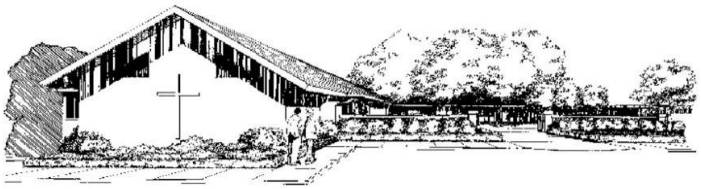
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL
June 7, 2026 10 am
Holy Communion



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
Nothing is so strong as gentleness, and nothing is so gentle as real strength
Saint Francis de Sales

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** *Written by Fran Pratt*
One: God of heaven and earth, we come to you.
Some of us have grown weary of asking
for peace, for reconciliation.
All: Some of us have grown weary hearing about the turmoil in our world.
One: Yet you encourage us
to keep asking,
keep seeking,
keep knocking.
All: In these long dark nights,
we are knocking on your door,
we ask again for your kingdom to come;
we ask again for peace.
One: Hear the prayers of your people,
Give bread to all,
comfort those who mourn,
allow the weary to rest,
All: encourage the disheartened,
show us the path to peace.
One: May we not grow weary of doing good,
and keep on praying shamelessly and boldly.
All: May our faith grow, and peace reign in our hearts,
even in darkest night.
Amen

***Opening Song Bring Many Names NCH #11**

Opening Prayer
When we do not know what we ought to pray for, intercede for us through wordless groans, Holy Spirit. For grief lives in our bodies and weighs down our spirits. Injustice accumulates, brims over, affects our daily lives, rattles our mental health. Pray for us on our behalf. Rock us in your expansive arms. Groan forth healing into our world.
Amen

Words of Assurance
People of God,
Know that neither life nor death,
neither the present nor the future,
neither height of joy nor depth of despair,
nor any powers of destruction,
can separate us from the Sacred Love that is our birthright,
that we co-create with our lives
Amen.

Song of Response



First Reading: Letter to the Philippians 4:4-7
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. –

Second Reading: **"On Prayer"** - *Pádraig Ó Tuama*
Prayer is a small fire lit to keep cold hands warm.
Prayer is a practice that flourishes both with faith and doubt.
Prayer is asking
and prayer is sitting.
Prayer is the breath.
Prayer is not an answer, always,
because not all questions can be answered.
Prayer can be a rhythm that helps us make sense in times of senselessness,
not offering solutions,
but speaking to and from the mystery of humanity."

***Hymn of Preparation – "God, Listen to Your People Praying"**

1. God, listen to your people praying,
   God, send your Spirit in this place;
   God, listen to your children praying,
   Send us love, send us power, send us grace
2. God, listen to your people crying
3. God, listen to your people singing
4. God, listen to your people praying

Sermon Prayer and Prayer Beads – Part 2
Surely the Presence of our God is in this place
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of our God is in this place

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
Let us share the gifts of life and love given to sustain us on the journey. Our generosity strengthens communities and witnesses to the love of God in the world. May our time, talent, and treasure testify to the goodness and abundance of God's creation.

Offering Song What Is Good



Offering Prayer

Communion

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 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 "God Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" NCH #77**

***Benediction**

***Shalom**

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

Postlude

Announcements

Book Club - Thursday, June 18 at 7:30

The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Thursday, June 18, from 7:30 to 8:30 on Zoom. We will be reading One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Have Been Against This, by Omar El Akkad. This short book (187 pages) is available from both the Marin and Sonoma County libraries.

We are in need of liturgists, greeters, communion servers. If you are interested contact Amy in the office: office@fccsanrafael.org or call 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.

Consider volunteering for Sunday duties. We are in need of liturgists, greeters, communion servers, and altar set-up. Instructions are given.

Sunday Servers

June 7
Liturgist: Caran Cuneo
Altar: Cathi Fuller
Servers: Annie Song-Hill, Cathi Fuller
Greeter: Ed Briggs
Coffee: Lucinda Ray

June 14
Liturgist: Caryl Hodges
Altar: Annie Song-Hill
Greeter:
Coffee: Cathy Krise, Julie Dowling

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8 North San Pedro Road
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

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