

Teach me thy way,
O LORD;

*I will walk
in thy truth.*

PSALM 86:11

Sunday, May 3, 2026

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Has God Left the Building?

Gathering Music/Prelude

“Amazing Grace”

Newton

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music/Introit

“Deep Peace”

Posegate

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Where shall we look for God?

People: Not only in this room, but in all creation.

Leader: Where shall we listen for God?

People: In voices singing and voices silenced.

Leader: Where shall we serve God?

People: Wherever love is needed.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who cannot be contained.

People: We gather to be sent out into the world! Amen.

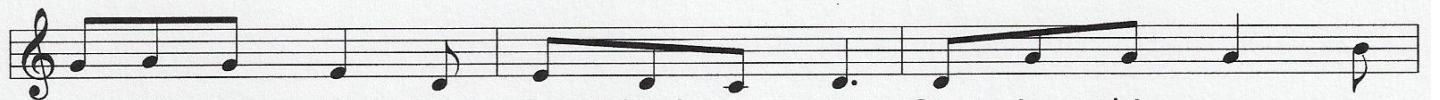
* Hymn

Gather Us In


Mary Haugen




Here in this place, the new light is stream - ing,
We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery;
Here we re - ceive new life in your wa - ters;
Not just in build - ings, small and con - fin - ing,




now the dark night has van - ished a - way. See in this space our
we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through -
here we re - ceive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your
not in some heav - en, light years a - way, here in this place the




fears and our dream - ings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
out all of his - tory, called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
sons and your daugh - ters, call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
new light is shin - ing; now is God pres - ent, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in, our
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty; gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath - er us in and



spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer R/ Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Please use words that are most comfortable for you.

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Song of Simeon"

Knapp

* Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God all creat - ures here be - low.

Praise God for all that love has done. Cre - at - or, Christ, and Spi - rit one. A - men.

* Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, receive these gifts and receive our lives. Bless what is offered here so that hope may grow, hunger may be met, loneliness may be eased, and justice may take root. Take our money, our time, our skills, and our compassion. Send them where they are needed most. Make of this church not a monument to preserve, but a movement to share. Amen.

Scriptures

Hebrew Bible

2 Samuel 7: 45-48

New Testament

Acts 7: 4-7, 17:24-28

Gospel

Matthew 25:35-40

Message

Moment of Silence

Prayer of Confession

Holy Mystery, we confess that we have often tried to keep you where we can easily manage you. We have preferred comfort over change, certainty over possibilities, maintenance over mission. Forgive us when we mistake the building for the body and our habits for the Spirit. Lead us out into the community where You are already moving, and give us the courage to follow. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Pastor: Hear the good news: God is not trapped by our failures. Mercy keeps moving. Grace keeps showing up. Love keeps breaking through.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution & Consecration

Sacrament of Holy Communion

When offered the bread and juice, please respond, "Amen."

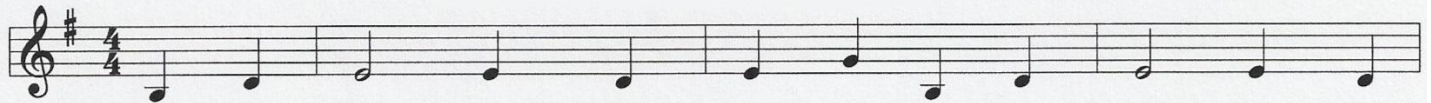
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, you have fed us not to remain seated, but to rise. Send us now to tables of loneliness, streets of struggle, homes needing peace, and neighborhoods longing for hope. Go with us beyond these walls – for you are already there. Amen.

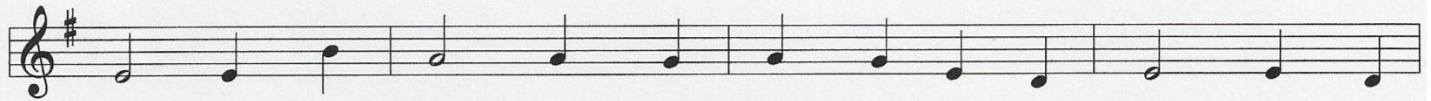
*** Hymn**

We Are One in the Spirit

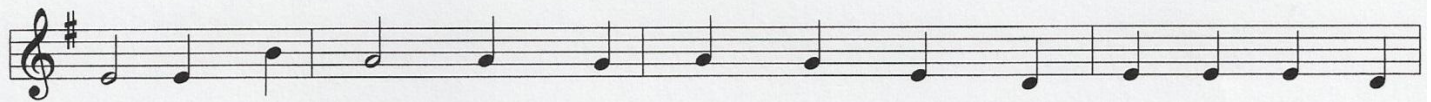
Peter Scholtes



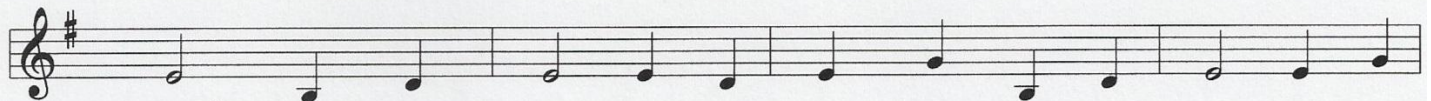
We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the
We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in
We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by



Lord, we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the
hand, we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in
side, we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by

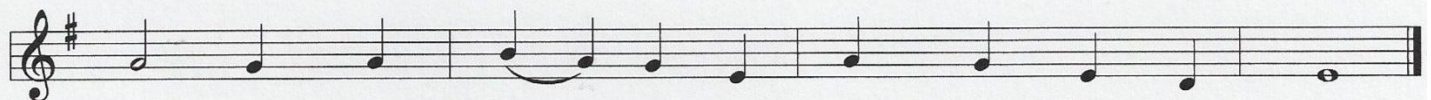


Lord, and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re-
hand, and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
side, and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's



stored.

land; And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our
pride;



love, yes they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

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*** Final Blessing/Benediction**

*** Sending Music/Postlude**

“Blessed Assurance”

Crosby

Please stay on ZOOM for our all-congregation meeting on FCC's future.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

The church steeple is illuminated this month in honor and memory of
Dorothy & Charles Blanchard

By Judy Robillard

Electronic Donations

You can make an electronic donation using this QR code.



Today's Worship Team

Minister	Rev. Marie Lucca
Director of Music	Robert Knapp
Organist	Emily Knapp
Lay Worship Leaders	Chris Comiskey
Musicians	FCC Bell Choir

Meetings & Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 3	11:30 am	Visioning Meeting
	6:30 pm	Missions
	7:00 pm	Diaconate
Tuesday, May 5	12 noon	Woman's Guild
	6:00 pm	Finance
	7:00 pm	Bells Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday May 7	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Saturday, May 9	8:00 am	Men's Group
	10:30 am	Mother's Day Brunch
	2:00 pm	Shirley Powell Internment
Sunday, May 10	9:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Worship

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND BRUNCH & PERFORMANCE



*A dramatic one-woman play
depicting three women of the Bible:
Susanna, Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law,
and the Woman at the Well.*

FEATURING AWARD-WINNING
BIBLICAL ACTRESS OLIVIA WOODFORD



SATURDAY, MAY 9

10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN**



*Celebrate Mother's Day
weekend with your
family, friends, and
neighbors over a
delicious brunch
and a memorable
presentation
for all ages!*

TICKETS ARE FREE BUT MUST BE RESERVED IN ADVANCE BY EMAILING YOUR NAME,
PHONE NUMBER, AND NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUESTED TO
CHURCHOFFICE@FCCGEORGETOWNMA.ORG OR CALLING 978-352-8443.

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!

First Congregational Church is an engaging congregation rooted in Christian tradition, but open to new expressions. With openness of heart and responding to God's compassionate grace, we reach out in service to the community and the world! If you would like to learn more about our congregation and its ministries or would like a call or visit from our pastor, please complete the visitor card found in the pews and place it in the offering basket.

EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME

We are an **"Open and Affirming"** congregation of the **United Church of Christ**, which means that wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Because we believe that all people are created in God's image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God, we welcome persons of every age, gender, race, national origin and ethnicity, marital status, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical health and abilities, economic and social status, political affiliation, education, and faith background. We also welcome and encourage all people to participate and share their talents and energy in worship and sacraments, leadership positions, ordained ministry, lay ministry, learning, service, mission, and fellowship.

A COMMUNITY THAT AIMS FOR HOSPITALITY

We have large-print programs, hearing assistance devices, wheelchair and elevator accessibility, and all-gender restrooms. We also serve gluten-free bread and grape juice during our communion services. For those wishing to worship with us virtually, we live stream our services at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84545128875>. While we strive to anticipate needs, please share any ideas you have for ways to expand our hospitality for all.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We encourage children to actively participate in our worship service; this is where they learn the most about the Christian family — by experiencing it! Children are encouraged to sing, clap, wiggle, fidget, offer prayer requests, share a sign of peace, and receive communion.