

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION**

### **Prelude**

*Pass It On*

By Kurt Kaiser, arr. Mark Hayes

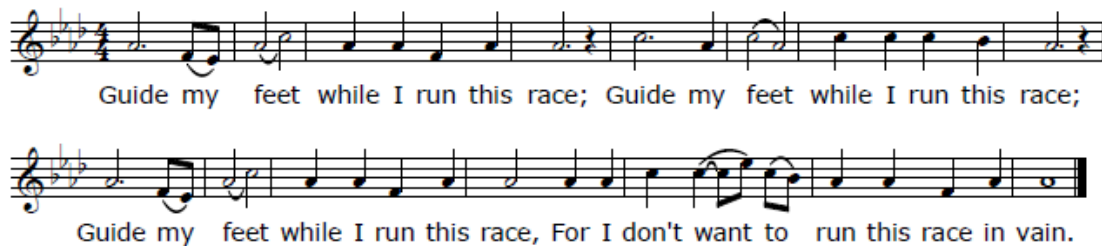
### **Opening Sentences**

One: This is the day that our God has made!

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

### **Centering Words**

### **Centering Song**     *Guide My Feet* (Traditional African American Spiritual)



### **Call to Worship**

One: Blessed is God, who created us and loves us beyond measure.

Many: **Blessed is God, who calls us to stop measuring out our love.**

One: Blessed is God, who speaks and tells us stories about ourselves.

Many: **Blessed is God, who reveals to us who we are and who we could be.**

One: Blessed is God, whose compassion is poured out  
on every single person

Many: **Blessed is God, who gives us compassion to share with  
every single person, even those we do not know.**

ALL: **Let our caring know no boundaries as we embrace  
everyone as children of God! AMEN.**

### **Opening Hymn**     *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (verses 1 & 2)

*(Sung to the tune of Hyfrydol)*

Words and music on page 5

## WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*We welcome Lucienne Marie DeCicco and Elio Michael Palermo into the Christian family through the sacrament of Baptism.*

**Invitation**

**Promises of the Family & Congregation**

**Act of Baptism**

**Prayer**

**Congregational Welcome**

**ALL:** Lucienne and Elio,  
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**

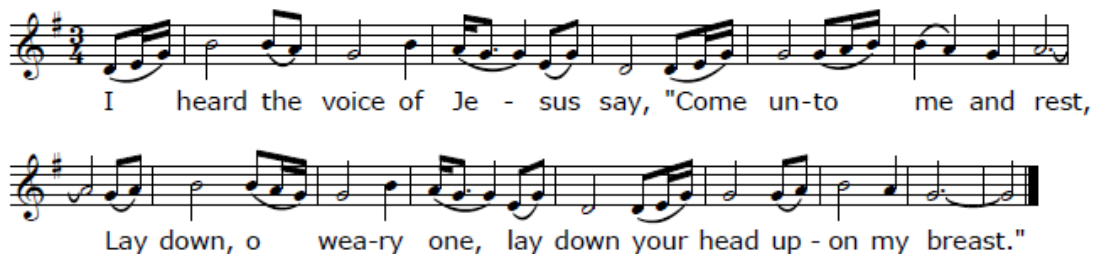
**Blessing of Children**

*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 Preparation for Prayer** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*  
(Traditional African American Spiritual)



## Prayers of the People

### Response:

**One:** God, in your mercy

**Many:** hear our prayers.

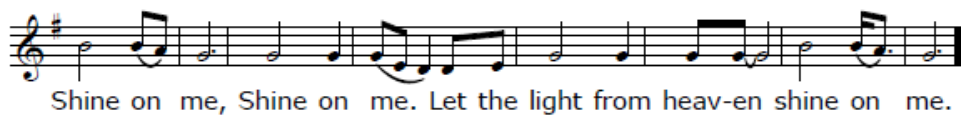
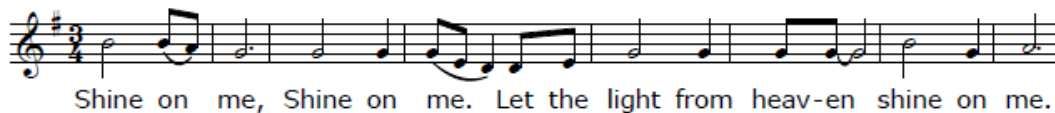
### Lord's Prayer

**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*

(Traditional African American Spiritual)



## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

### Scripture Reading

**Luke 10:25-37**

<sup>25</sup>Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup>He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup>He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." <sup>29</sup>But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his

wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

"Love Beyond Borders"

Rev. John Rogers

**Anthem**

*Come Flood This Heart of Mine*

Words by Herb Frombach, music by David Lantz III

## **WE GO INTO THE WORLD**

**Announcements**

**Closing Hymn**     *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verses 3 & 4)*  
(Sung to the tune of *Hyfrydol*)

**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**

*They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love*  
By Peter Scholtes, arr. Janice Joy Nelson


## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.




1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;  
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;  
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;  
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,  
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

## **SERVICE NOTES**

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

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

**Reader:** Jessica Pruett-Barnett

**Ushers:** Heather Cherrey & Stella Wilkins

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Phyllis Crichlow

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

**Music Leaders:** Julie Morgan and David Salyers,

**AV Tech:** Brandon Jean-Philippe and Jason Jinson

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

*Gratitude to the Iona Community for some of our worship language.*



*Scan this QR Code  
with your camera or  
scanning app to  
quickly donate  
online!*

### **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.

**ONLINE:** Scan this QR Code or go to [www.fccmontclair.org/giving](http://www.fccmontclair.org/giving).

**TEXT:** You can text a donation to **877-346-1045** followed by a space, and then the amount of your donation (follow the one time set up instructions.)

**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.*

## **Looking to get involved at FCC?**

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Barbra Murtha, at  
[volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com). Or text at 201-403-5764.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Green Team Ministry Meeting, 7/13 (2nd Sundays) 12-1pm in the FCC Library**

#### **Chancel Room clean up day, Saturday, July 19 from 9:30am-2:30pm**

The Spirituality and Worship ministry is inviting helping hands to organize and clean-out our chancel room (behind the main sanctuary). All are welcome to lend a hand!

Please contact Barbra Murtha at [volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@fccmtc.com).

#### **Summer clothing donations begin next Sunday, 7/20**

## **Ongoing Events**

#### **Weekly Labyrinth Walks — will be on hiatus until September**

If you would like to walk the labyrinth, please call to church office between 9am and 5pm and check on availability.

#### **Slow Motion Bible Study—Thursdays, 7pm on Zoom!**

FCC member, Rev. Victor Peterson, will lead an engaging exploration of our scriptures each Thursday evening on Zoom.

#### **Hearts in - Hands on Meditation on the front lawn –weekly on Saturdays 9-10am**

Ongoing through the summer on Saturday mornings. Meditation for peace, justice and the planet. Bring an open heart and something to sit on.

#### **Underground Church —Will be on hiatus until September**

An intimate and interactive worship experience that hearkens back to the early church.

#### **Full Spectrum Spirituality (FSS) - LGBTQ+ Gathering -Sundays Weekly During Coffee Hour in Room 5 (Parents Room)**

We will chat about life, spirituality, and whatever else comes up! If you are interested in joining this group, please text Lex at 856-332-7448.

#### **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/>**

## **WANT TO TRY SINGING WITH THE CHOIR THIS SUMMER?**

*An Invitation from our Music Director, Julie Morgan*

*(No weekday rehearsals, we just put the music together on Sunday morning!)*

As summer is here, the choir is now on official break from Tuesday night rehearsals until the fall – but we'll still be providing music every Sunday morning, of course!

Each week, I will email our singers to see who'll be around for the next Sunday, and when possible, I send around a copy/sound clip of the song that we'll work up that day.

We usually gather each Sunday around 9:30am and learn the morning's anthem, then sing it at our service at 10:30.

***If you think you'd like to join us for this Summer "Pickup" Choir, please email Julie at [jmorgan@mastervoices.org](mailto:jmorgan@mastervoices.org). We'd love to have you with us!***