

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of SAN RAFAEL

Celebrating 130 Years
1893 – 2023

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
PRIDE SUNDAY**

June 25, 2023
10:00 AM



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 Thoughts

“To know oneself is to know God.” ~ John Calvin

“You have to decide who you are and force the world to deal with you,
not with its idea of you.” ~ James Baldwin

“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the
greatest accomplishment.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

GATHERING

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

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

*Call to Worship

(Adapted from Psalm 139)

One: When I sit and when I rise, you have searched and known me.

***Many:* I am awesomely and wondrously made.**

One: You search my ways; you know me inside and out.

***Many:* I am awesomely and wondrously made.**

One: You stand before me and behind me. You lay your hand upon me.

***Many:* I am awesomely and wondrously made.**

One: My deepest darkness is light to you. Your hand shall guide me.

***Many:* I am awesomely and wondrously made.**

One: You have woven me together into a beautiful tapestry of your own design.

***Many:* I am awesomely and wondrously made.**

***Opening Hymn** All are Welcome (1, 4, 5) insert

Opening Prayer

(ONA Coalition of the UCC; adapted)

One: God, your child Jesus taught us to welcome each other,
but welcome often seems too little in this world.

***Many:* To welcome, without affirmation, becomes an empty promise.**

One: To truly welcome each other means to see the face of God in each other.

***Many:* We commit to affirm all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people,
Welcoming and Affirming them as God's beloved creations.**

One: You taught us that whoever welcomes a prophet will see a prophet's reward;

***Many:* whoever welcomes a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous.**

One: We know that until we are all free, none of us can be free,

***Many:* And we commit to co-creating that world of welcome, inclusion, and affirmation until all people can access that promise. Amen.**

The Colors of the Rainbow: An Active Litany

Voice 1: We Light these candles in memory of those who have come before us and on whose shoulders we stand.

Voice 2: We light these candles in celebration of those who are alive and present claiming their own agency and speaking the power of their truth.

Voice 1: We light these candles in hope of those who will come after us seeking and living in a word with love and compassion, equality, and total inclusion.

Voice 2: O Holy Light of many colors, within and beyond us, you create and call forth the many colors of the Rainbow.

Voice 1: **RED.** We light the Red candle of Life. The color of blood shed by so many before us for being who they were. For those whose lives were taken by AIDS. For those who used their bodies to oppose police harassment at Compton's Cafeteria and the Stonewall Inn. For those who were murdered simply because of who they were. For all who gave their blood, life force, and passion that we may have Life and Life abundant.

Voice 2: **ORANGE.** We light the Orange candle of Healing. That despite being shamed, bullied, abused, and harmed in body, mind, and spirit the warmth of Healing offers the embrace of affirming love and the resilience of a renewed life.

Voice 1: **YELLOW.** We light the yellow candle of Sunlight. For those seeking full equality, equity, civil right, access to medical care, employment opportunities, a seat at the table, total respect, and full recognition of their God-given humanity we celebrate you invitation into co-creation and new ideas. The Sun has risen and a new day of hope dawns.

Voice 2: **GREEN.** We light the green candle of nature. Like the color of eternal, creative, evolving, and energetic growth green is the color of this community that will never fade.

Voice 1: **BLUE.** We light the Blue candle of Serenity and Harmony, the color of the ocean's depths and sign of our integrity and authenticity bringing calm for the journey, and a sense of soothing peace for the soul.

Voice 2: **PURPLE.** We light the Purple candle of Spirit. A spirit that soars taking us to a place of freedom and liberation not yet seen but deeply longed for. The spirit of hope that keeps the dream alive.

People: We light these candles in celebration of love and in solidarity of those who are proud to be who they truly are. May the light of the Rainbow dispel the darkness of fear and hate bringing each of us to a place of celebration, life, and love.

Song of Response

"How Could Anyone"

(Libby Roderick) insert

THE WORD

Daniel 3:16-28

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷ If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary ²⁰ and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹ So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²² Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god." ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their

tunics^[e] were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God."

Matthew 19:11–12

¹¹ But Jesus said to the disciples, "Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."

***Hymn of Preparation** 575 O for a World

Sermon "Authenticity as Resistance" ~ Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau

Moment for Silent Reflection

Special Music Draw The Circle Wide (M. Miller & G. Light; arr. by G. Grosz)
FCC Choir

PRAYING

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Our Savior *(Please pray the version that is most meaningful for you.)*

Our Creator *(Father, Mother, God)* **who art in heaven, your name is holy. Your Kindom 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 Kindom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

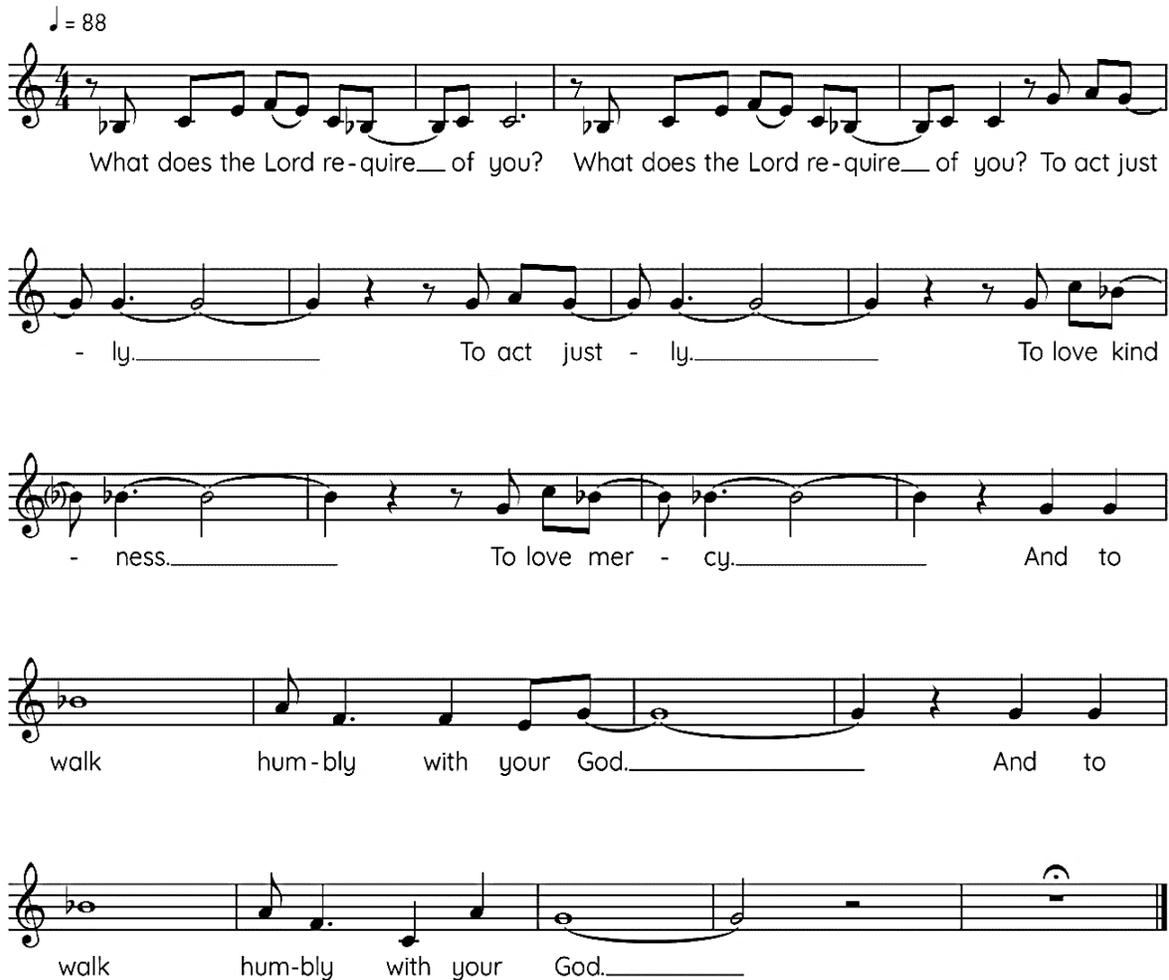
(ONA Coalition of the UCC; adapted)

One: God has blessed us beyond measure. Our own generosity is an opportunity to use a portion of our blessings to minister to others. The Holy One is calling us to gather our gifts and offer them to God in worship. Let us gather and give through our generosity.

Song of Thanksgiving

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.

Pastoral Visit

If you would like a visit with Pastor Barbara, please call her at the church office 415-479-2747 or her cell 510-646-2372 or e-mail: barbaraeau433@yahoo.com. Her office hours are Tuesdays 12-4, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 or by appointment.

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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

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Pastor: Rev. Barbara Peronteau
Music Director: Gerry Grosz
Office Manager: Amy Powers

Sunday Assignments

Today

Liturgist: Lucinda Ray
Altar Set-up: Cathi Fuller
Greeter: Anice Flesh
Coffee: Cathi Fuller

July 2

Liturgist: Lynn Grant
Servers: Caran Cuneo, Jackie Dema
Altar Set-up: Caran Cuneo
Greeter: Lucinda Ray
Coffee:

First Congregational Church of San Rafael United Church of Christ

Open and Affirming Statement

First Congregational Church of San Rafael invites and is open to ANY AND ALL persons who wish to participate and join with us in worship, fellowship, leadership, and the cost and joy of Christian discipleship. We affirm and value all persons for their God-given attributes, and dignity. We support their individual rights and believe social diversity enriches our faith community. We respect the rights of all persons to be and express who they are. We oppose prejudice, discrimination, hatred, and exclusion wherever it occurs and pledge to work for justice, equality, and acceptance of ALL God's people by welcoming all those who have been excluded or discriminated against because of their religious belief, race, social or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical or mental limitations or any other reason. Any such exclusion is the antithesis of the Christian faith. We declare that we are open, accepting, and glad to include ALL people who seek fellowship and community with our church family, "for we are all one in Christ Jesus."

