

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Do Not Fear, Do Not Be Afraid

By James Michael Stevens

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

Words and music on page 4

Call to Worship:

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers,
as well as the doubters:

Many: **here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.**

One: Here, in this time, we can remember
all the ways God has graced us:

Many: **here, in these moments, we are reminded
that God is with us, always!**

One: Here are gathered those daring enough
to step out of comfort into the unknown:

Many: **here, in this faith space, we will find the courage
to cry out for God's grace in every situation. 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.

Blessing of Children

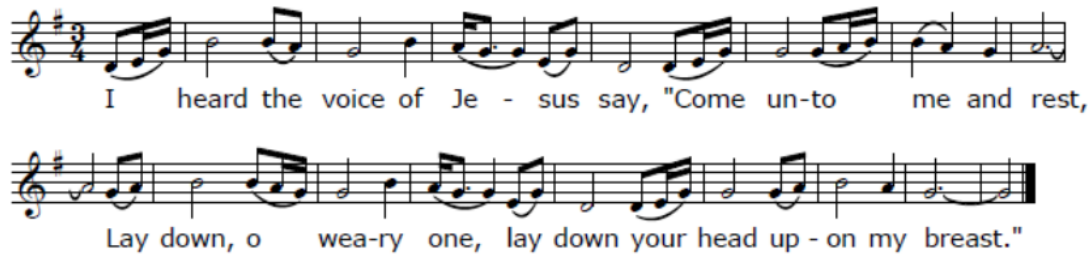
*During the summer months we will not have a Children's Moment during worship.
All children are invited to come to the labyrinth for a blessing and then go to their Sunday School
experience.*

Offertory

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Call to Prayer

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



Prayers of the People

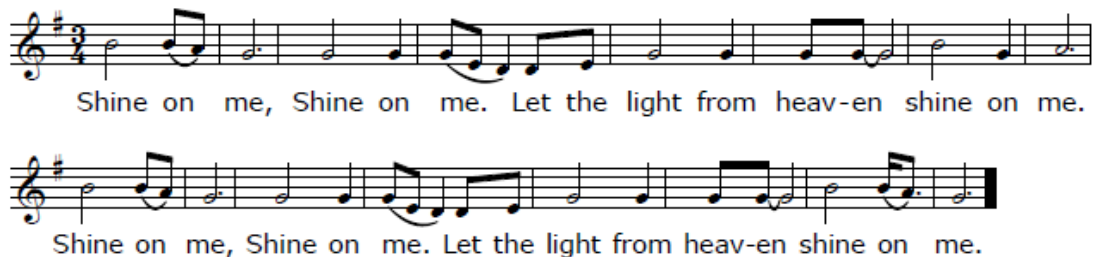
Response: One: God in your mercy,
Many: hear our prayers.

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 14:22-33

22Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there

alone, 24but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." 28Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "Imperfect Trust" Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem *Psalm of Trust* FCC Summer Choir
Words by Susan Bentall Boersma, Music by David Lantz

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Music *Here In This Place*

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 *A Peaceful Ending*
By Phil Lehenbauer

Here In This Place

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 _

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Ann Ralosky & Rev. John Rogers

Reader: Joseph Smith

Ushers: Dawn Colapietro and Taeketra Haynes-Fannon

Coffee Hour Co-Hosts: Cynthia and John E. Rogers

Coffee Hour Setup Team: Steve Cutaia and Tim Duhamel

Music Leaders: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

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

AV Techs: Jason Jimson and Aidan Longacre

Dawn Colapietro has made a gift to the food bank in solidarity with the poor and hungry.

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

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 (*Back in October*)**

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

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

Thank You!

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made Rev. Ann's Welcome Back Celebration last Sunday so special. I so appreciated all of you who helped with setup/cleanup, decorating, and cooking/baking the amazing food for our gathering. Your love and support means everything.

Love and Blessings,
Deb Duhamel, Hospitality Ministry Chair

Curious About Volunteering at FCC?

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