

## WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

### Prelude

*Primavera*  
By Ludovico Einaudi

### Opening Sentences

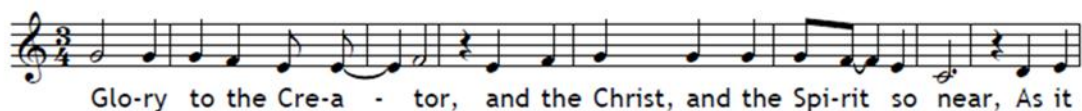
One: This is the day that God has made!

Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

### Centering Words

### Opening Song

*Gloria* Led by Ray Lenzini  
By Christopher Grundy and Hans Ericson  
*Please join in refrain below when indicated:*



### Call to Worship:

One: In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way, and find our way home.

Many: **In the arms of a parent, God's compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.**

One: The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

Many: **We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.**

One: The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

Many: **The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are led to that peaceful place of God's heart. AMEN.**

## WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*We welcome Naima Samantha Mohammed into the family of faith through the sacrament of  
Baptism*

**Invitation**

**Promises of the Family & Congregation**

**Act of Baptism**

**Prayer**

**Congregational Welcome**

**ALL:** Naima,  
we welcome you with joy into the common life  
of this church and the whole family of God.  
We promise you our friendship and prayers  
as we share the hopes and labors of the  
church of Jesus Christ.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue  
to grow together in God's knowledge and love  
and be witnesses of our risen Savior. Amen.

**Song of Welcome**

*Child of God*  
by Mark Hayes

**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**

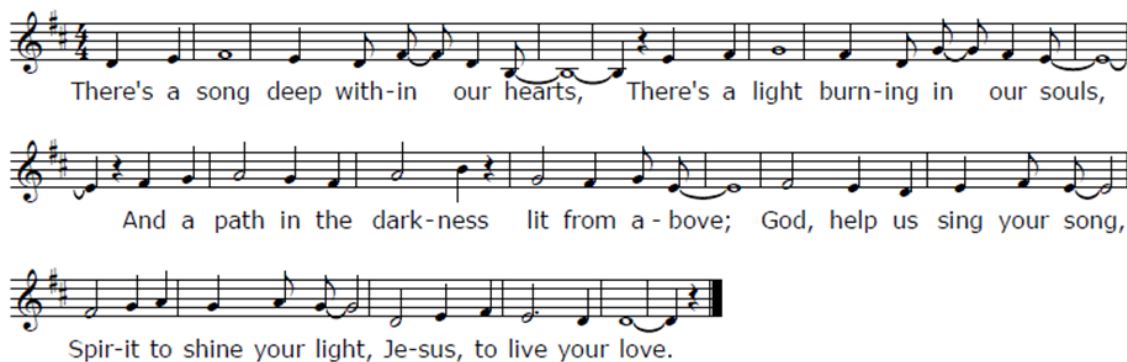
Rev. Karma Cloud

**Offertory**

## WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

**Sung Call to Prayer**

*Deep Within Our Hearts*



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.

## 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

*Alleluia*

1 Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia,  
Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

### Scripture Lesson

John 10:1-10

10<sup>1</sup>Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not

know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “Following Love, Not Fear” Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem *Alone Yet Not Alone*  
Words by Dennis Spiegel, Music by Bruce Broughton, arr. Stan Pethel

## WE GO INTO THE WORLD

### Announcements

Closing Song *Gloria*  
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 *For the Beauty of the Earth*  
By Conrad Kocher, arr. Carol Tornquist



### **“Greening” Coffee Hour**

Please consider contributing to the special collection to help cover the costs to "green" FCC's Coffee Hour. Scan the QR code or go to [tinyurl.com/GreeningCoffeeHour](https://tinyurl.com/GreeningCoffeeHour). Checks or cash clearly earmarked “Greening coffee hour” are also gladly accepted. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events

### FCC Earthweek Activities, Sunday, April 26

*The Green Team invites you to participate in EarthWeek activities during this season of renewal.*

**12:15pm EarthFest Montclair:** Join the Green Team after Coffee Hour (about 12:15pm) to walk over to EarthFest on South Park. Meet in the parking lot.

**4:30-6 pm "The Light Won't Dim"** in the Guild Room\*. A video about solar energy and the independence it provides. Discussion around portable solar. *\*Use the back door (and up the steps) from the parking lot off The Crescent.*

### Rev. Ann Sabbatical Send Off Sunday Worship, May 10, 10:30am

Please join us for Rev. Ann's last Sunday before she leaves on her 11 week sabbatical. She will return on Sunday, August 2.

## Ongoing Events

### Weekly Wednesday Labyrinth Walks 11am—1pm (Last walk will be June 24)

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 (Last meeting will be May 1st)

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—May 16, 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](mailto:fullspectrum@fccmtc.com).

### DATE CHANGE: Next Green Team Ministry Meeting, Wed. May 13, 7pm on Zoom (Usually 2nd Sundays 12-1pm in the FCC Library)

Please email [greenteam@fccmtc.com](mailto:greenteam@fccmtc.com) for more information and Zoom link. Learn about FCC's climate justice initiatives & 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/>*

## **SERVICE NOTES**

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

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Ann Ralosky

**Liturgist:** Lex Lourenco

**Reader:** Quassan Castro

**Ushers:** Jasmine Batista & Yina F.

**Coffee Hour Co-Host:** Sharise Walston-Marsh

**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 Lenzini  
and Dean Tarriff

**AV Tech:** Jason Jimson

*Julie Morgan has made a donation to the food pantry in honor of the FCC Choir and all the active and dedicated ministries at our beloved church!*

## **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.*

