

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Lenten Prelude
By Mark Andersen

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: In the buds on the trees eager to burst;
in the flowers poking their heads out of the dirt;
in the children chalking spring on the sidewalks:

Many: **we see how you love us, God of steadfast love.**

One: In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness;
in the weariness of a mother facing a long shift at work;
in the woman who anoints her grandbaby with talcum powder:

Many: **we see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.**

One: In the smile of the caregiver as she eases the pain;
in the birds which rush into the sky before spiraling down;
in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted:

Many: **we see how you love us, Breath of our souls. 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

Samantha Soto-Schwarm

Creation Justice Lenten Moment "Animals"

Sal Jensen

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-

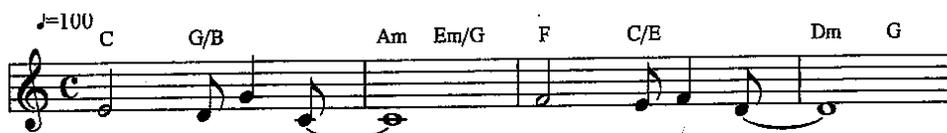


- ren-der, So that the chil-dren to-mor-row will share.

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Preparation for Prayer *Here Are Our Hearts*



Here are our hearts._____ Here are our hands._____



Here are our lives._____ Use them as You can._____ Show us those who hurt.



_____ Show us those in need._____ Show us how to serve.



_____ Teach us how to see._____

Prayers of the People

Response: One: God in your mercy,
Many: **hear our prayers.**

Responsive Lord's Prayer

One: Our Father, who art in heaven;

Many: our Parent who embraces us ALL as children,

One: hallowed be your name;

Many: may we never use your name to hate or exclude.

One: Your kin-dom come;

Many: not the kingdoms that divide themselves over borders,

One: your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Many: In all places, especially where violence and fear reign.

One: Give us this day our daily bread;

Many: so that we may share our bread with those who hunger;

One: and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us;

Many: helping us to move from self-interest to compassion.

One: And lead us not into temptation;

**Many: especially the temptation to be indifferent to
suffering or to confuse our priorities with your own;**

One: but deliver us from evil;

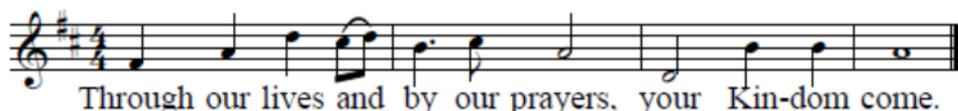
**Many: and may we become a haven and advocate for those
devastated by evil.**

One: For yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever;

Many: in you, the world finds hope. AMEN!

Sung Response to Prayer *Through Our Lives*

Soloist will lead one time through, congregation will sing second time through



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

37The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." 7So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 11Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Sermon "Grace In Our Bones" Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem *Kyrie Eleison* Dean Tarriff, *soloist*
By Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, arr. David Angerman, adapted

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Song *Here In This Place*
Words and music on page 1

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

Reflection IX
By Kees Schoonenbeek

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leader: Rev. Ann Ralosky

Liturgist: Quassan Castro

Reader: Jessica Pruett-Barnett

Ushers: Jasmine Batista & Rev. Heather Cherrey

Coffee Hour Co-Host: Cynthia and John Rogers

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

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 Lucas Manrique

Peter Wert made a donation to the food bank in the memory of Clarissa Schoch, who passed on Monday. She was a long-time soprano section leader in our choir and a beloved friend of FCC. Our angels are now one voice brighter!

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 Event

FCC's Creation Justice Lenten Calendar 2026: Access calendar through the Church Center app under the "More" tab, or go to tinyurl.com/5b3syhy. Weekly themes are inspired by the unfolding of the Creation Story as well as FCC's commitment as a Creation Justice Church. This week's theme is "Animals."

Lenten ZOOM Adult Study: "The Tears of Things" March 25, 7:30pm

Join Rev. Ann for a discussion on Richard Rohr's book on how to hold to the prophets path of finding hope and wisdom in an age of outrage.

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—March 28, 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/>

**Special Human Needs Food Pantry
“Celebratory Easter Breakfast” Collection for Families**

Please help make Easter morning special for the clients of the Human Needs Food Pantry by donating toward a can of coffee (approximately \$7) for every family to enjoy with their Easter breakfast.

**Please scan this QR code to donate or go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/hnfpcoffeedonation>**



Donations will be sent to HNFP to offset their cost.