

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Setting by P. F. Tillen

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that God has made!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Centering Words

Opening Song

Spirit, Gracious, Spirit (verses 1-3)
By Amanda Udis-Kessler

Spirit, gracious spirit, fill my heart
Spirit, gracious spirit, fill my heart
Come and fill my heart, I will do my part
Spirit, gracious spirit, fill my heart.

Spirit, gentle spirit, warm my soul
Spirit, gentle spirit, warm my soul
Come and warm my soul, and I'll know I'm whole
Spirit, gentle spirit, warm my soul.

Spirit loving spirit guide my way
Spirit loving spirit guide my way
Come and guide my way, I'll give thanks each day
Spirit loving spirit guide my way.

Call to Worship

Noah Rivera

One: In this season of waiting, our God comes.

Many: **Come suddenly, Holy God, into our slow expectations
and fill us with your urgent hopes for justice.**

One: In this holy season of delight and wonder, our Savior comes.

Many: **Come suddenly, companion of the poor, and challenge us
to share in the gospel of welcome for all.**

One: In these days of remembering what our lives are to be,
our Spirit comes.

Many: **Come suddenly, preparer of the way, to take us by the hand
to walk with our siblings down the path to peace. AMEN.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Campbell Family

Hymn of Response

*Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus,
Born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Grant us your true liberty*

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

The Gift of Advent

Written by Rev. Karma Cloud

Performed by the Children's Ministry

Accompanied by David Salyers

Thank you to all the families and children who supported this production

Song Credits:

Do You Hear What I Hear? - by Noel Regney

I am Here With You Now & Come Spirit - by Karma Cloud

Good Things are Coming - by John Villa

Advent Time Song - by Alexandra Montano

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Preparation for Prayer *Holy, Our God Is Holy*

♩=115

F C/E B^b/D C⁷ F

Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly. Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly.

Am D⁷ Gm F/C C⁷ F Fine

Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.

F C/E B^b/D C⁷ F

Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly. Auth - or of love and life. Cre -

Am D⁷ Gm F/C C⁷ F D.C.

- a - tor of all peo - ple. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.

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 *Deep Within Our Hearts*

The musical score is written for a single voice in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 110 and a key signature change from D major to A major (three sharps) for the first measure. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to guide accompaniment. The score consists of five lines of music, with a double bar line and repeat sign after the fourth line. The first ending leads to the second ending, which concludes the piece.

There's a song deep with-in our hearts There's a
light burn-ing in our souls And a path in the
dark - ness lit from a - bove God help us sing your song,
Spir - it to shine your light, Je - sus to live your
love. There's a love.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"The Path of Peace"

Rev. Ann Ralosky

WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

One: Now, in this holy season of Advent,
God comes to be with you.

Many: **God comes to be with you as well.**

One: As we begin our journey toward Bethlehem,
let us open our hearts to God.

Many: **For God will fill them with strength and
courage for the journey.**

One: Let us join our voices in singing praise to God.

Many: **We will lift glad songs of joy to the One who
is coming to us.**

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 Music *Know That the Lord Is Near* Joyce Mauer, guitar
Traditional Skye Boat Song, arr. David Haas

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 Song *Spirit, Gracious Spirit (verses 4 & 5)*

Spirit, justice spirit, move my hands
Spirit, justice spirit, move my hands
Come and move my hands and I'll take a stand
Spirit, justice spirit, move my hands.

Spirit, gracious spirit, fill my heart
Spirit, gracious spirit, fill my heart
Come and fill my heart
I will do my part
Spirit, gracious spirit, fill my heart.

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, Thou Long Expected Jesus*
Arr. Gene Roberson

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

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

Reader: Cody Campbell

Ushers: MiKayla Campbell, Dawn Colapietro & James Murtha

Coffee Hour Co-Hosts: Faith in Action

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

Music Leaders: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

FCC Band: Daniel Belnavis, Jania Bibighaus, Hans Ericson, Aaron Krauza, Ray Salerno
and Dean Tarriff

AV Techs: Brandon Jean-Phillippe and Lucas Manrique

Thank you to our additional Youth Leaders Eli Blancaflor and Devion Hueston-Diaz.

Julie Demaree has given a gift to the Food Bank to feed the hungry.

Cover art is by Stushie

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

See other side for Advent Worship Schedule.

Qigong at FCC! Saturday, December 20, 12 noon in the Guild Room

Join FCC member, Joanne Kornoelje, for some gentle qigong.

Ongoing Events

Weekly Wednesday Labyrinth Walks 11am—1pm (Closed Dec 24 & 31)

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

The Searcher's Bible Study on Zoom each Thursday Eve at 7pm

(No meeting on 12/25 & 1/1)

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 Fridays, 11am-1pm in the 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, December 20, 10:30am in the Sanctuary — Usually 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's December Meeting will meet VIRTUALLY Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7pm.

(Usually meets 2nd Sundays 12-1pm in the FCC Library)

Be part of planning events, celebrating Creation, and living your faith by taking action for the planet. Email greenteam@fccmtc.com for **Zoom link**.

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

Advent Worship at First Congregational Church

**December 14, Special Holiday Music: Choral performance of
the *Magnificat* by Mark Hayes**

A glorious and moving cantata with choral voices and special instruments.

December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

**December 21, Special Labyrinth walk with live Celtic harp and harp guitar
1pm-3pm**

December 21, Longest Night service, 7:30pm

A contemplative service of comfort and blessing on the winter solstice

Please donate to the FCC Little Free Food Pantry!

With the reduction of SNAP benefits many families will go hungry this fall. Our Little Free Pantry is an easy way for folks to access food anytime. The need is more urgent now than ever.

Our Little Free Food Pantry Needs:

Tuna/chicken/canned meat	Rice, grains, beans
Boxed or canned milk	Healthy snacks or cereals
Pasta/sauce	Peanut butter
Canned soups/chili/meals	Canned fruits/jellies
Baby food/formula	Instant coffee/tea

Please drop items off in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

No perishables, open & resealed packages, sugary/salty junk food or beverages, medicinal teas, supplements, exotic spices or seasoning kits, old/outdated items please.