



"Peace I Leave with You" from Peace Wall in Hamilton, New Zealand
Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

June 9, 2019
Pentecost/Pride Sunday

First Congregational United Church of Christ
945 G Street NW, Washington, D.C.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SOUND OF THE CHIMES

(Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices. Worship begins.)

OPENING VOLUNTARY	<i>Voluntary on a Proud Occasion</i>	Calvin Hampton
BIDDING SONG	<i>Rejoice in the Lord</i>	John Horman
GREETINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY		Rev. Mike Durst
CALL TO WORSHIP		James Dunn

One: We are grateful for the gift of our lives and the gift of others in our lives.

All: Each of us is created with value and worth.

One: We are called to love each other and to do nothing to others that we would find hateful to ourselves.

All: We honor the many ways that people live and love.

One: On this 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, we honor those brave LGBTQ souls who understood that fighting against unjust violent police oppression could spark a movement to improve the lives of LGBTQ and straight people alike.

All: Love does not exclude. We are all worthy.

One: We mourn the hundreds of thousands of gay men who lost their lives during a plague that was unjustly weaponized by politicians for bigoted religious purposes. We celebrate the AIDS activists who refused to be overlooked and in doing so, forced a federal government and a nation to reckon with sexual orientation as a matter of national public policy.

All: God heals all who are broken in spirit and in body.

One: We celebrate that this nation recognizes the empowering dignity of full marriage rights for LGBTQ people.

All: Where there is love there is life.

One: We are mindful that struggle for full LGBTQ equality is nowhere near complete as the intersectionality of race, gender, class, HIV status and physical ability all shape the full expression of the LGBTQ experience.

All: True justice flourishes when we can live with authenticity and integrity.

One: May we continue to build a community where LGBTQ people are celebrated as full and equal members, recognizing their many gifts.

All: We celebrate sexual and gender diversity as a blessing that enriches us all.

*HYMN

De Colores (Sing of the Colors)

NCH 402

Holy One, God of many names and many identities,
 we praise you for the extravagant diversity of your creation.
 From clown fish who change gender to promote the flourishing of the school
 and penguins who forge same-sex bonds to care for their young,
 from forget-me-nots that reproduce asexually
 to trees with three genders,
 your nurturing Spirit of relational love manifests in the world in wonderful ways.
 We confess that sometimes our understanding of gender and sexuality
 limit the ways in which we know each other and know you.
 Forgive us when we, personally and as a society,
 use names and definitions as weapons to oppress
 or as fences to exclude.
 Free us from the constraints of our narrow views
 so that we might enjoy the creativity of our neighbors,
 recognizing your infinite glory in the ways they present themselves.
 In the name of the One who is Many, we pray. Amen.

(silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Beloved ones of God, hear the good news that God has many more things to teach us.

**All: God has invited us to begin anew, reconciled to God and to each other,
 through God's love made touchable in Jesus Christ.**

One: In the light of God's love, we are free to live fully and wildly,
 affirmed and accepted as beloved children of God.

All: Joined together, let our lives bring joy, justice, and compassion into the world.

One: In the spirit of this joyful exuberance, let us sing praise to our earnestly loving God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*(Please turn to those around you, introduce yourself, and greet
 one another with words such as "The peace of God be with you.")*

ANTHEM

True Colors

Cyndi Lauper

SCRIPTURE

Jamey Moore

John 14:8-17, 25-27

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us God, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen God. How can you say, 'Show us God'? Do you not believe that I am in God and God is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but God who dwells in me does God's works. Believe me that I am in God and God is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to God. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that God may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask God, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

*HYMN *Help Us Accept Each Other* (see page 9)

SERMON "Celebrate Intimacy, Belonging, and Pride: Shavuot, Pentecost, and Gay Pride"
Diana Gomez de Molina
Sermon Reflection: *Pass It On* by Kurt Kaiser

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Rev. Mike Durst

OFFERTORY *Soon a Will be Done* Arr. by Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

*DOXOLOGY Lasst uns Erfreruen

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!*

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: From north and south, from east and west, we come:

All: God's people called to the Table where simple grace nourishes us.

One: From down the street to across town:

All: God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

One: From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

All: God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.

One: Jesus sets the table where we dine today. Jesus' welcome extends to all of humanity. People of all ages, of all genders, of all cultures, of all economic conditions are welcome here.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

One: Creating God, we give thanks that you brought this world and all of humanity into being, breathing life into us. You show yourself in each face we encounter, each and all created in your image.

We thank you for your covenants. You taught us how to serve you, and how to honor each other. To bring us into relationship with you, you sent us prophets and teachers. We offer

thanks that when we ignored your embrace, you persisted in reaching out to us. We thank you most for the life and ministry of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Christ taught us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from you.

Through your Holy Spirit, you breathe through us, gathering us as church. Thank you for continuing to bring us together that we may celebrate you.

On the eve of his death he gave us this sacred meal to remind us of all he did and said. While he and his friends were eating, he took bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and passed it around:

All: This is my body broken for you; eat it as a way to remember me and my love for you.

One: After the meal, he took wine and blessed it; then he passed it among his friends:

All: This is the cup of a new covenant poured out for you; drink it as a way to remember me and my love for you.

One: And so now again we eat and we drink, and we proclaim Jesus' life and death, his love and mercy; and we open our hearts once more.

All: May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth, so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood. May your Spirit work in us, who are children of earth, so that we may be transformed into Christ's body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

For the bread we have eaten,
For the wine we have tasted,
For the new life we have received,
We thank you God.
Send us out, filled with your Spirit,
In love, hope, and service.
In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

SILENT PRAYERS, PEOPLE'S PRAYER, AND PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

(Using words from your own language and tradition or the following words.)

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.

*HYMN

We Are One in the Spirit

(see page 10)

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Make Them Hear You

Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

*Please rise, in body or in spirit.

NCH=New Century Hymnal

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Announcements

The Sanctuary Overlook is available for parents and small children.
Assisted listening devices are available. Please ask an usher if you would care for one.
CD recordings of today's service are available following worship.
Don't forget to validate your parking ticket! The validator is next to the coffee pot.
Please join us in the Narthex following the service for coffee & fellowship.

Worship Notes

Call to Worship written by David Greer and James Dunn.
Confession and Assurance written by Dr. Sharon Fennema,
UCC Professor of Liturgy at the Pacific School of Religion, and modified by Sophie Jones.
Communion Liturgy adapted from liturgy by Rev. Ruth Garwood,
Interim Pastor at First Congregational UCC in Elyria, Ohio.

Participating in Worship:

First Church Choir
Members of the Rock Creek Singers of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington
Thea Kano, director

We are so grateful for the ministry and leadership of Diana and Mari on this important Sunday. Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina and Rev. Mari Castellanos are both long-term members of First Church and ordained in the UCC. Diana currently serves as a Chaplain at the National Institutes of Health. Mari previously served as a Policy Advocate for the Justice and Witness Ministries of the National Office of the UCC.

Music Notes

Today it is our pleasure to welcome the **Rock Creek Singers** under the direction of Thea Kano. We are grateful that they are willing to share their amazing talents with us for this joint celebration of Pentecost and Gay Pride. Today they bring us music that is not only relevant to today's LGBTQ struggle for equality, but also a beautiful and inspirational part of our Pentecost worship experience.

The Rock Creek Singers are from the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington. The chorus has performed at public and private events throughout the District and surrounding areas during its 35 years. This select vocal ensemble represents the chorus at many community events, including LGBTQ organization functions, association and government events, and private parties. The Rock Creek Singers is a chamber ensemble who sing everything from traditional choral music to Broadway.

Two composers who are significant in today's service are John Ness Beck and Calvin Hampton. Both composers were openly gay when being out was both risky to life and limb and potentially dangerous to professional success. They remain responsible for a large body of choral and organ music heard in sacred settings today.

(George) Calvin Hampton (December 31, 1938 – August 5, 1984) was a leading American organist and sacred music composer. He graduated from Oberlin Conservatory in 1960 and from Syracuse University in 1963. From 1963 through 1983, he was organist and choirmaster at Calvary Episcopal Church in the Gramercy Park neighborhood of Manhattan. His "Fridays at Midnight" organ recital series, which ran from 1974 to 1983, was among the most well-known and popular organ recital series in American history. Hampton also composed music for the church and the concert stage. In 1974, he composed music for Walter Leyden Brown's production of Herman Melville's *Pierre, or the Ambiguities*, which was produced at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in the East Village of Manhattan. Before Hampton's death, Erik Routley, an authority on church music, called Hampton "the greatest living composer of hymn tunes." His settings of the Episcopal liturgy are also used in Catholic churches, and his choral works are innovative and challenging pieces of sacred music. Hampton also transcribed music from other sources for the organ. His versions of Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and César Franck's *Symphony in D minor* for organ are particularly noteworthy.

Hampton eventually stopped working at the church to concentrate on composition and organ consulting. During this time, he consulted for several important classical organs in the United States. He contracted AIDS but remained active until the final few weeks of his life, composing the massive *Alexander Variations* for two pipe organs while almost completely bedridden in 1984. He died of AIDS at the age of 45 near his parents' home in Port Charlotte, Florida.

John Ness Beck (November 11, 1930 - June 25, 1987) was born and grew up in Warren, Ohio. In 1952 he graduated from Ohio State with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees with a major in English. After working for a year in Student Union activities at the State College of Washington, he spent two years in the U.S. Army. During this time, he became increasingly involved in arranging for various musical groups. After his discharge from military service, he returned to Ohio State and completed Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in music with composition as his major.

Mr. Beck was a faculty member of The Ohio State University School of Music for seven years, teaching harmony and theory. He left the university to become owner and manager of The University Music House, a retail sheet music store in Columbus. In this capacity, he was able to observe the business side of the music industry, gaining insight into the complexities of music publishing and merchandising. As his compositions found their way into print and popularity, he joined forces in 1972 with John Tatgenhorst in the creation of Beckenhorst Press. His reputation as a composer and his experience as a choral director soon led to an increasing demand for appearances as guest conductor and lecturer at various musical clinics and festivals throughout the country. He remained active in the field until his death from cancer.

Prayer List

Jean Alexander • Rosa Gutierrez
Pat Ashbrook • Ruth Shinn



Today's Second Sunday Offering

By Dale Ostrander, Board of Trustees, Shaw Community Center

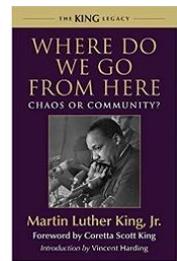
Our congregation's Second Sunday Offering in June is for the Shaw Community Center, a mission of the UCC's Potomac Association social justice ministry located in the historic, but rapidly gentrifying, Shaw area of DC.

This ministry was created in 1991 to provide educational and social service programs for low income residents of all ages in this area. Programs include afterschool tutoring, computer and social skills, summer camps, mentoring, college prep and scholarships, as well as opportunities to celebrate the community's heritage and empower its residents.

The Shaw Community Ministry was more recently renamed the Shaw Community Center to reaffirm its non-sectarian commitment and sense of history in the community. Please plan to give generously in the loose offering or in checks to First Church, designating Second Sunday, Shaw CC.

Theology Book Group: Wednesday, July 10

On Wednesday, July 10, at 6:30 pm, the Theology Book Group will discuss MLK's last book, *Where Do We Go From Here*. He wrote the book in 1967 during a sabbatical from activism in order to reflect on the challenges of racism, poverty, and war. All are welcome.



Calendar

Sunday, June 9

- 8:45 am White Privilege Discussion Group, *Community Hall*
- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Pentecost/Pride Sunday
Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina
preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*
- 12:00 pm Care of Parish Comm., *Living Room*

Monday, June 10

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Wednesday, June 12

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Saturday, June 15

- 11:00 am Bruce Hanson Memorial Service, *Sanctuary*
- 6:00 pm Heritage Signature Chorale Concert, *Sanctuary*

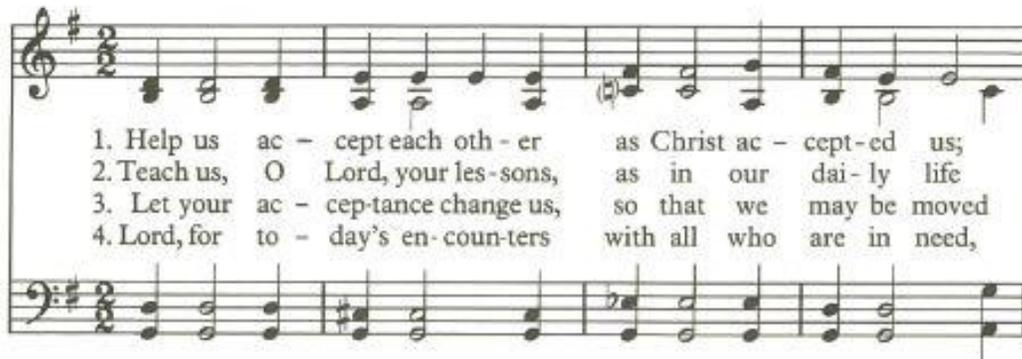
Sunday, June 16

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Rev. Michael Durst preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

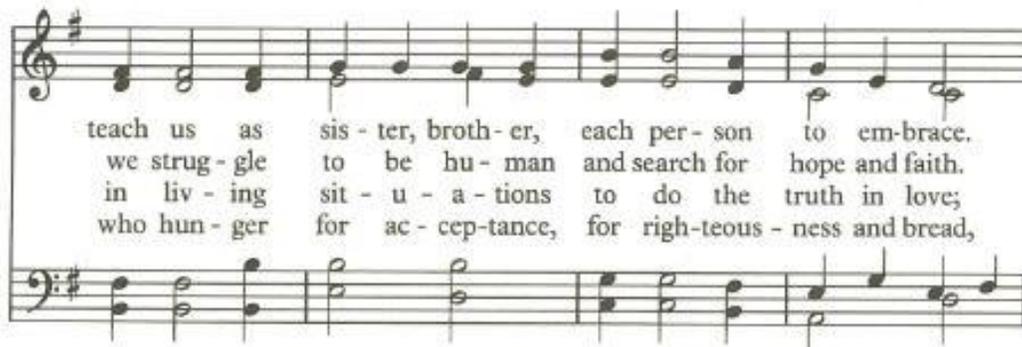
Help Us Accept Each Other

Music by John Ness Beck

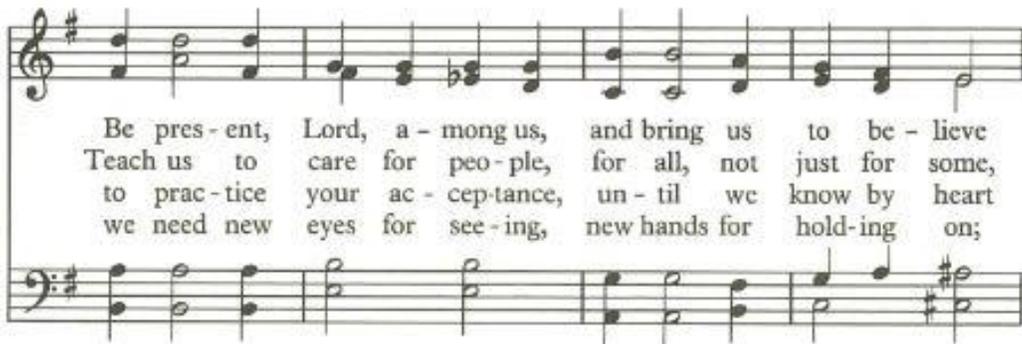
Text by Fred Kaan



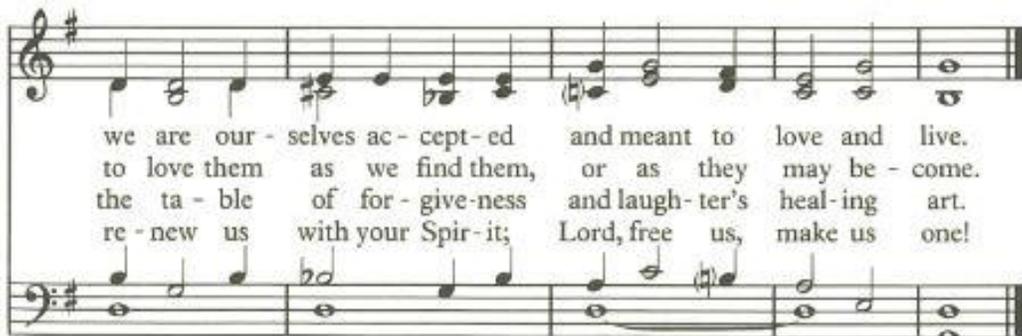
1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart
we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

We Are One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored;
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land;
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride;
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking,

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 or 202.628.4317.

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church

Interim Minister – Rev. Michael Durst

Minister of Faith Formation – Rev. Sam McFerran

Director of Music – Mr. John Horman

Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams

Administrative Assistant – Ms. Cindy Dobbs

Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, Dwight Davis

Nursery & Childcare Staff – Luis Murillo, Timur Murillo, Ziyah Holman, Mia Young



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