

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL
November 8, 2026 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

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. *(Hebrews 11:1)*

Centering Bell *On hearing the bell, please settle into a time of centering silence and listening to the Prelude with an open heart.*

Prelude

Welcome/Opening Words (A special welcome if you are joining us online)
Liturgist: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey..."
Congregation: "You are welcome here."

***Opening Litany**
One: O Holy God of Israel,
you faithfully keep the promises
All: you made to our ancestors
and lead your people into the future,
providing hospitality on the way.
One: Help us who inherit the pilgrim life
to journey faithfully at your command,
All: that we may be a band of disciples
called to be sojourners in your service.
Amen.

***Opening Song** "Lead On Eternal Sovereign" NCH 573
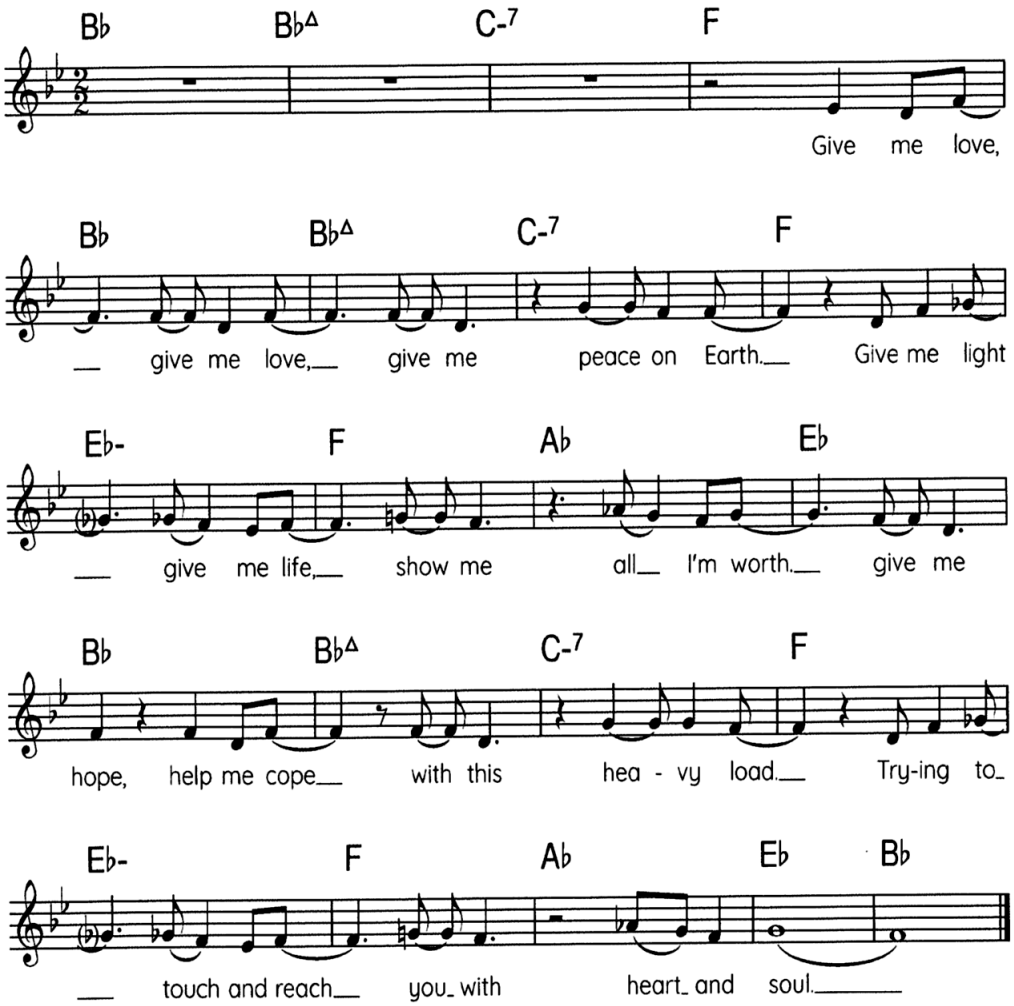
Opening Prayer
You let us choose, O God, between you and the false gods of this world.
You allow us to despair or overreact to positive news, because you are God.

Words of Assurance
Wake us from our slumber and call us forth to greet the Living Christ in all people,
so that with eyes and hearts fixed on him, we may follow to eternal light.
Amen.

Song of Response

Give Me Love

George Harrison



1st Reading: Acts 16:6-10

Knowing where you are is important, especially during times of transition. Our reading from the Book of Acts can be confusing if you don't know where the places named are. Most of them are in what today is Turkey. For example, the place named Asia is not China and South Asia at all. As I read, please look at the annotated map in your Order of Service.

They went through the region of #1 Phrygia and #2 Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in #3 Asia. When they had come opposite #4 Mysia, they attempted to go into #5 Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by #4 Mysia, they went down to #6 Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of #7 Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

2nd Reading: From the Art of Pilgrimage: The Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred

"In each of us dwells a pilgrim. It is the part of us that longs to have direct contact with the sacred. We will travel halfway around the world and endure great sacrifice and pain to enter the sanctuary, whether it is a temple, shrine, cemetery, or library. This is the way that is no way but a practice. 'It's not so much what you do," wrote Epictetus in his study of happiness, 'it's how you do it." Your practice is your path. It is simply the way of seeing, the way of hearing, the way of touching, the way of walking, the way of being, with humility."

***Hymn of Preparation Be Now My Vision – NCH 451 verses 1,2,4**

Sermon - Where Now, God?
"Amid political uncertainty and unequal hardship, faith invites us to listen for God, care for our neighbors, and take one compassionate step together."

Quiet Reflection

Special Music Eat This Bread (Jacques Berthier)
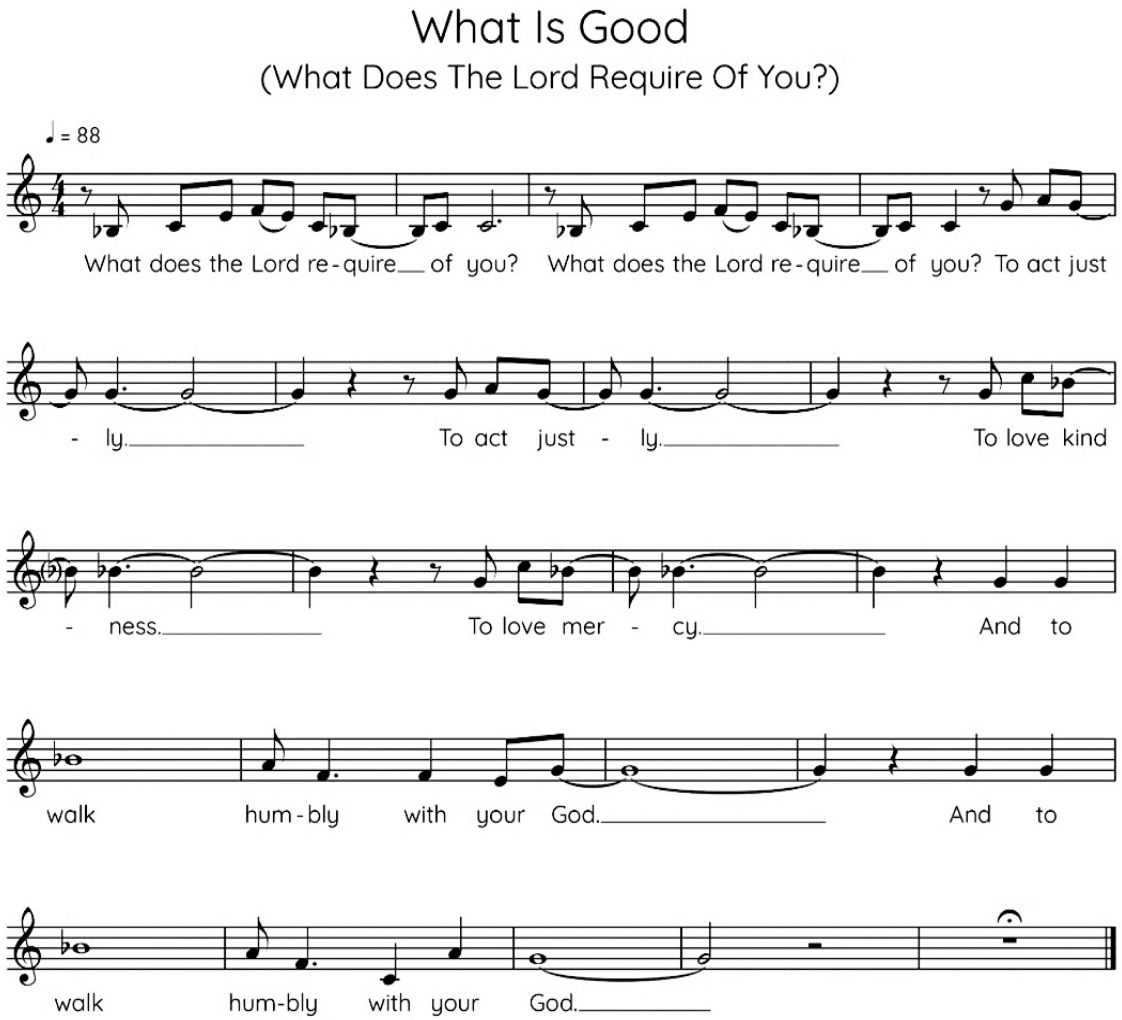
Sharing Our Joys & Concerns
After each joy or concern, Pastor leads the congregation to respond "Lord, hear our prayer."

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Invitation to Generosity
Whether material, relational, or spiritual, we all have an abundance of something the world needs. And likewise, we all have needs unmet. We live under systems and norms that dehumanize and isolate, but we have the power to care for each other. Come with your needs. Come with your offerings. In a spirit of collective mutuality, let us bring them to God.

Offering Song



WORDS: *Micah 6:8*
MUSIC: Gerry Grosz, ©2022 Gerry Grosz Music, All Rights Reserved

ACT JUSTLY
Irr.

Offering

Prayer
Loving God, each day you bless us with the wonders of the world, which give us but a glimpse of your heart. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the ways in which you recommit to healing and wholeness in our lives and the world. **Amen.**

Communion
Holy Communion at FCC is served as "Pew Communion," meaning the elements will be brought to you. We serve non-alcoholic grape juice. Gluten-free rice crackers will also be offered.
Please hold the bread and cup until invited to eat or drink by the Pastor. We will eat and drink together.
For those that are live streaming with us from home on You Tube, you are invited to have any sort of bread or cracker along with wine, grape juice, or whatever you have available.

Gathering Song Come to the Table of Grace
Come to the Table of Grace
Come to the Table of Love
Come to the Table of Joy
Come to the Table of Peace

Great Thanksgiving
One: God be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
One: Let us lift up our hearts.
All: **We lift them up to God.**
One: Let us give thanks to our God who dwells with us so we can do God's work of justice and love in this good world.
All: **It is right to give God our 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 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 and ever. 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

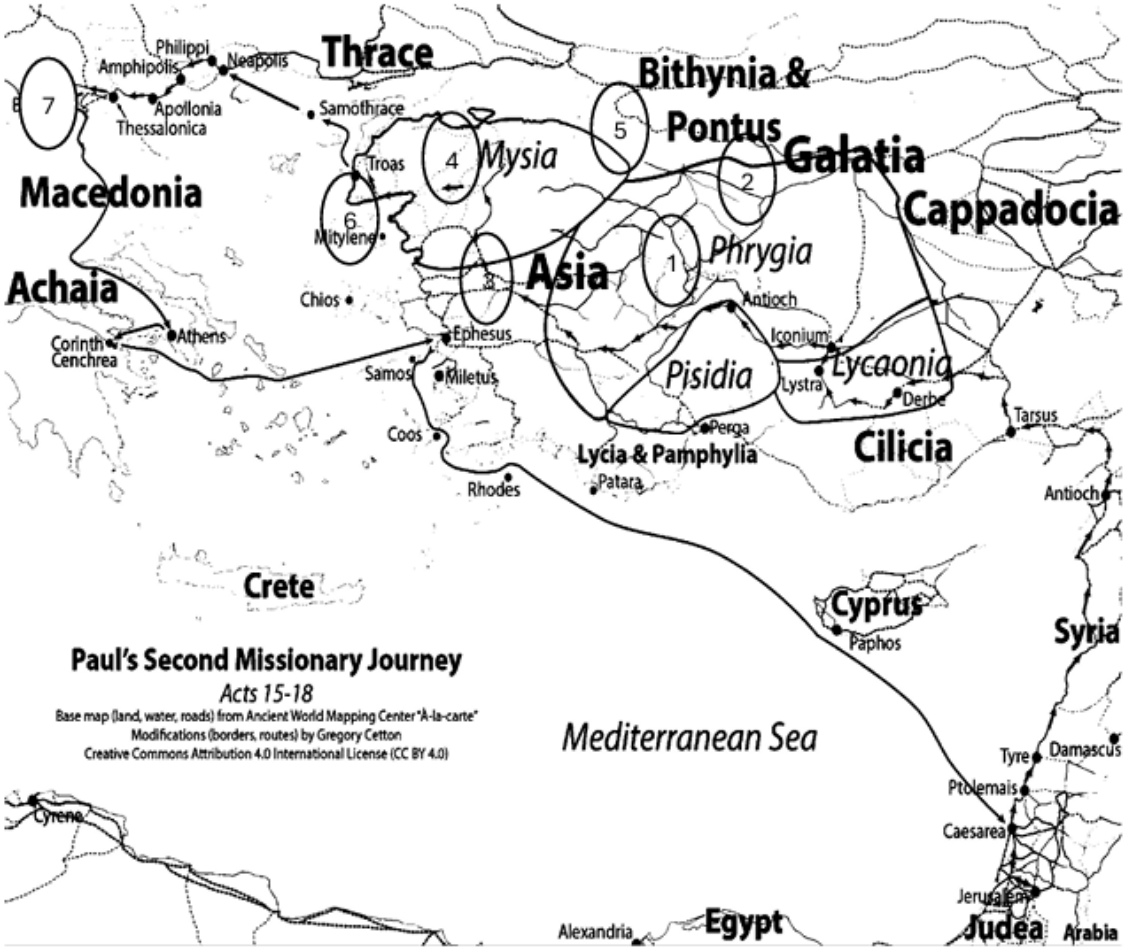
Announcements/ Life of the Church

***Sending Song O God, Our Help In Ages Past - NCH 25, vs. 1, 3, 4**

***Benediction**

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

Postlude


Philippi
Amphipolis
Neapolis
Thrace
Apollonia
Thessalonica
Samothrace
Bithynia &
Pontus
Galatia
Troas
Mysia
Macedonia
Cappadocia
Mitylene
Phrygia
Asia
Achaia
Chios
Antioch
Corinth
Cenchrea
Athens
Ephesus
Iconium
Samos
Miletus
Pisidia
Lycaonia
Lystra
Derbe
Tarsus
Coos
Perga
Lycia & Pamphylia
Cilicia
Rhodes
Patara
Antioch
Crete
Cyprus
Paphos
Syria
Paul's Second Missionary Journey
Acts 15-18
Base map (land, water, roads) from Ancient World Mapping Center "À-la-carte"
Modifications (borders, routes) by Gregory Cetton
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)
Mediterranean Sea
Tyre
Damascus
Ptolemais
Caesarea
Cyrene
Jerusalem
Alexandria
Egypt
Judea
Arabia

Announcements

Remember the Food Bank Barrel
Please continue to bring in non-perishable food items. Canned goods, chili, peanut butter, cereal, tuna and canned meat, rice, pasta are always welcome. No glass please.

Worship assistants needed
We are currently in need of liturgists, communion servers, altar set-up, and greeters. Contact Amy in the office if you can help out. Instructions are given. office@fccsanrafael.org or 415-479-2747.

Pastoral Visit
Do you want a visit with Pastor Elisabeth? Call the church office 415-479-2747 or email: elismid@yahoo.com

Prayer Chain
E-mail Julie Dowling: isabella1472@comcast.net if you have a prayer request you would like included in the prayer chain.

Remember your offering: Ways to give
*Paypal- You can make a one-time donation or set up regular monthly payments using a credit card or debit card. Just click the "Donate Now" button on our website or in each weekly email.
*set up automatic donations through your banking institution
*send your check to: FCC San Rafael: 8 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

Be in the know! Sign up for our weekly email. Call Amy in the office 415-479-2747 or email office@fccsanrafael.org and leave your name and email.

Next Book Club - Thursday December 10
Our next Book Club meeting with be Thursday, December 10, at 7:30 on Zoom. We will be reading *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard. This book was the winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1975. It is available from both the Sonoma and Marin County libraries as a book, an audio book, and an ebook.

Sunday Servers

November 8
Liturgist: David Knopf
Servers: Lucinda Ray, Megan Fuller
Altar: Lucinda Ray
Greeter: Jackie Dema
Coffee: Cathy Krise, Julie Dowling

November 15
Liturgist: Caran Cuneo
Altar: Clara Miller
Greeter: Clara Miller
Coffee: Lorene Jackson, Richard Groh

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8 North San Pedro Road
San Rafael, California 94903
Phone: 415-479-2747

Website: www.fccsanrafael.org
e-mail: office@fccsanrafael.org

Pastor: Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg
Music Director: Gerry Grosz
Office Manager: Amy Powers

Office hours:
Monday and Thursday 10:30 -2 pm

"The book is a form of meditation, written with headlong urgency, about seeing. . . . There is an ambition about Dillard's book that I like. . . . It is the ambition to feel." — Eudora Welty, *New York Times* Book Review

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek is the story of a dramatic year in Virginia's Roanoke Valley, where Annie Dillard set out to chronicle incidents of "beauty tangled in a rapture with violence." Dillard's personal narrative highlights one year's exploration on foot in the Virginia region through which Tinker Creek runs. In the summer, she stalks muskrats in the creek and contemplates wave mechanics; in the fall, she watches a monarch butterfly migration and dreams of Arctic caribou. She tries to con a coot; she collects pond water and examines it under a microscope. She unties a snake skin, witnesses a flood, and plays King of the Meadow with a field of grasshoppers. The result is an exhilarating tale of nature and its seasons.