



"Revealing" by Lilian Broca

September 26, 2021

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
945 G Street NW, Washington, DC

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*(Please prepare your heart and space for worship.)*

OPENING CHIMES

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Reflection (Psalm 72:3)*

Douglas E. Wagner

“The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.”

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN

***For the Beauty of the Earth***

(see page 6)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lois Fischbeck

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Sam McFerran

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

Rev. Sam McFerran

*Please unmute yourself and greet those around you with words such as “The peace of God be with you.” Let us bless one another with deep peace across time and space.*

CENTERING MOMENT

*This is My Father's World*

arr. Stephen Nielson

SCRIPTURE READING

*Esther 7:1-6, 9:20-22*

Joseph Darling-LaGamma

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days of sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Hand in Hand*

Rollo Dilworth

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

As we worship virtually, we invite you to give virtually. Send your check to the office, [give online](#) through our website at [www.firstuccdc.org](http://www.firstuccdc.org), which includes options to give through PayPal or Vanco. Consider signing up for auto-giving in this time of physical distancing.

DOXOLOGY

**Old Hundredth**

Geneva Psalter

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER,  
AND UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

**Our God, 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

(see page 7)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY    *Theme from Partita on "O God Our Help in Ages Past"*    Paul Manz

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### **Connect with us!**

*If you are worshiping from afar but would like to connect with the First Church community, please [click here](#) to fill out a Visitor's Card, check out our newsletters on our website [www.firstuccdc.org](http://www.firstuccdc.org), or meet us on zoom for our weekly prayer times at noon. We are so grateful to be extending our reach beyond the DC region and welcome you warmly!*

*With gratitude we thank Alyx Cheng and Allison Truhlar for serving as our Zoom moderators each week. Their work makes our worship possible!  
We also thank Tom Sowers and Graham Marsh, our sound designers.*

## Participating in Worship

First Church Choir  
First Church Ringers  
Polly Gordon, soprano  
Judith Gray, alto  
Scott Herman, trumpet  
Fred Marcellus, trumpet  
Dr. Karen Bartman, piano

### **Finance Ministry Conversation following worship**

All are invited to join the Finance Commission for a coffee hour conversation following today's worship. Come with comments and questions as David Greer, Lucille Dickinson, Karen Pence and John Smeltzer explain the budget process, FCC's endowment, when and how the racial justice audit may affect church planning and budgeting and answer questions. This conversation is scheduled prior to our 2022 budget development process and stewardship campaign. We look forward to your participation.

### **Drop-In Center Training at 12:30 PM**

Join us for a training with Sasha Bruce Youthworks entitled "Making Community with Our Neighbors," led by Pam Lieber, Program Manager of the Drop-In Center. This session is an important opportunity to learn about DC youth and young adults who are homeless or precariously housed, the work of Sasha Bruce, and our Tuesday evening Drop-In Center. Participation will also qualify you to volunteer in the future, and we need new volunteers! Table Church members will join us, along with our new Drop-In Center Coordinator, Mr. Jarred Bowman. The training will last one hour. [Click here](#) to join the training by Zoom at 12:30 PM.

## Prayer List

Prayers of healing for Diane Brenneman's daughter Sara as she recovers from surgery.  
Prayers for Priscilla Waters upon the loss of her sister, Pat.  
Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan and Afghan families resettling in the U.S.  
Prayers of strength for the people of Haiti as they mourn those lost in the earthquake and begin to rebuild.  
Prayers of comfort for the family of Joan King, following her death, and for this community who loved her.  
Prayers for Monte Hillis and her husband Bert, as she faces the rapid onset of dementia.  
Prayers of healing for Lance Warren.  
Prayers of peace and liberation for Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.  
Prayers of healing for Dwan Reece's daughter, Maya, with long haul COVID.  
Prayers of comfort for Grace Bassler following Don's death.  
Byron Adams' niece, Valerie, undergoing treatment for breast cancer.  
Prayers of hope for our Racial Justice Audit yearlong process.  
All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.  
Families struggling to eat and make ends meet.  
People's UCC, our sibling congregation.  
Emmanuel Okorie-Dunn and Ellen Bushmiller, who serve as nurses.  
Rev. Laura Johnson and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, who serve as chaplains.  
Prayers of recovery for Rev. Sam's mother after surgery.

## Music Notes



**Rollo Dilworth** served as the director of the music education and choral programs at [North Park University](#) in Chicago, Illinois from 1996 to 2009. Dilworth has over 150 choral works published. He has contributed to the *Choir Builders* series of choral textbooks and to the music magazine *Music Express*. He was the recipient of North Park University's Zenos Hawkinson Award for Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership. After 2009, Dilworth accepted a position as a professor of music at [Temple University](#) in Pennsylvania. He is the chair of the Music Education and Music Therapy department there. In 2017, he was honored with the Temple University Faculty Award for Research and Creative Achievement.

Both classical music and African American folk music have influenced Dilworth's musical development and style. He recognizes [Beethoven](#) and [Chopin](#) as beloved classical icons in his life, but his compositional style is largely influenced by Gospel and Spiritual composers such as Robert Ray and [Moses Hogan](#). Dilworth also draws inspiration from African American literary tradition. He has a particular affinity for the poetry of [Langston Hughes](#) and [Paul Lawrence Dunbar](#), a love which has moved him to compose numerous settings of their texts.

# For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream  
fades at the o - pening day.

6 O God, our help in a - ges past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while trou - bles last,  
and our e - ter - nal home!

### Phase 3 Protocol for In-Person Worship:

- Please keep your mask on at all times
- Observe physical distance from those outside your family group
- Please refrain from singing
- One family group at a time in the elevator
- Remain in the sanctuary for an optional time of fellowship with one another



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Welcome to First Congregational UCC. We were founded in 1865 by abolitionists as the first racially integrated church in Washington, D.C. In 1867 our mission committee played a prominent role in the founding of Howard University. The church has been located at its present site at 10th and G Streets NW since 1868. In more recent years, the church affirmed its vision as an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church (1987), a Just Peace Church (1985), and a Multiracial/Multicultural Church (2003). Our new building, constructed according to Gold LEED standards, was dedicated in 2012.

First Church continues to follow its faith journey into the future, and to be a prophetic voice for the Spirit in the nation's capital. If you would like to know more about First Church or would like to make it your spiritual home and community, please contact [churchoffice@FirstUCCDC.org](mailto:churchoffice@FirstUCCDC.org) or 202.628.4317.

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church  
Designated Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss  
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran  
Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams  
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez  
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell



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