

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

Help me do the jus - tice to be

done to - day. Help me love kind -

- ness in all I do and say.

— Help me walk hum-bly with you, O God I pray

— ev - 'ry step of the way,

ev - 'ry step of the way,

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*

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, marked with a tempo of 115. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly. Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'Ho - ly, our God is ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.' The notation includes various chords (F, C/E, Bb/D, C7, Am, D7, Gm, F/C, C7, F) and a 'Fine' marking at the end.

Prayers of the People

Response: One: God in your mercy,

Many: **hear our prayers.**

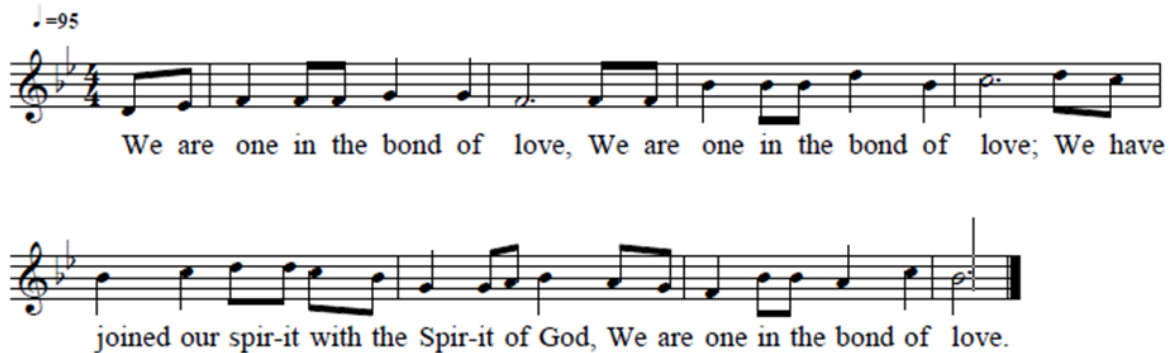
Lord's Prayer

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



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? ⁷Will 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?” ⁸He 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

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

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



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, 12Noon 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.

Underground Church—February 21, 10:30am in the Sanctuary —

Usually meets every third Saturday

An intimate and interactive worship experience that harkens 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.

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/>