

**Power to Do**

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY  
JANUARY 28, 2024 – 10:00 AM

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*The First Congregational Church of River Edge welcomes YOU to our worship service this morning!*

✠ *The congregation may stand, if comfortable doing so. **Bold Text** is spoken in unison by the congregation. All are invited to join in fellowship and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following worship.*

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**COME TO GOD**

*The chiming of the hour calls us to quiet our distractions during the Prelude ... and to seek God's coming into our hearts and lives.*

PRELUDE

*Jesus Loves Me  
Lord of the Dance  
Pilgrim Ringers*

arr. Jason W. Krug

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship...

**Giving thanks with whole hearts...**

In the company of this congregation.

**We worship the One who is gracious and merciful...**

Holy and awesome is God's name!

**Let us worship God together!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.**

✠ HYMN OF ADORATION #531

*God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

CANONBURY



## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Merciful God, maker of covenant, faithful and just, we examine our lives in light of your righteousness which endures forever. You give us commandments, raise up prophets among us from among our own people. You speak to us, and ask us to become accountable. Yet often we ignore your ways and disdain your works. We close ourselves to your prophets and to the suffering in our world. Forgive us and renew us, that we may walk in faithfulness to you today, tomorrow, and all days. Amen.

(A time for silent confession follows.)

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (KYRIE)

*Lord Have Mercy*



## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved, while we wait, we have grace to love fully, pursue liberty, and seek a just world. The Holy One has given us the blueprint and invitation to the path of new life. Follow Jesus with grace and in truth.

## ✠ GLORIA





PEACE

We are God's people!

**We are God's people indeed!**

*The people offer a sign of peace to one another.*

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH

Pastor Joe Medlin

*Church School Children, youth and teachers may leave to go to their classes.*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Be Thou My Vision*

Douglas E. Wagner

**THE WORD OF GOD**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

PSALM 111 (OT PG. 562)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 1:21-28 (NT PG. 35)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Joe Medlin

**RESPONSE TO GOD**

 HYMN OF RESPONSE #201

*An Outcast among Outcasts*

POST STREET

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*There is a Wideness in God's Mercy*

M. Schweizer

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We worship with our whole hearts, and give with our whole hearts, remembering your covenant with us, O God. As we share these gifts, may they be for the work of faithful justice and gracious mercy through your church and in your world. Amen.**

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #9

*We Sing to You, O God*

CAMANO

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*This is a time for reflection and prayer, and we invite you to  
remain seated in silence until the postlude is ended.*

*Assisting God's people in worship this morning are the Rev. Joe Medlin, worship leader;  
Slavina Zhelezova, director of music; Pilgrim Ringers; Jane Silane, liturgist;  
Janet Arena, greeter; Marvin Orendain & Helen Koons, technicians;  
Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett, Diane Lento, ushers;  
Helen Koons, Fellowship Time.*

**WELCOME!** If you are a guest or visitor with us this morning, you are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex, or fill out one of the visitor cards found in your pew. Cards can be placed in the Narthex basket, as you depart after the postlude.

**GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS ARE NEEDED** - Any member or friend who would like to be a greeter or host Fellowship Time is encouraged to do so either as an individual, as a family or with another person. Sign-up sheets will be available on the table in Fellowship Hall or please contact Russell Van Wetering directly at [aprilsky@optonline.net](mailto:aprilsky@optonline.net), or 201-261-1795.

## The Life of Our Church This Week

### **Sunday, January 28, 2024**

10:00 am	Worship Service/ Pastor Joe Medlin/ Church School
11:00 am	Fellowship Time
12:00 pm	Giving Church

### **Monday, January 29, 2024**

#### ***Church Office Closed***

12:00 pm	Al-Anon
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### **Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

7:00 pm	Mission Team
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### **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

12:00 pm	Brown Bag & Bible
7:00 pm	AA

### **Thursday, February 1, 2024**

10:30 am	Staff Meeting
7:00 pm	Choir
7:00 pm	AC of A

### **Friday, February 2, 2024**

7:00 pm	Tri-County Pipers
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### **Saturday, February 3, 2024**

9:00 am	KWIS
9:00 am	Seventh Day Adventist
7:00 pm	AA

### **Sunday, February 4, 2024**

10:00 am	Worship Service/ Pastor Joe Medlin/ Communion/ Church School
11:00 am	Fellowship Time
11:00 am	Second Friday Meeting
12:00 pm	Giving Church

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Leadership Council has called the **Annual Meeting** of the Congregation and Corporation of First Congregational Church of River Edge for Sunday, February 11, 2024 immediately following the morning worship service. The business will include the presentation of annual reports of church teams and organizations, the financial report of the church, and election of officers.



### **Mission**

Welcoming all, our mission is to help nurture and grow faith in God through dynamic, creative, relevant worship and to bring God's word and work into our community. Through our action and bold outreach programs, we set an example of love, acceptance, compassion and support that will stand as a testament to our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Romans 15:7 "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."*

### **Vision**

We are a beacon of hope, a place to grow in love toward God and one another. With joy and energy, we share the teachings of Christ in our church, our community and our world.

*Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid."*



## Canned Soup Collection

A container will be available in The Entryway

Jan. 14-Feb.11

\$ Monetary donations can be made here \$

<https://forms.tacklehunger.org/collections/view/2483405>

All donations will go to local food pantries.



*Sunday, January 28, 2024*

**Prayers for Those with Health Needs**

Bob Owens, Barbara Wieboldt, Tom Rushforth, Jennifer & Marty Leibowitz, Dona Berg, Tom Canzani, Judi Schmitt, Bob Drummond, Willie Jones, Diana Loeffel, Patricia Murphy, Carol & David Kuehne, Richard Smith, Barbara Carr, Hank Schroeder, Anthony Mirabile, Carol and Sue, Janet & Nicholas Post, Phil Ceppaglia, Mary Foley, Jennifer Hall, Marcia Schroeder, Bob Shrekast.

**Those in Recovery, Homebound, Assisted Living Residences or Nursing homes.**

Jean Babington, Doris & Chet Price, Evelyn Waytowich, Phyllis Malley, Bob Owens, William Spencer, Bill Finch, Bill Lent.

**Serving in the Military**

Michael Shuler, Bob Bailey, Andrew Pohl, Noah Dahl

**CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION**

**109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 / (201) 261-1712**

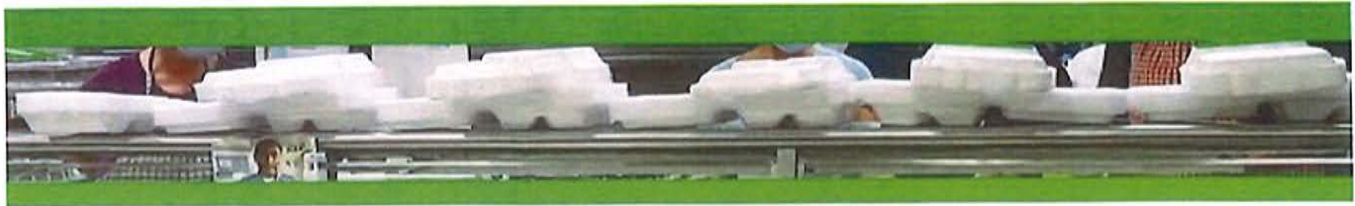
**email -[office@fccriveredge.org](mailto:office@fccriveredge.org) Website - [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday, closed. Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

Rev. Joe Medlin Pastor	<a href="mailto:revjmedlin@aol.com">revjmedlin@aol.com</a> 808-785-4822
Slavina Zhelezova Director of Music	<a href="mailto:szhelezova@fccriveredge.org">szhelezova@fccriveredge.org</a>
Nicole Babington Minister for Faith Formation	<a href="mailto:nbabington@fccriveredge.org">nbabington@fccriveredge.org</a> 201-956-3435
Anne Cooper Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:office@fccriveredge.org">office@fccriveredge.org</a> 201-261-1712
Linda Stark Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:financeoffice@fccriveredge.org">financeoffice@fccriveredge.org</a>





## Homeless Dinner – February 28th

On **Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**, we will provide dinner for **250+ homeless/distressed** individuals through the feeding program run by Family Promise.

**We need your HELP!**

### **\*\* Food preparation**

1. **Wed. Feb. 28 morning** - **Cook meatloaf in your home** oven and bring to church (hot and fully cooked) around noon on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> (We will provide the meat and disposable aluminum cooking pans.)
2. **Tues. Feb. 27 morning** - Help in our church kitchen (prep work)
3. **Wed Feb. 28 morning/ mid-afternoon** – Help in our church kitchen (cooking, meatloaf slicing, packing, etc.)

### **\*\* Purchase and donate food items**

Food items need to be brought to the church by **Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Mixed Salad Greens	For about 25 servings each
Grape tomatoes	Medium containers
Cases of Water	Standard size 16.9 oz bottles, 24 per case
Dinner Rolls	Two dozen each

### **Sign-ups before and after church**

*(or call church at 201-261-1712 and sign up or ask for SignUpGenius link)*

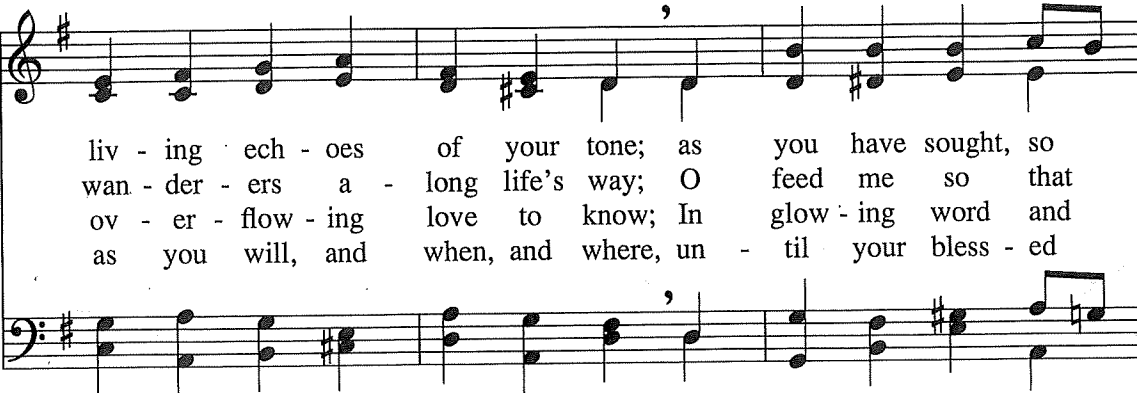
*On February 28<sup>th</sup>, we are responsible for providing the evening meal.  
For many, this will be their only meal of the day. Our neighbors are counting on us.*

***Let's feed them abundantly.***

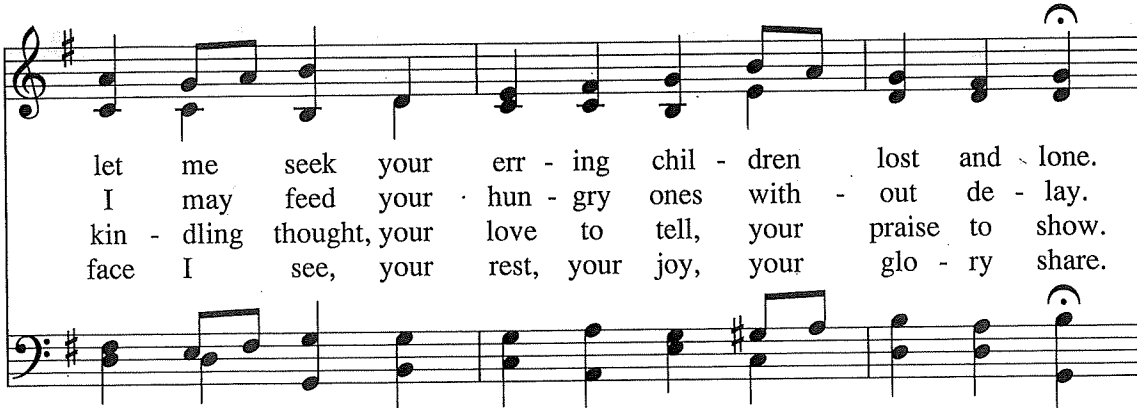
## God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

*Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.*


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in  
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some  
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your  
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that  
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and  
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.  
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.  
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.  
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

*Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.*

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.  
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

## An Outcast among Outcasts

Luke 17:11-19; Mark 15:32

Richard D. Leach, 1992

Unison

1 An out-cast a-mong out-casts, dis-missed with dou-ble scorn,  
 2 An out-cast a-mong out-casts, where three were cru-ci-fied,  
 3 For out-casts a-mong out-casts the bound-aries are re-drawn,

be-lit-tled by the la-bels: "un-clean" and "for-eign born"—  
 de-rid-ed by the oth-ers as they hung side by side—  
 by words, "Your faith has saved you," by cross and Eas-ter dawn.

came back with thanks for Je-sus, and then went on his way:  
 came back from death with pow-er, God had the fi-nal say:  
 The dis-tant longed-for cen-ters of pow-er, peace, and care,

An out-cast a-mong out-casts showed grate-ful faith that day.  
 An out-cast a-mong out-casts shows God to us to-day.  
 where life is free to flour-ish, are found now ev-ery-where.

United Church of Christ minister Richard D. Leach has served churches in Connecticut since 1978, when he graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary. He began writing hymns in 1987 and had his first texts published in 1989.

Tune: POST STREET 7.6.7.6.D.  
 Dan Damon, 1994



# We Sing to You, O God

Gracia Grindal, 1985, 1989

1 We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth, let  
 2 We wan-dered far from home out in a des-ert land, you  
 3 You bear us through the world, an ea-gle to her young, who  
 4 O God, e-ter-nal God, we hide with-in your wings, the

our re-joic-ing sing your name in all the earth. To you, O  
 shield-ed with your love our fear-ful pil-grim band. You kept us  
 ris-es on her wings and bears us toward the sun. We ride the  
 ev-er-last-ing arms to whom our prais-es ring. Your word is

God, let songs be raised, in joy-ful hymns, our feast of praise.  
 safe with-in your arms and shel-tered us a-gainst the storm.  
 vaults of light and air and trust in your un-fail-ing care.  
 true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.

Poet, author, and teacher of poetry and writing, Gracia Grindal has held editorial and consultant positions for several hymnic publications. She has served as professor of pastoral theology and ministry communication at Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, Minneapolis.

Tune: CAMANO 6.6.6.6.4.4.4.4.  
 Richard Proulx, 1979  
 Alternate tune: DARWALL'S 148TH

January 28, 2024

Mark 1:21-28

**Power to Do**  
***Health and Human Service Sunday***

In the story today, Jesus casts out an unclean spirit in the temple. As he gazes with love on the broken person in front of him, Jesus thinks only of how that person could be healed. He is not concerned about distracting others from the way things "should be" or making a mess in that holy space. Jesus only lovingly wants to act in ways that bring wholeness where there is brokenness, health where there is illness, community where there is isolation.

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday when we honor the work of the United Church of Christ's The Council for Health and Human Service Ministry (CHHSM).

Last year CHHSM's annual meeting was held in Denver, which gave Archway Homes a chance to showcase the work they have been doing in Colorado for fifty years.

"Since its founding in 1974, Archway Communities, initially established as Mountain United Church Housing, became Rocky Mountain HDC in 1995 and is now Archway Communities, has remained steadfast to its commitment to provide service-enriched affordable housing for very low-to-moderate income families in the Denver Metro region and Colorado Springs.

With 8 properties in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs (and two more in development!), we have been developing affordable housing communities, expertly managing properties, and providing essential supportive services to individuals and families for almost 50 years.

By integrating housing and supportive services, Archway Communities is helping 1,516 residents improve economically and socially. We are a faith-based non-profit that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Archway wishes to create communities of dignity and respect for families, neighbors and staff.

Creating community requires a commitment to seeing the humanity and interconnectedness of all that we do.

It requires a willingness to step up with courage and decency, to do the hard tasks, and the ability to celebrate each triumph joyfully."

Find out more at Archway's website:  
<https://www.archwaycommunities.org/mission/>.

What are the health and human service organizations in your area? How can you celebrate and support them?



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

BUL0209

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