

WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION

Prelude

Let Us Break Bread Together
Traditional Spiritual, arr. John Purifoy

Opening Sentences

One: This is the day that God has made!

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

Centering Words

Opening Song

Bring It To the Altar
By Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, Leslie Jordan, and Kate Bluett
(Please join in the refrain when indicated and found on page 5)

Call to Worship

One: We come, so God can teach us goodness and love
for each person

Many: **We will magnify God's love through showing compassion.**

One: We come, so Jesus can lead us into lives of service and mercy.

Many: **We will magnify Jesus' hopes by putting others
before ourselves.**

One: We come, so the Spirit can help us to empty ourselves for God
and those around us.

Many: **We magnify the Spirit's peace by sharing our lives
with others. 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

Christian Education Induction Ceremony — Celebrating Our Children's
Commitment to their Spiritual Journeys.

Offertory

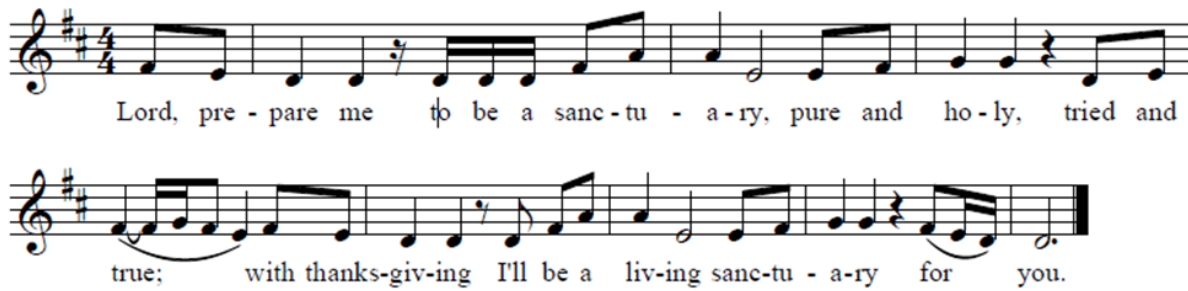
Stewardship Moment

Dr. Phyllis Stone

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Sung Call to Prayer

Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary



Prayers of the People

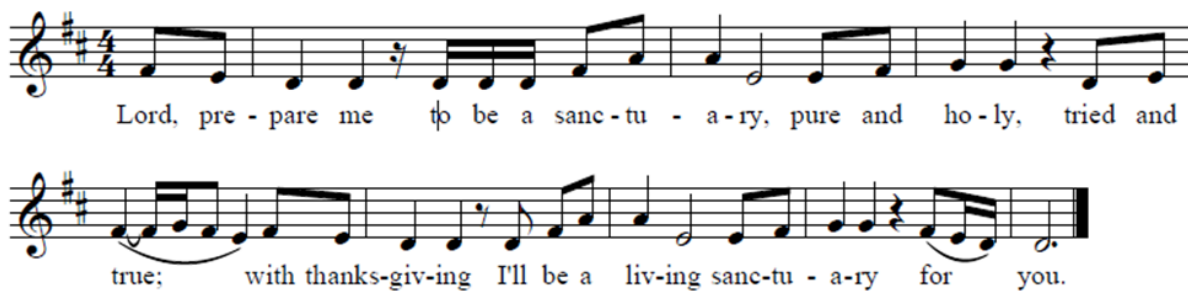
Response: One: God in your mercy,
Many: hear our prayers.

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

Bless Our God



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

Scripture Reading

This morning we will hear from several passages in scripture that reflect God's presence in the breaking of the bread. Listen for the wisdom of God.

⁹Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Proverbs, Chapter 22, verse 9

Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for it is now that God favors all you do. **Ecclesiastes, 9, verse 7**

¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. **Matthew 14, verses 16-20**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. He said to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” **Luke, chapter 14, verses 1 and 12-14.**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” **Luke chapter 15, verses 1 and 2.**

⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate it in their presence. **Luke, chapter 24, verses 40-43**

⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. **John, chapter 21, verses 9-13**

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“Transformational Table”

Rev. Ann Ralosky

Anthem

Plenty Good Room
African-American Spiritual, arr Rob Glover

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

Announcements

Closing Music

Bring It To the Altar
(Please sing the Refrain with these new words by Hans Ericson)

***Bring it from the altar, carry it on home,
With all of God’s purpose, and share it as you go.
Bring it from the altar, don’t carry it alone;
Bring two or three with you, there’s room for every soul.***

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

Doxology
By Louis Burgeois, arr. Phil Lehenbauer

Thank you!!

A huge thank you to everyone who showed up, jumped in to help, and brought delicious food for “both” our church picnics.

A special thank you to Steve Cutaia and Tim Duhamel for cooking in the rain! So grateful for our church family and for times like these to simply be together.

Blessings, Hospitality Ministry

Bring it to the Altar

Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell,
Leslie Jordan, Kate Bluett

$\text{♩} = 73$

Chorus

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in B-flat major (two flats) and common time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a key signature change to B-flat major and includes a repeat sign. The second line begins with a measure rest for four measures. The third line begins with a measure rest for seven measures. Chord symbols (E-flat, B-flat, F) are placed above the staff at various points. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Bring it to the al - tar, lay it on the stone, ev-e-ry sor - row and ev-e-ry

joy. Bring it to the al - tar, don't leave it at the door. What-e-ver you

car - ry, come and give it to the Lord, come and give it to the Lord.

SERVICE NOTES

Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.

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

Reader: Lisa Marie Bronson

Ushers: Stella Wilkins and Terrence Williams

Coffee Hour Co-Hosts: Green Team

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

Music Leaders: Julie Morgan and David Salyers

FCC Band: Jania Bibighaus, Hans Ericson and Ray Lenzini

AV Techs: Jason Jimson and Giancarlo Quesada

Please consider making a donation to the food bank in honor or memory of a loved one.

Register at TinyUrl.com/SupportFoodBank or contact the church office.

Upcoming Events

Environmental Video Screening & discussion after worship today

Join FCC's Green Team Ministry for a 17 minute video about some of the environmental impacts that unregulated AI Data Centers have had on a community in Memphis, TN.

The Sum of Us book discussion - Continues Sept 30 & Oct 7, 7:30pm in the Guild Room

The Sum of Us looks at what racism costs us all and how we can prosper together. Join in the discussion. Register at: tinyurl.com/TheSumOfUsBook

New Members Inquiry Class Begins October 11

Been attending FCC and think we may be your spiritual home? Join us for our Inquiry Classes in person Oct 11, then Zoom on Oct 14, 21, 28. See Rev. Ann to sign up!

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. This season we will begin with a focus on the book of Ruth.

"Women of a Certain Age", FIRST Fridays 11am-1pm in the FCC library

A gathering of friendship and conversation for women roughly over 65. Bring a bag lunch and any handcrafts you are working on. See Rev. Heather Cherrey for details.

Underground Church, October 24, 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 (usually 2nd Sundays) after worship in the FCC Library

Please contact greenteam@fccmtc.com for more information and Zoom link.

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.

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.

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.*

