

July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Morning Has Broken
Traditional Gaelic Tune

Vivianne Potter, *violin &*
Joyce Mauer, *guitar*

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that God has made!

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

Centering Words

Opening Song

Bind Us Together (verses 1 and 2)

Soloist, Ray Lenzini

By Isaac Wardell, Kate Bluett, Paul Zach, Nick Chambers, Leslie Jordan

Words and music on page 4

Call to Worship:

One: On this day of worship, we call on God's name,

Many: **and hear our own invitation to work for the good of all.**

One: Gathered with neighbors and strangers, we call on God's hope,

Many: **and discover that a lifetime of service seems but a few days.**

One: In this place of praise and prayer, we call on God's love,

Many: **and receive that grace which is as old as creation,
yet as fresh as each morning.**

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.

Blessing of Children

Rev. Dr. Victor Peterson

During the summer months we will not have a Children's Moment during worship.

All children are invited to come to the labyrinth for a blessing and then go to their Sunday School experience.

Offertory

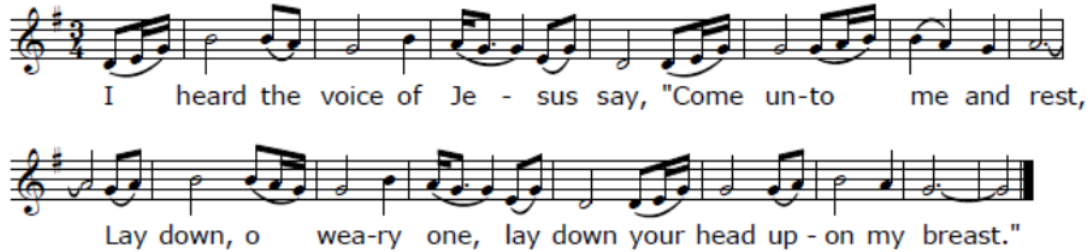
Rejoice in the Lord
Skye Boat Song/Scottish, arr. J. Mauer

Vivianne Potter, *violin &*
Joyce Mauer, *guitar*

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Call to Prayer

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



Prayers of the People

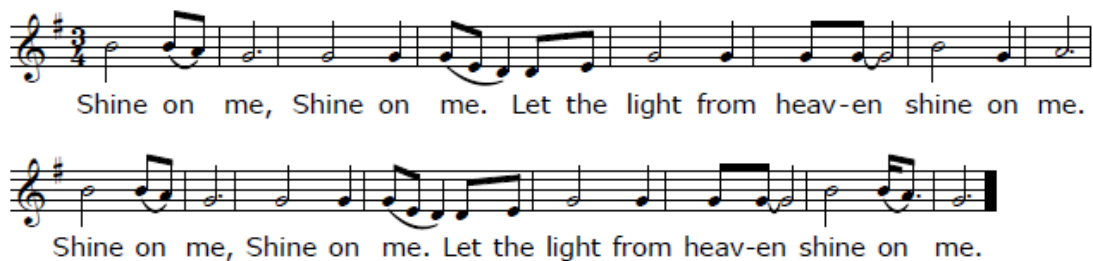
Response: One: God in your mercy,
Many: hear our prayers.

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

Shine on Me



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds

came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!”

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “We Are Fulfilled Promises” Rev. Dr. Victor Peterson

Anthem *Jubilate Deo* FCC Summer Choir
By Sally Albrecht

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Music *Bind Us Together (verse 3)*

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

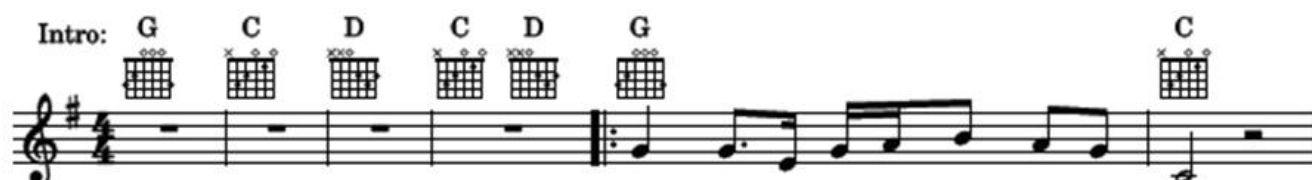
Postlude *Simple Gifts* Vivianne Potter, *violin* &
Traditional Shaker Tune Joyce Mauer, *guitar*

Bind Us Together

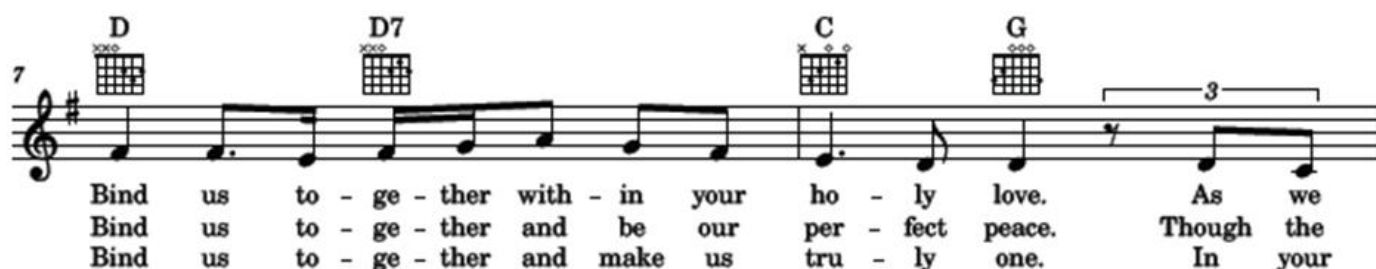
Kate Bluett, Leslie Jordan,
Nick Chambers, Paul Zach,
Isaac Wardell

♩ = 78

Intro:



1. Bind us to - ge - ther with - in your love;
2. Bind us to - ge - ther and be our peace;
3. Bind us to - ge - ther and make us one;



SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leaders: Rev. John Rogers and Quassan Castro

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Victor Peterson

Liturgist: Quassan Castro

Reader: Jessica Pruett-Barnett

Ushers: Yina F. and Connor Vallee

Coffee Hour Co-Hosts: Gunta Alexander and Dawn Colapietro

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

Music Leader: Julie Morgan

FCC Band: Jania Bibighaus, Daniel Belnavis, Hans Ericson and Ray Lenzini

AV Tech: Brandon Jean-Philippe and Ruben Ruiz Salazar

An anonymous donation has been made to the food bank to help feed the hungry.

Want to sing in the choir on Sunday mornings?

All summer, the anthem after the sermon will be a song that we put together on that same Sunday morning, before service. (There's no weekday rehearsal.) **We'll meet at 9:30 in the sanctuary** to learn/practice it, and then sing it in the worship service. I'll let folks know in the few days before Sunday what the song will be, and if I can send an audio clip as well, I do so. If you'd like to join us any week, just email me (Julie) at jmorgan@mastervoices.org. We'd LOVE to have you with us, any week!

-- Julie, David, and the FCC Choir

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

Rev. Ann's Welcome Back Coffee Hour, August 2 following worship

Let's celebrate Rev. Ann's return from her Sabbatical! We'd love it if you can bring a favorite dish for the Banquet Table—sign up at tinyurl.com/RevAnnAug2.

We also need help with setup & cleanup.

SAVE THE DATE:

September 13 – Welcome Back Sunday Picnic

The Hospitality Ministry will need your help and we will be emailing you soon.

Ongoing Events

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 (2nd Sundays) after worship, in the FCC Library

Learn about FCC's creation care and climate justice initiatives, be part of planning our activities, and live out your faith by taking action for the planet.

On Hiatus Until September

- **Weekly Wednesday Labyrinth Walks 11am—1pm**
- **The Searcher's Bible Study on Zoom each Thursday Eve at 7pm**
- **"Women of a Certain Age" - FIRST Fridays, 11am-1pm in the FCC library**
- **Underground Church Worship Service—Usually 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am in the Sanctuary**

For more details check the calendar on our "Upcoming Events" page:

<https://fccmontclair.org/upcoming-events-at-fcc/>

Curious About Volunteering at FCC?

Please email our Volunteer Coordinator, Barbra Murtha, at volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com to explore one-time or ongoing opportunities.