

**WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION****Prelude***Beatitude*

By Phil Lehenbauer

**Opening Sentences**

One: This is the day that God has made!

Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!****Centering Words****Opening Song***Every Step of the Way*

By Christopher Grundy

Led by Hans Ericson

The musical score consists of six staves of music. The first staff starts in C major (Cmaj<sup>7</sup>) and includes lyrics: "Help me do the jus - tice to be". The second staff starts in D minor (Dm<sup>7</sup>) and includes lyrics: "done to - day. Help me love kind -". The third staff starts in A minor (Am) and includes lyrics: "ness in all I do and say...". The fourth staff starts in Gsus and includes lyrics: "Help me walk hum-bly with you, O God I pray". The fifth staff starts in G and includes lyrics: "ev - 'ry step of the way,". The sixth staff starts in D minor (Dm<sup>7</sup>) and includes lyrics: "ev - 'ry step of the way,". Chords are indicated above the staff lines, and lyrics are placed below the staff lines.

## Call to Worship

Laila Brown

One: When we seek justice for the other,  
when we love kindness more than ever,

**Many: we live as God asks us to live.**

One: When we walk humbly through life,  
when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,

**Many: we are the blessing God hopes we will be.**

One: When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus,  
when we choose weakness rather than power,

**Many: we reflect the One who is in our midst. 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 *Holy, Our God Is Holy*

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in F major and the bottom staff is in G major. The tempo is marked as 115 BPM. The lyrics "Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly." are repeated twice, followed by "Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly." The bottom staff continues with "Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly." and concludes with "ho - ly is our God." The score includes various chords and key changes, such as F, C/E, B♭/D, C⁷, Am, D⁷, Gm, F/C, C⁷, and F.

## 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**      *The Bond of Love*

*J=95*



We are one in the bond of love, We are one in the bond of love; We have  
 joined our spir-it with the Spir-it of God, We are one in the bond of love.

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM**

**Scripture Reading**      **Micah 6:6-8**

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Matthew 5:1-12**

**5**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way

they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** "The Power of Empathy" Rev. Ann Ralosky

**Anthem** *All Is Ready*  
By David Haas, adapted JKM

## 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 Anthem** *Jesus is Here Right Now*  
By Leon Roberts, adapted by JKM

### **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

### 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

### Congregational Response *Alleluia* (Orig: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*)



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-lu-ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Postlude

*Alleluia*  
By Blanche Selva

## **SERVICE NOTES**

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

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Ann Ralosky

**Liturgist:** Lex Lourenco

**Reader:** Elias Yao

**Ushers:** Jasmine Batista, Teya Eaton, Cody Campbell and Elias Yao

**Coffee Hour Co-Hosts:** Ashlee and Davin Wolfe, Dawn Colapietro and Patti Desmond

**Coffee Hour Setup Team:** Steve Cutaia and Mike 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:** Jason Jimson and Siobhan Morello

***Thank you to our Youth Leaders today!***

*A donation has been made to the food bank by Peter Wert and Tom Rose in celebration of their  
twins, Nico and Ben, who turned 23 this week. The joy of parenting knows no bounds!*

## **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! February 7, 12 Noon in the Guild Room**

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

### **SAVE THE DATE: Trivia Night! February 13, 7-9pm at FCC**

Join FCC member and trivia host, Jose Ortiz, for a fun evening to test your knowledge! (Registration link on our website events page.) This is a free event.

### **Ash Wednesday Service is February 18, 7:30pm**

Join us for a special service to begin our journey of Lent.

## 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. *New season begins Jan 15: The Book of Job.*

### **"Women of a Certain Age" - 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](mailto:revcherrey@optonline.net).

### **Underground Church—February 21, 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**

We chat about life, spirituality, and whatever else comes up! If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Jordan at [fullspectrum@fccmtc.com](mailto:fullspectrum@fccmtc.com).

### **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/>