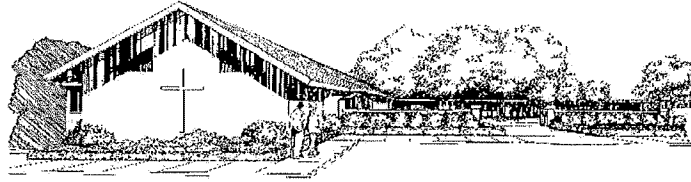


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

June 2, 2024
10 am
Holy Communion



Welcome to worship!

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope you find a warm spirit of hospitality and a worship experience that strengthens your faith and discipleship. You are invited to stand, as you are able, when you see an * in the bulletin.

Centering Thought

Made from Bone,
a poem by Mark Nepo, from his book, Reduced to Joy

When I can be the truth,
It grows more and more clear
when it is necessary to tell the truth.
That is, when I have access to the place
within me that is lighted, I do not have
to speak heatedly. I can just give away
warmth. When I am still enough to brush
quietly with eternity, I do not have to
speak of God. I can just offer peace
to those around me.
A tree grows so it can convey wind.
It is not the wind and a person grows
in order to convey spirit.
They say that animals recharge
their innocence each time they hoof
the earth. and we are reborn
each time we touch what matters.

Centering Bell

On hearing the bell ring, please settle into a time for centering silence
and listening to the Prelude with an open heart.

Prelude

Welcome/Opening Words

Liturgist: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey..."

Congregation: "You are welcome here."

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: We gather and give thanks to the Source of love, whose Light shines forth throughout the universe.

People: Come, Let us awaken our hearts, that we may do Love's Work; For it is God's love that loves through us.

Liturgist: Gather us in from the lands, from the east and the west, from the south and the north.

People: Let all who are hungry and thirsty, whose souls are faint within them, cry out to the one who nourishes them with healing love; for fear cannot live where love, grace and gentleness abide.

Liturgist: Come let us give thanks to the Heart of Hearts, giving praise for the gifts of Love!

***Opening Hymn** God, You Spin the Whirling Planets tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN

God You spin the whirling planets
Fill the seas and spread the plain
Mold the mountains fashion blossoms
Call forth sunshine wind and rain
We created in your image
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice grace and mercy
And the truth that makes us free

You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community
When we blur Your gracious image
Focus us and make us whole
Healed and strengthened as Your people
We move onward toward Your goal

God Your will is still creating
Calling us to life made new
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do
Keep us clear of all distortion
Fashion us with loving care
Thus new creatures in Your image
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere

***Opening Prayer**

God as we open ourselves to you, we may have awakened to the confusion of a new day.

The scraps of dreams, memories of yesterday and new cravings creeping into our awareness.

The sun spilling new light over all

And the shadows and cacophony of sound from outside and in.

What to make order of?

What to let go?

And who makes the choice?

What if we go to the ocean

And just watch it ebb and flow.

It seems like a long time since we have done Something that important.

Yes, Holy One, let us be still and open

Ourselves to you. Let us listen in to the ocean, the birds, nature, the beating of our own hearts to be present here in this community we cherish.

Let us dare to trust you are here, there and everywhere.

May it be so.

Seeking Balance and Wholeness

Liturgist: God invites us to come to worship as ourselves: God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life.

All: Holy One, we hope in your unconditional love, bringing our broken hearts and our wounded spirits as well as our dreams and hopes. Make us aware of the hearts we break, the spirits we wound, of those we treat as outcasts, of those we treat differently. Renew in us in your grace, renew our spirits so that we can be a part of your healing to make the changes we seek and give us the strength to make a difference.

Amen

Assurance of Grace

Pastor: God sees us as we truly are,

People; And longs for us to share that vision.

Pastor: In Christ, we are given new insights to see ourselves in fullness

People: And empowered to live into the truth that we are forgiven:

All: And embraced by God!

Song of Response Give Me Love

Give Me Love

George Harrison

B \flat B \flat ^A C⁻⁷ F

Give me love,

B \flat B \flat ^A C⁻⁷ F

— give me love, — give me peace on Earth. — Give me light

E \flat - F A \flat E \flat

— give me life, — show me all I'm worth. — give me

B \flat B \flat ^A C⁻⁷ F

hope, help me cope — with this hea - vy load. — Try-ing to.

E \flat - F A \flat E \flat B \flat

— touch and reach — you with heart and soul. —

Scripture Isaiah 56:3-8, Luke 9:18-20

Hymn of Preparation

In This Very Room

insert

Sermon Who Do You Say I Am?

Rev. Jane Spahr

Moment for Silent Reflection

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

After each joy or concern, Pastor leads the congregation to respond "God, hear our prayer."

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

One: Compassion for others, both locally and globally, inspires us to give. Sometimes our gift is our time and energy, sometimes our talent, sometimes our resources. Our generous spirit expands our hearts and our horizons.

All: May our open hearts and open hands change us and help change the world.

Offering Song "What Is Good"

What Is Good

(What Does The Lord Require Of You?)

♩ = 88

What does the Lord re-quire___ of you? What does the Lord re-quire___ of you? To act just

- ly._____ To act just - ly._____ To love kind

- ness._____ To love mer - cy._____ And to

walk hum-bly with your God._____ And to

walk hum-bly with your God._____

WORDS: Micah 6:8

MUSIC: Gerry Grosz, ©2022 Gerry Grosz Music, All Rights Reserved

ACT JUSTLY
Irr.

Prayer of Dedication (*UCC Worship Ways*)

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

Gathering Song

Gathered Here

NCH 742

Communion

INSTRUCTIONS

- ~ Holy Communion at FCC is served as "Pew Communion," meaning the elements will be brought to you.*
- ~ Please hold the bread and cup until invited to eat, or drink by the Pastor.*
- ~ We will eat and drink together.*
- ~ For those are live streaming with us on You Tube, you are invited to have any sort of bread or cracker along with wine, grape juice, or whatever you may have available.*

Invitation to the Table of our God

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is a rightful thing to do, to give thanks and praise.

Words of Institution and Communion Prayer with Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator (*Father, Mother, God*) **who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Please hold the bread and cup until invited to eat by the Pastor. We will eat and drink together.

***Communion Song**

Let Us Break Bread Together

NCH 330

Announcements/ Life of the Church

***Benediction**

***Shalom**

**Shalom my friends, Shalom my friends,
Shalom, Shalom. We'll see you again,
We'll see you again, Shalom, Shalom.**

Postlude

Announcements

Rev Dr Jane Adams Spahr known as "Janie", Mother of Jim (wife Ronda) Chet (wife Teresa) grandmother of Riley 20 (University of Washington) & Elliott 12 (6th grade in San Francisco) Former spouse Jim Spahr Sr. who loved her into becoming her lesbian herself. Jim Spahr Sr. married their dear friend Jackie. Janie did their wedding service over 40 years ago. Janie has served in Ministry at the following places:

Ordained 1974 in Pittsburgh, PA as Minister Director to the Hazelwood Presbyterian Ministry
Assistant Pastor at First Presbyterian San Rafael
Minister Director of Oakland Council of Presbyterian Churches
Minister of Pastoral Care at Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco
Minister Director of Ministry of Light/Spectrum Center of LGBTQ Concerns for over 10 years

First trial in the Presbyterian Church- denied to serve as one of the pastors at DUPC because she was an open lesbian in Rochester, NY- that church then called Janie as their evangelist & she traveled the county as Minister Director of That All May Freely Serve for 17 years (retired from there)
with Downtown United- Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York who partnered with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon, California

Following her retirement was for over 8 years on trial in the Presbyterian Church for performing LGBTQ weddings of her friends.

Spectrum Center for LGBTQ Center & Marin AIDS Project became the Spahr Center in 2015

Over the past 6 years Janie has served as the Volunteer- Volunteer Coordinator of Trans- HeartLine- a house where transgender guests come to heal following their surgeries

Prayer Chain

E-mail either Julie Dowling isabella1472@comcast.net or Annie Song-Hill asonghill@gmail.com if you have a prayer request you would like included in the prayer chain.

Remember your offerings- Ways to give:

- * Set up automatic donations through your banking institution
- * Send your check to FCC San Rafael: 8 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA 94903
- * Click on the PayPal link located on our website and in each weekly e-mail

Servers

June 2

Liturgist: Caryl Hodges
Altar set-up: Jackie Dema
Communion servers: Annie Song-Hill, Caran Cuneo
Greeter:

June 9

Liturgist: David Santschi
Altar flowers: Cathi Fuller
Greeter: Caryl Hodges

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

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San Rafael, California 94903
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Website: www.fccsanrafael.org
e-mail: office@fccsanrafael.org
Pastor: Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg
Music Director: Gerry Grosz
Office Manager: Amy Powers

June 2 readings

Isaiah 56:3-8

Do not let the foreigner joined to God say, " The Holy One will surely separate me from God's people" And do not let the eunuch say, " I am just a dry tree".

For thus says the Holy One: " To the Eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast to my covenant, I will give, in my house and my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters, I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off."

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Holy One, to minister to and love the name of our God, to be God's servants, all who keep God's sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast to God's covenant, these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Thus says our God who gathers the outcasts of Israel, " I will gather others besides my gathered ones."

Luke 9 :18-20

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only his disciples near him. He asked them, " Who do the crowds say I am?"

They answered, " John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has risen."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, " The Messiah of God."

In This Very Room

1. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for one like me,
 2. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all of us,
 3. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all the world,

and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for one like me;
 and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all of us;
 and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all the world;

and there's quite e-nough hope, and

quite e-nough pow'r to chase a-way an-y gloom, for

Je-sus, my Je-sus, is in this ver-y room.

WORDS and MUSIC: Ron and Carol Harris, 1979

IN THIS VERY ROOM
 Irr.