

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WINTER PARK



God is still speaking,

*"a traditional and nurturing church celebrating God's grace
through reason, education,
diversity, inclusion, and social justice"*

We are an Open and Affirming Church

NOVEMBER 23 2025

Masking is welcomed but not required.

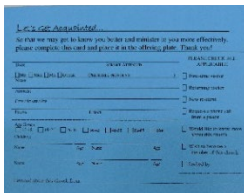
WELCOME

***This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice because we are glad to be here!***



Sign the red attendance pad that is located in the pew seat near the center aisle and pass it to the next person.

We want to know that you were here!



Visitors may complete a “Let’s Get Acquainted” card, located in the pew racks, and place the card in the offering plate.

We are here to answer your questions!



SILENCE your technology but still “check-in” and use social media and share our website and portions of our worship that inspire you!



Continue to help us reduce our carbon footprint. If you are not receiving the bulletin via email, and would like to, please contact the church office – 407-647-2416. The bulletin can also be found on our website, fccwp.org. Go to the tab labeled “Bulletin” and locate the appropriate pdf file.



Continue to open up your ‘What’s Happening’ newsletter emails to keep up-to-date on all of the weekly and monthly events. Or visit our website at www.fccwp.org. There is a lot happening in the life of this church and you do not want to miss a thing!



If you have a **prayer need or a joy to share**, please fill out the white prayer request card located in the pew pockets and drop it in the collection plate. We will place your prayer need on our confidential prayer chain. If you wish to have a joy or a need announced in church, permission must be given by calling the church office.



Kindly silence all cell phones during worship

✱ All who are able to do so comfortably, please stand

Preparing to Hear God's Word

PRELUDE
WELCOME
INTROIT

Bell Choir
Rev. Shawn Garvey
Bell Choir

"Somebody's Knocking at Your Door"

Rogers

Please refrain from applauding

✱ **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Garvey

People: **"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."**

✱ **OPENING HYMN**

"We Praise You, O God"

No. 420

✱ **OPENING PRAYER**

✱ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

All children please come forward for Young Church

YOUNG CHURCH

Kerry Weisner

"The Lord's Prayer or Prayer of Our Savior"

Age four years through kindergarten may leave for Sunday school in the LIBRARY. Grades 1-5 and 6-12 may leave for Sunday school in the UPSTAIRS Fellowship Hall. Childcare for infants through 3 years old is available in the PARLOR located at the back of Fellowship Hall. Please check your child out with the teacher. Children are only released to the parent.

****SONG OF SUPPORT**

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.
Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings.*

HEBREW

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM

"Sweet Rivers of Redeeming Love"

Chancel Choir

Davis

Please refrain from applauding

GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE

"Today"

Rev. Shawn Garvey

This is the word Jesus uses with the criminal dying with him. There is an immediacy, of the here-and-now, when Jesus tells this man that today he will be in paradise because of the faith in his testimony. Even when dying, there is something we can do for ourselves, and for others, today. Now. If we turn to God (repent), and share the Good News now....today....what might happen?

Responding to God's Word

CALL TO PRAYER/JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Garvey

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Offertory

" We Gather Together"

Dale Wood

Please refrain from applauding

*Doxology (With Alleluias)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev, Garvey

*CLOSING HYMN "God, We Thank You for Our People" V.1,2&4

No. 376

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Garvey

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

Chancel Choir

Lutkin

Please refrain from applauding

In Celebration



The flowers on the altar today are given by Martin Wareing, dedicated to Amy Wareing. Martin writes that He and Amy were married right here in this church — proving that when you start your marriage in God's house, He sure knows how to keep the walls standing strong! Their family has grown up in this very congregation, and today we celebrate three decades of love, laughter, and God's faithfulness.



ADULT O.W.L.

We have been offering this amazing program to our youth and children for years. This year, we would like to offer it to adults. [Click Here](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

TODAY!



Christmas Eve Services – Wednesday December 24

Join us as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth!

5:00 PM – Family Service: A festive, child-friendly service for all ages.

11:00 PM – Lessons & Carols: A beautiful, traditional service of scripture and song.

All are welcome!



DECEMBER 14, 2025

Your FCCWP Church Council presents the Annual All Church Christmas Party

It is also Advent Workshop, and all ages are welcome to Christmas craft for the season.

Join us after church in Fellowship Hall:

***Christmas Carol Sing-along**

***Delicious lunch by Chef Drew**

***Christmas craft tables around the room with led instruction**

Luncheon

Roasted chicken with carrots, onions & potatoes

Green beans, Salad, gravy, bread & butter & dessert table

Kids there will be chicken nuggets, mac and cheese!

This luncheon is FREE! Yummy & Fun Christmas Cheer at no charge!

Donations welcome at registration and during the event.

*****Although there is no charge, please register so we can plan for the lunch*****

During the luncheon there is Advent Workshop. This cherished event happens every other year, and this is the year! You will find tables throughout fellowship hall with members ready to teach you a very simple Christmas craft that you can take home. This is fun for all ages, especially grown-ups. Make something for yourself or a gift for a loved one.

There is no charge for Advent Workshop.

[CLICK/SCAN TO MAKE RESERVATIONS](#)





Christmas Flowers 2025



The Flower Guild will be decorating the church with flowers of the season for the month of December. For the holidays a special flower fund has been set up. You may donate (any amount) to the fund in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member or friend.

Christmas flower dedications received in the church office by Wednesday, December 17th, will be listed in the Sunday, December 21st bulletin.

Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church. memo line should read "Christmas Flower Dedication."

You may place your check in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Thank you.

Flower dedication given by:

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Phone: _____ email: _____

In honor of:

In memory of:

You may also email your dedication to mtaylor@fccwp.org
Please place Christmas Flower Dedication in the subject line
Your donation may be made online – fccwp.org – donate page

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP WANTS TO KNOW...



WHAT CHURCH EVENTS DO YOU ENJOY?

From youth group to family nights to holiday celebrations - we want your input!

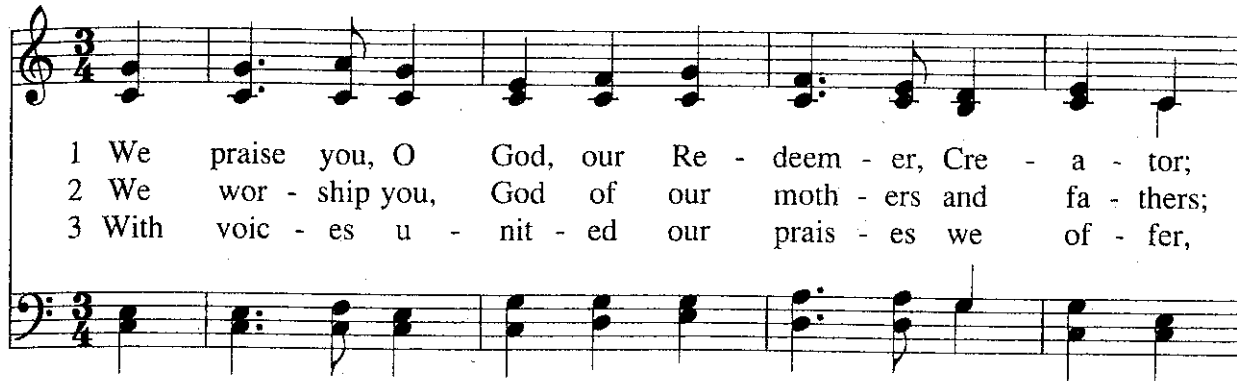
Scan the QR code and tell us what kinds of programs inspire and connect you!



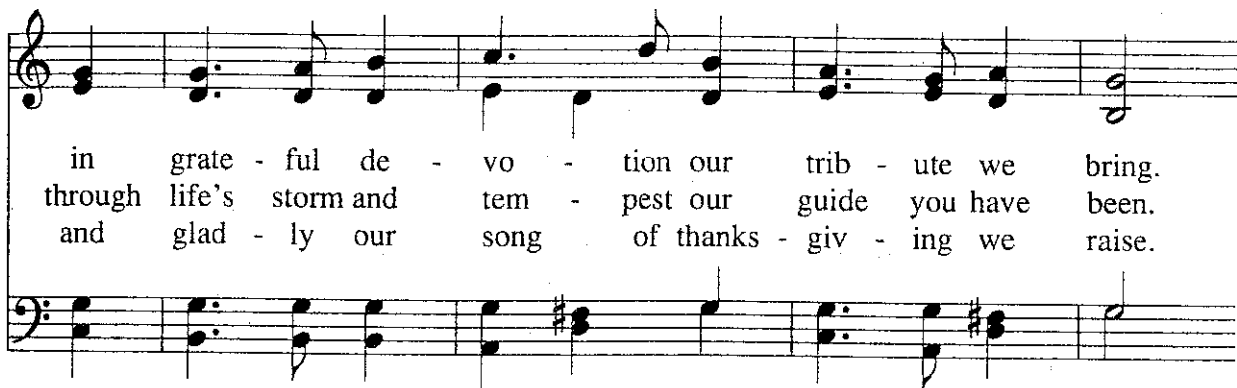
First Congregational Church of Winter Park

We Praise You, O God

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Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.


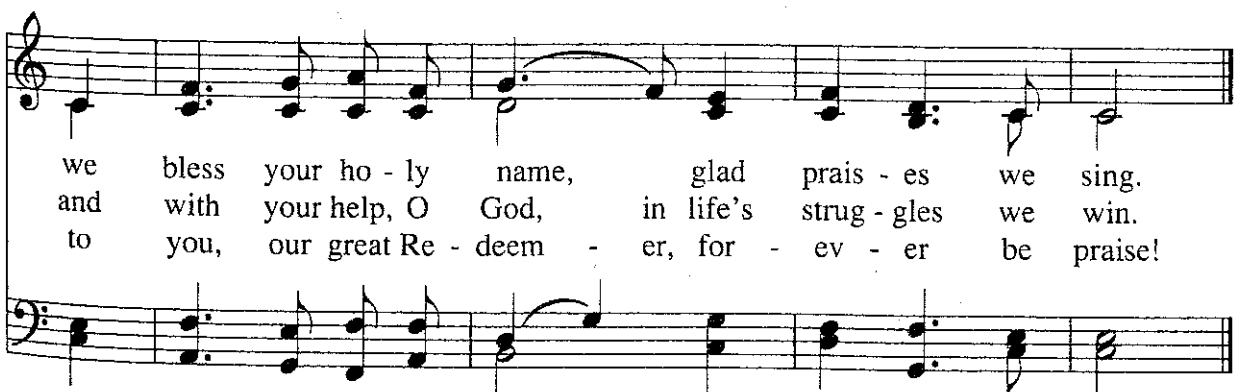
1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;



we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

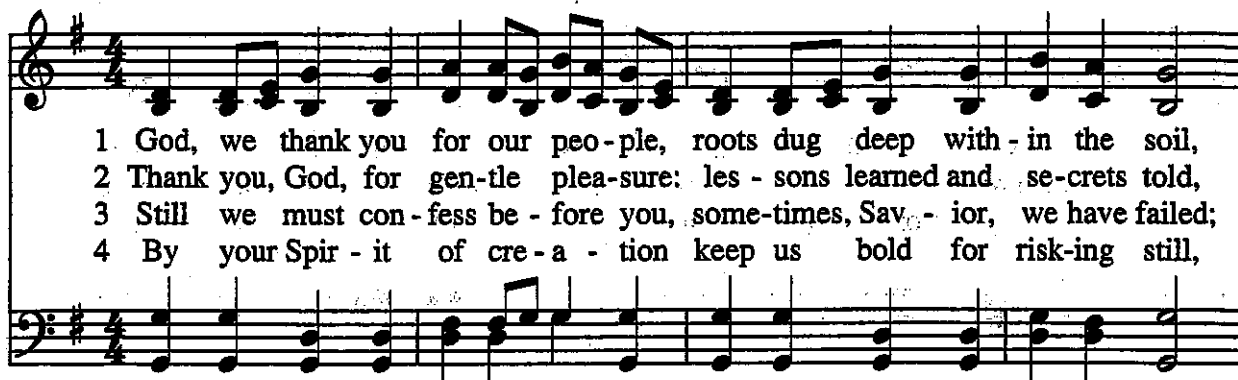
Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.

Tune: KREMSEK 12.11.12.11.
 Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626
 From *The New Century Hymnal*, Copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press
 Permission is granted for this one-time use.

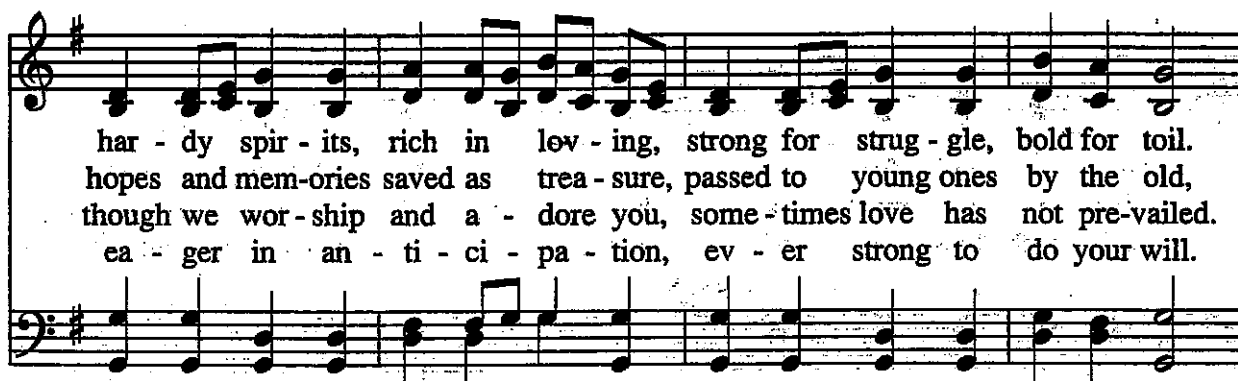
God, We Thank You for Our People

376

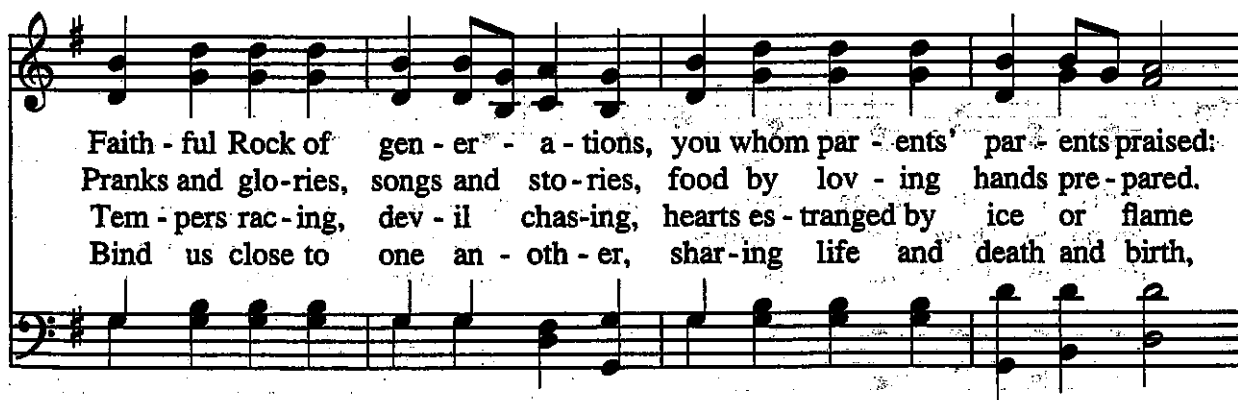
Ruth Duck, 1986



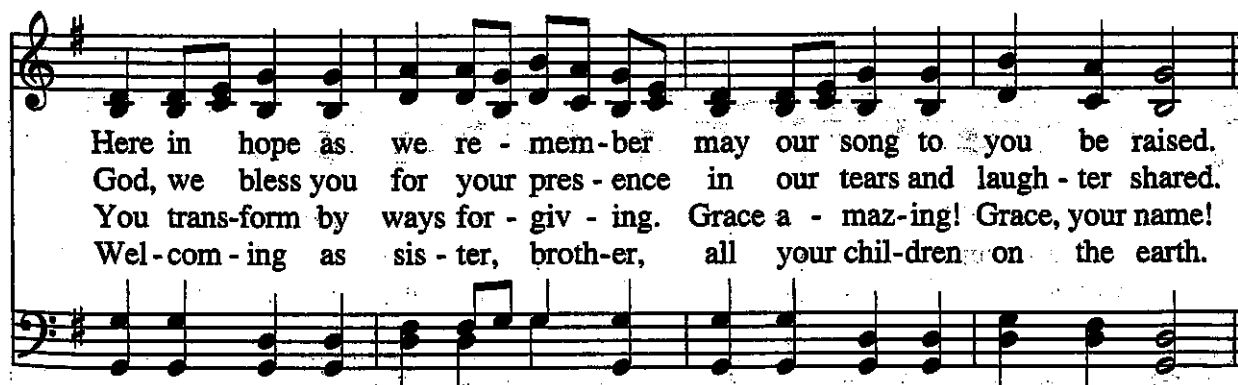
1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,
 2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,
 3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;
 4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,
 though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.
 ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.
 Tem - pers rac-ing, dev - il chas-ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame
 Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar-ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.
 God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.
 You trans-form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz-ing! Grace, your name!
 Wel-com - ing as sis - ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together for a long time.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
 William Moore, 1825

CHURCH GUEST WIFI

PASSWORD:

LetMeInPlease!



You can access our weekly bulletin through our website:

fccwp.org

Look for the tab labeled "Bulletin"

Help us reduce our carbon footprint and use your smart technology!

❧LOOKING AHEAD❧

TODAY! Sunday November 23

Decorate the Church for Christmas

****Please Stay After Worship****

And

Elizabeth Hooker Book Club Meeting

In the Parlor at 6:30PM - All are Welcome!

Thursday November 27

Thanksgiving Day

****Church Office Closed Wed-Fri**

Sunday November 30

Last day to sign Up for the Outreach \$20 Kindness Challenge

See Sally Mcarthur for information

Sunday December 14

All Church Party and Advent Workshop

Fellowship Hall After Worship

And

Angel Tree Gift Wrapping

1:00PM in the Sanctuary

First Congregational Church • United Church of Christ of Winter Park
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John V. Sinclair, Music Director
Chris Olivent, Organist