

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION**Prelude***Alleluia*

By Jerry Sinclair, arr. Mark Hayes

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that God has made!

Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!****Centering Words****Opening Song***Here In This Place*

By Christopher Grundy

Ho-ly one _ may your pre - sence here o - pen our minds_ may your
 _ Spi - rit a -mong us help us to find_ you are_ ris - ing up_ now
 like a foun_tain of_ grace_ from the ho - ly ground
 here in_ this place_____ here in_ this place_____

Call to Worship

One: You are with us, God of sunrises:

Many: **you awaken us with each bright new day,
overflowing with promise.**

One: You are with us, Inviting God:

Many: **calling us to respond to all the chances
to share the spirit of grace and hope.**

One: You are with us, Glory of God:

Many: **gathering us into the presence of your peace,
listening to the questions and dreams of our hearts.**ALL: **May our worship today offer us a glimpse of God's
glory, shining in the faces of one another. 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

Creation Justice Lenten Calendar 2026

James Heinegg

Creation Care Song

Touch the Earth Lightly

Touch the earth light-ly, use the earth gent-ly, nour-ish the life
 of the world in our care: Gift of great won-der, ours to sur-
 ren-der, So that the chil-dren to-mor-row will share.

Announcements

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

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

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

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

Prayers of the People

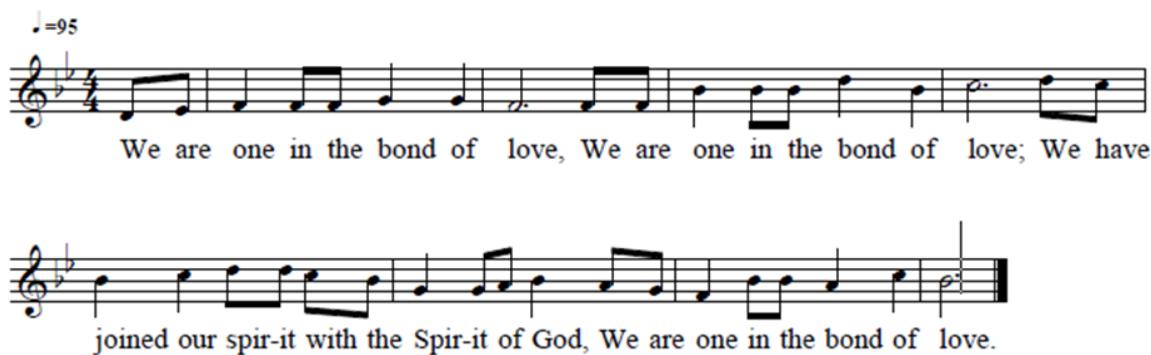
Response: One: God in your mercy,

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 *The Bond of Love*



♩ = 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.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The second staff starts with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes in a blue font.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Reading **Matthew 17:1-9**

17Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 5While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” 6When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” 8And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. 9As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "Waymarks" Rev. Dr. Victor Peterson

Anthem *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Elizabeth Honer,
By Thomas A. Dorsey, adapted JKM soloist

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

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.

Farewell to the Alleluia

It is an ancient practice of the Church to sing a "farewell to Alleluia" at the close of the service on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent. "Alleluia" is a celebratory word which means "praise the Lord." During the solemn season of Lent we will not sing or speak the "Alleluia" again until Easter Sunday when with great joy we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and new life.

Special Music *Simply, Alleluia* By Tom Fettke

At the end of the anthem the choir will recess in silence and we are invited to follow in silence as well.

[Visit FCC's Creation Justice Lenten Calendar 2026](#)

The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 18th. This year's weekly calendar themes are: Light, Fire, Water, Wind/Air, Plants, Animals, and The Human Community.

This week's theme is: Light.

For daily activities:

Please access the calendar through the Church Center app under the “More” tab ...
or go directly to tinyurl.com/5b3syhy.

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leader: Rev. John Rogers

Liturgist: Dr. Phyllis Stone

Reader: Hans Ericson

Keeper of the Alleluia: Makenzi Lynn Walston

Ushers: Rich Gilfert & Deirdre Nance

Coffee Hour Co-Hosts: Green Team Ministry

Coffee Hour Setup Team: Tim Duhamel, Steve Cutaia

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-Philippe and Jason Jimson

A gift was given to the food bank by Heather Cherrey in memory of Jim Cherrey.

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

Ash Wednesday Service is February 18, 7:30pm

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

Spring New Member class begins February 22!

If you've been attending FCC and believe we might be your spiritual home, this class is for you! We will talk in detail about what it means to become a member. Our first of three classes will be in person after church on Feb 22, and on Zoom Feb 25 and March 4 at 7:30pm. Questions? See Rev. Ann or email her at revann@fccmtc.com.

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” - 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 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.

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/>