

We rejoice in our community of faith,  
strengthened by diversity,  
including diversity of culture,  
economic status, age, ethnicity,  
race, gender, sexual orientation,  
gender identity, marital status, and  
physical or mental abilities.

We affirm that God is glorified when  
we welcome all people  
to our spiritual community,  
as Jesus did.

Wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF GLEN ELLYN

A community of Christian discipleship,  
grounded in tradition,  
centered in worship,  
called to serve,  
fortified by justice,  
sustained by peace,  
free to dream.

# The Order of Worship

## February 7, 2021

### Prelude

“Communion, Op. 15 No. 1” by Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)  
Shu-Hui Janet Tsai, organ

### Welcome

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

### Invocation

“We Shall Be Known” by MaMuse

We shall be known by the company we keep,  
By the ones who circle 'round to tend these fires.  
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap  
The seeds of change alive from deep within the earth.

It is time now, it is time now that we thrive.  
It is time we lead ourselves into the well.  
It is time now, and what a time to be alive  
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.  
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.

*(Used with permission)*

### Confession

Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

### Passing of the Peace

*(via Zoom)*

### Time of Preparation

*Join in singing two times.*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The lyrics are: "I have promised, promised to be always near." The chords are: C, G7, C, F/A, G(sus4), G, C, G7, C, Am, Em/G, F, C/E, Dm, G(sus4), G, C.

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**Pastoral Prayer**

Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern

**The Lord's Prayer**

Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Prayer Response***Join in singing "Don't Be Afraid" two more times.***Call for the Offering**

Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

**Offertory**

"In Christ Alone" by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty  
Theresa Holly, vocal solo; Jeff Haeger, piano

**Introduction to the Scripture**

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

**Scripture**

Matthew 25:14-29  
Laura Peccarelli, Worship Leader

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'

**Sermon**

"Be a Blessing: Unearthing Courage"  
Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

## Communion Prayer

Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

### Prayer of Blessing

*Join in singing one time.*

\* Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus.

Do - mi - ne De - us Sa - ba - oth.

\* Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - - ra

Glo - - ri - a tu - - a.

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*Translation: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty. Heaven and earth proclaim your glory."*

### Words of Consecration

#### Sacrament of Holy Communion

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We thank you, O God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all of Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Hymn

"The Storm Is Passing Over"

Take courage, my soul, and let us journey on.  
Though the night is dark, and I am far from home.  
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears.

The storm is passing over,  
The storm is passing over,  
The storm is passing over, Hallelu.

## **Sending Forth**

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

## **Postlude**

“Perfect” by Ed Sheeran  
Danny Kaminski, violin

## **Our Worship Service**

### **Music Notes**

Song Leader is Theresa Holly.

Thank you to Theresa Holly (vocal solo) and Danny Kaminski (violin) for special music today.

*Danny Kaminski* (violin) currently a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with an economics major. He has been playing the violin for almost 12 years and also plays with the Orchestra at Nebraska. He plans to continue to perform and create music through college and beyond

### **Flowers on the Lord’s Table are donated by**

Amy, Kevin, Leah and Joel Shorner-Johnson

“In gratitude to God for stars at night, and for all who share the light of love, honesty and beauty with boundless generosity, even in dark times”

### **Concerns**

Debbie Whiston and family on the death of Debbie’s mother,  
Oleta Lievsay

Healing prayers for Candy Crawford, recovering from surgery

Healing prayers for Emma Maaske, recovering from surgery

Prayers for Clara Crank, mother of Lisa Crank, as she discerns the next stages of life and all that they might bring

Healing prayers Karen Gilliland, mother of Melindah Mahr, recovering from surgery

**Pastor Availability** Should you need a pastor, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Seth (630-207-0118 or [seth@fccge.org](mailto:seth@fccge.org)), Pastor Kendra (704-798-7083 or [kendra@fccge.org](mailto:kendra@fccge.org)), or Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern ([sarah@fccge.org](mailto:sarah@fccge.org)).

## **Stay Informed**

***Be a Blessing Sermon Series*** As we begin this year's *Be a Blessing* Annual Fund campaign, we will embark upon a three-week sermon series that explores the biblical theme of blessings. We will explore what a blessing really is, and how we can be one in the world by giving thanks for what has been, having courage in the present moment, and leading with love into the future. Join us on Sunday mornings, from January 31 to February 14, as we strive to be a blessing to one another.

**Announcing the New Mental Health Ministry Team** The Service and Justice Committee, with the approval of Church Council, is proud to announce the formation of a new FCCGE Mental Health Ministry Team. During a typical year, one in four members of our church have likely suffered from some form of mental health struggle. Results from our church listening sessions over the last few years have consistently listed mental health as a primary concern. This new mental health ministry team is being created to address the mental health needs of our congregation, as well as the community beyond our walls. *Please feel free to contact Chair, Roger Hughes ([hughes1234@ameritech.net](mailto:hughes1234@ameritech.net)) for more information or to share any issues you would like to pass on to this new, vibrant team.*

**FCCGE Book Club will be on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:30 pm** We will be reading Sue Monk Kidd's new book, *The Book of Longings*. Please e-mail Pastor Kendra ([kendra@fccge.org](mailto:kendra@fccge.org)) if interested in participating—there are often treats that are delivered to book group attendees! Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus' life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a triumph of storytelling, both timely and timeless, from a masterful writer at the height of her powers.

**Lenten Adult Education Classes: Sundays, February 21—March 28, 10:00-11:00 am** During Lent, we will be inviting you to live and examine life, entering into this spiritual season with intentionality and taking this time as an opportunity for reflection. For six weeks, we will be joining together to learn about ourselves—one another and God, using the tools of the Enneagram as a framework. *The class will be led by Pastor Kendra and our Seminary Intern, Sarah Swindall, and will meet every Sunday from 10:00-11:00 am. Make sure to register for the class from the article in your Thursday Eblast, at [fccge.org](http://fccge.org) or on the FCC app. Contact Pastor Kendra at ([kendra@fccge.org](mailto:kendra@fccge.org)) with any questions.*

**FCCGE Progressive Dinner 2021: Sunday, February 21, 6:00 pm** The last year has given us many challenges but we're not going to let it stop all of our fun and fabulous FCC traditions. You have been invited to our yearly Progressive Dinner 2021 style! Join your friends online for an evening of food and laughter. Don't want to cook? Neither do we. Just call your pals at 2 Hound Red in Glen Ellyn and order up a tasty meal. *See all details in your Thursday Eblast, [fccge.org](http://fccge.org) and the FCC app.*

**Struggling and Need Someone to Talk To?** This past year has been particularly difficult for everyone. If you feel as if you can't seem to get past sadness, loneliness, anger, resentment or anything else that is keeping you from living a fulfilling life, know there is help out there. Visit [fccge.org](http://fccge.org) for resources to start your journey for better emotional health. There is help for you.

**Flowers 2021** We are scheduling altar flower donations for 2021: February 21, 28; April 25, May 2 and June 13 & 20. Please give your calendars a gander and see which Sunday(s) you would like to donate. *It's super easy—just call or text Jennifer Darnall (708-712-3712).*

**Help FCCGE Use Funds Wisely** Yearly, FCCGE spends somewhere around \$10,000 in credit card and stock transfer fees. We're sure you can agree that these thousands of dollars could help people in need rather than going back to the banks. We prayerfully ask that you consider checking the little box that says "Cover fees" when giving online. You know the saying, "Many checked boxes make light fees" (or something like that). We thank those that have gotten on board - you're making a difference!

## Children & Youth

**Church School Offering: January—June for Bricks to "Build" New Glen Ellyn Food Pantry** Between now and the end of June, all of our Church School offerings will be donated to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry's capital campaign to help renovate the new location for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry. Our goal is to raise \$150, and the children of First Congregational Church will have a customized brick to greet thousands of our neighbors who visit the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry at their new home. *Your household may donate via our online portal at [fccge.org](http://fccge.org) or you may mail a check made out to our church (535 Forest Ave. GE 60137) with "Church School Offering" on the memo line.*

**College Mid-February Care Packages** FCCGE would like to recognize your college-aged youth and treat them to a mid-February care package via mail. *Fill out the form in your Thursday noon enewsletter if you would like us to send a care package to your college youth or contact Danny Harman, Director of Youth Ministry ([danny@fccge.org](mailto:danny@fccge.org)). **Note: If you've already filled out this form in the past couple of months, there's no need to fill it out again!***

**Zoom Church School** Kids who are in **preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade** have three options to join us and their friends for church school! We've begun "Zoom Church School," Sunday mornings, 11:00 am to 11:30 am. In addition, we continue our "Virtual Church School," where each Sunday, "Virtual Church School" is sent to your email inbox, with lessons led by Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education, and Cathy Basso, Youth Education Coordinator, as well as stories and activities led by volunteers. Finally, each child will receive their own Church School Activity Bag before the start of each unit. These activity bag supplies are accompanied by a brief Devotion, scripture reading, and instructions for the activities in each bag. *If your family has not received a bag, please contact Catherine Curtis ([catherine@fccge.org](mailto:catherine@fccge.org)) and go to [www.fccge.org](http://www.fccge.org) to register your family for the 2020- 21 Program Year. We look forward to seeing and hearing you! You may log in from your Virtual Sunday School Sunday morning email or from [fccge.org](http://fccge.org) under "Youth."*

## Staff

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister ([seth@fccge.org](mailto:seth@fccge.org); ext. 12)

Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, Associate Minister ([kendra@fccge.org](mailto:kendra@fccge.org); ext. 11)

Cathy Basso, Youth Education Coordinator ([cathy@fccge.org](mailto:cathy@fccge.org); ext. 19)

Jose Beltran, Sexton

Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education ([catherine@fccge.org](mailto:catherine@fccge.org); ext. 23)

Joyce Driver, Administrative Assistant ([joyce@fccge.org](mailto:joyce@fccge.org); ext. 14)

Sherry Flugel, Director of Communications ([sherry@fccge.org](mailto:sherry@fccge.org); ext. 13)

Wojciech Gracz, Facilities Manager ([tersusinc@gmail.com](mailto:tersusinc@gmail.com))

Jeff Haeger, Associate for Music Ministry ([jeff@fccge.org](mailto:jeff@fccge.org))

Danny Harman, Director of Youth Ministry ([danny@fccge.org](mailto:danny@fccge.org); ext. 28)

Michele Hecht, Director of Music Ministry ([michele@fccge.org](mailto:michele@fccge.org); ext. 15)

Kathleen Page, Nursery Care Co-Coordinator

Matthew Prins, Handbell Director ([matthew@fccge.org](mailto:matthew@fccge.org))

Laura Shellady, Business Administrator ([laura@fccge.org](mailto:laura@fccge.org); ext. 10)

Sarah Swindall, Seminary Intern ([sarah@fccge.org](mailto:sarah@fccge.org) ext. 20)

Shu-Hui Janet Tsai, Organist ([janet@fccge.org](mailto:janet@fccge.org))

## Church Council

Ted Harman, Moderator

Jackie McCarthy, Moderator Designate

Andy Ginger, Assistant Moderator

Theresa Holly, Treasurer

Tim Rodine, Assistant Treasurer

Jennifer Umlauf, Clerk

Tom Pulver, Property & Grounds Committee Chair

Sylvia Rodee, Connections Committee Chair

Rich Troyer, Finance Committee Chair (and Treasurer Emeritus)

Roger Hughes, Service & Justice Committee Chair

Ethan Baedke, Youth Representative to Council

535 Forest Avenue

Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

630-469-3096

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