening.**

One: This is the life to which God calls us:

**a life of humility and service;
a life of faith and trust. AMEN.**

Passing of the Peace

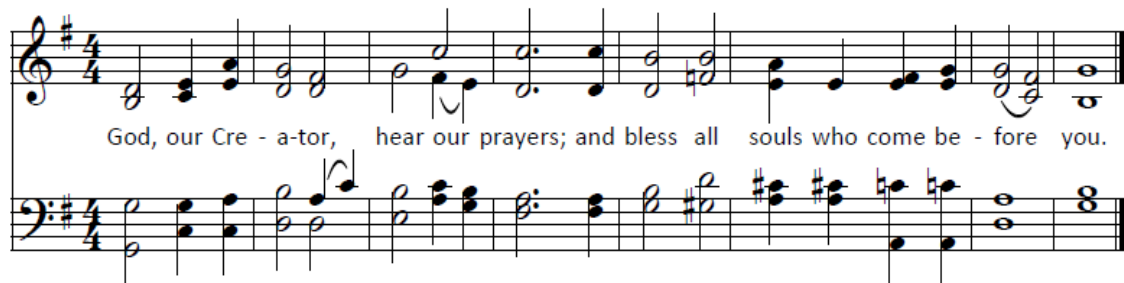
One: The peace of Christ is with each of you.

Many: **And also with you!**

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

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)
See next page

Assisted by Angel,
Noah, and Gavin Rivera



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Modern Lesson is an excerpt from the poem "Lines Scribbled on an Envelope While Riding the 104 Broadway Bus" by Madeline L'Engle

There is too much pain
I cannot understand
I cannot pray...

Here I am
and the ugly man with beery breath beside me reminds
me that it is not my prayers that waken your
concern, my Lord;
my prayers, my intercessions are not to ask for your love
for all your lost and lonely ones,
your sick and sinning souls,
but mine, my love, my acceptance of your love.
Your love for the woman sticking her umbrella and her
expensive
parcels into my ribs and snarling, "Why don't you watch
where you're going?"
Your love for the long-haired, gum-chewing boy who
shoves the old lady aside to grab a seat,
Your love for me, too, too tired to look with love,
too tired to look at Love, at you, in every person on the
bus.
Expand my love, Lord, so I can help to bear the pain,
help your love move my love into the tired prostitute with
false eyelashes and bunioned feet,
the corrupt policeman with his hand open for graft,
the addict, the derelict, the woman in the mink coat and
discontented mouth,

the high school girl with heavy books and frightened eyes.

Help me through these scandalous particulars
to understand
your love.

Help me to pray.

Scripture

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Humility Trap”

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem

Just As I Am, I Come

By Mary McDonald, words adapted by JKM

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Song

Bless the Lord (refrain only)

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

Amazing Grace
Arr. Mark Hayes

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

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

Readers: Lisa Marie Bronson and Lillie Santelli

Ushers: Heather Cherrey & Dawn Colapietro

Coffee Hour Co-Host: Devion Hueston-Diaz

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

Music Leader: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

AV Techs: Brandon Jean-Philippe and Jason Jinson

A donation was made to the food bank by Rev. Heather Cherrey for those who are hungry.

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

FCC Ministry Fair today during Coffee Hour, in the Sanctuary/Narthex

Grab a snack and learn how you can serve and grow at FCC! Our Ministry Chairs will be on hand to tell you about their mission and ways you can get involved.

Vote with Love this election season!

Check out our voter information at the Faith In Action table after worship.

Smart Choices for Healthy Aging panel at FCC, TODAY 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!

The Searcher's 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, November 22, 10:30am in the Sanctuary — Usually meets every third Saturday

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

NO SESSION THIS SUNDAY 10/26:

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/>