



June 7, 2020
Pride Sunday

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

Sound of the Chimes

(Please prepare your heart and space for worship.)

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING VOLUNTARY

I Was Here
GenOut Chorus
Paul Heins, director

Gary Burr, Hillary Scott, Victoria Saw
Arr. Alan Billingsley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Byrne, Emily Laing, Alison Truhlar

One: We gather to celebrate the Body recognizing it is Pride Sunday.
We recognize that for too long, the table was not extended long enough to include our LGBTQ siblings.
We continue to work toward a world where all voices are heard, where all belong.

Many: We were made to be one body.

One: We reflect on God's call to be one body.
We see deep inequities laid bare by pandemic.
We hear voices in protest, calling for justice.
We recognize our part in the suffering and oppression of people of color,
The times we fell short and chose privilege and comfort at the expense of the whole.

Many: If one member suffers, we all suffer together.

One: We see God's grace at work in our lives and in our world.
We use God's gifts to listen deeply, act bravely, and love fully.
With humility and hope, we build a community where all are dignified, all voices heard, all members honored.

Many: If one member is honored, we all rejoice together.

One: Let us Worship God.

OPENING HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

(see page 8)

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY

Olivia Hoynes

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Heather Goetsch

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

MEDITATIONS

“The Body”

Mary Meyer, Brandaun Dean

MUSICAL SELECTION

Timshel

Mumford & Sons

Abigail Cipperone, soprano and Michael Hopkins, percussionist

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

COMMUNION PRAYER

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (unison)

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

Hannah Long-Higgins, cello and David Long-Higgins, violin

(Please serve communion elements to yourself or to those in the room with you with words such as "The Bread of Life" and "The Cup of Blessing.")

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN

Siyahamb

(see page 9)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Laura Johnson

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Connect with us!

If you are worshipping with us from afar but would like to connect with the First Church community, please [click here](#) to complete our interest form so we can be in touch with you directly; check out our newsletters on our website, www.firstuccdc.org; or meet us on Zoom for our weekly prayer times on Wednesdays at noon. We are so grateful to be extending our reach beyond the DC region and welcome you warmly!

Participating in Worship:

John Horman, Director of Music
GenOUT Chorus, Paul Heins, director
Abigail Cipperone, soprano
Hannah Long-Higgins, cello
David Long-Higgins, violin

With gratitude we thank Alyx Cheng and Allison Truhlar for serving as our Zoom moderators each week. Their work makes our worship possible!

Music Notes

The GenOUT Chorus is the Washington, DC area's only vocal ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth. An outreach ensemble of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, GenOUT operates under the two-fold mission: (1) to give young LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice, and (2) to connect that voice to community. The ensemble is open to all singers between the ages of 13 and 18. Since its debut in spring 2015, the GenOUT Chorus has performed at the Lincoln Theatre, the Kennedy Center, Washington National Cathedral, the White House, the Library of Congress, and the GALA Choruses Festival. More than 70 singers from over three dozen schools have participated in GenOUT. In fall 2019, 24 singers from 19 schools in and around the DC metro area sang in GenOUT.

Sacred Conversation on Racism After Church Today (No Coffee Hour)

Please note that we will not offer a Zoom coffee hour today, but instead we will take a 5-7 minute break after worship then regather on the same Zoom call for a sacred conversation on racism facilitated by Rev. Amanda and Member in Discernment Lynaya Morre, focusing on responding to Dr. Velda Love's panel discussion, "[The Cross & the Lynching Tree](#)."

Timshel

*Cold is the water
It freezes your already cold mind
Already cold, cold mind
And death is at your doorstep
And it will steal your innocence
But it will not steal your substance*

*But you are not alone in this
And you are not alone in this
As brothers we will stand and we'll hold your hand
Hold your hand*

*But I will tell the night
And whiper, "Lose your sight"
But I can't move the mountains for you*

*But you are not alone in this
And you are not alone in this
As brothers we will stand and we'll hold your hand
Hold your hand*

DC-Area Joint Worship: June 21

The joint worship service with DC-Area UCC congregations who collaborated to pay off medical debt for those living in poverty has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 21 at 10:30 AM by Zoom. Login credentials for Zoom, including passcode, will be sent out the week prior. We look forward to being joined by the Rev. Freeman Palmer, Central Atlantic Conference Minister.

Prayers of the People: Wednesdays at Noon

Join Amanda and our community for a brief sharing of the burdens we are bearing, the great joys we want to celebrate, and a time of prayer. We will gather through Zoom from 12:00-12:30 every Wednesday. [Click here](#) to join this standing call.



Moral March on Washington Digital Gathering June 20 and June 21

Because of COVID-19, the Moral March on Washington that had been scheduled for Saturday, June 20 -- to awake the nation to the interlocking injustices facing 140 million poor and low-income people, 43% of the nation -- cannot take place as planned. Instead, the organizers are planning a digital gathering. **The 2-hour program will be broadcast at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm that day and again on Sunday, June 21 at 6:00 pm.**

A detailed description of the event is available in the [June Gabriel's Horn](#). Will you join us in participating in this event, from your own living room or home office or kitchen? Numbers matter! Please let Lucille Dickinson know at lucilledickinson@aol.com if you will, and go to www.june2020.org to register.

Second Sunday Offering, June 14, 2020: Shaw Community Center

Our June Second Sunday Offering is for the Shaw Community Center, one of the service organizations in our area that we help to support. The Center is housed in the historic Lincoln Congregational Temple UCC which First Church helped to establish in 1888.

Founded in 1991 as the Shaw Community Ministry, SCC serves Shaw area families with its afterschool programs of tutoring, computer instruction, arts and other activities to assist working parents of underserved families in this rapidly gentrifying area. The Center's programs also include summer camps, mentoring and modest college scholarships for selected Shaw high school graduates.

The Center depends on the support of the UCC's Potomac Association churches and social justice ministry, various grants, and individual contributions.

While the Center has been temporarily closed due to Conovid-19, staff members need to be paid, and the Center must plan and prepare for anticipated summer programs when it reopens. The Center also must take responsibility for needed building upkeep and repairs to ensure that this aging, historic landmark is safe for these programs.

Never has the Shaw Community Center been more vital than it is today. On Sunday, March 1, 2020, just four days before Malachi Lukes was to turn 14, he was shot and killed in an alley in Shaw. Malachi grew up as a lively member of the Shaw Community Center "family." His mother, Melissa Laws, Director of Programs at the Center, has devoted her career to guiding and mentoring youth, and she adored her son. On Malachi's 14th birthday, Lincoln Temple was packed to remember the life and mourn the death of this young brother's bright light. The continuation and expansion of the Center is not an option: *It is an imperative.* Please give generously by check to First Church with a notation for Shaw Community Center on June 14, 2020.

Thank you, Dale Ostrander, Member of SCC Board

In Support of the Sacred Worth of Black Lives

As we experience the anger and grief of this moment in American life when yet another precious black life has been snuffed out due to police violence, First Church is responding in several ways:

1. Occupy 10th & G: [Click here](#) to sign up to occupy 10th & G (as well as 9th & G) in the coming days in 90-minute shifts, socially distanced with masks. Please access the building only to use the first floor bathroom and validate your parking ticket (if you use the garage; need fob/access card to do so) in the narthex.
2. Reflect: Join us on Sunday after worship for a Sacred Conversation on Racism facilitated by Rev. Amanda. To prepare, please watch "[The Cross & the Lynching Tree](#)" panel discussion. Our sacred conversation will take place on the same Zoom call as worship; there will be no coffee hour, instead we will break for 5-7 minutes then regather on the same call.
3. Connect: We are reaching out to our partner organizations: Black Lives Matter-DC (BLM), Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), Congregation Action Network (CAN), Shaw Community Center (SCC), and Sasha Bruce Youthworks (SBY) to listen deeply and discern how we can fold in with their initiatives and support their work.
4. Pray: This past week we offered two opportunities for prayer: one on Tuesday evening in which the congregation was invited to share what is on our hearts right now, followed by prayer; and the second was a shared prayer service with our sibling congregation Peoples Congregational UCC, led by the Rev. Brandon Harris. Let us continue to lift one another in prayer.

Nurture on Regathering: Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30

[Click here](#) to join us for an hour-long virtual Nurture session facilitated by Rev. Karen Byrne on regathering. Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss, Moderator Kim Darling, Director of Music John Horman, and Rev. Sam McFerran are working together to understand how our congregation would regather physically for worship in our church space at 10th and G Streets. They are following closely the guidelines of public health experts, UCC and other denominational bodies, professional musicians, and other local churches. Please join us for a Nurture to hear from them about what they are learning. After they each speak, there will be time for questions and discussion. If you have questions to raise or topics that you would like this Nurture to address, please send them by June 15th to Kim Darling at kdarling@gmail.com. As Amanda said in her Pentecost sermon, we will hold up both what we want – “the beautiful edifice of our building, glimpsing your faces” – and what we need. Please join us.

Prayer List

Susan Peacock’s father, Joe Peacock, who is in a care facility and being tested for COVID

The family and friends of George Floyd, and the city of Minneapolis and our nation

The husband and son of Nerissa, a friend of Alisa, who was recently released from the hospital
after recovering from COVID

Asian Americans and other racial, cultural, and religious communities
targeted by threats based on COVID conspiracy theories

All elders living in care facilities

The congregation of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Hyattsville,
experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 among their families.

The Latinx and immigrant communities who are suffering and for the Congregational Action Network
seeking to support and resource the congregations that serve them.

People’s UCC, our sibling congregation

Emmanuel Okorie-Dunn and Ellen Bushmiller, who serve as nurses

Rev. Laura Johnson, who serves as a hospital chaplain

Hospital employees and first responders

Jeremy Lyon, Diane Brenneman’s grandson, who is active duty military

Rosa Gutierrez Lopez (in sanctuary at Cedar Lane UU Church)

Pat Ashbrook • Don Bassler

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

Siyahamb

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 march-ing in the light of God, We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
 kha - nyen' kwen-khos'. light of God. the light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are

ham - ba, Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'.
 ham - ba, ham - ba, march-ing, Oo, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

Last time, end



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 or 202.628.4317.

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Designated Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran
Director of Music – Mr. John Horman
Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams
Administrative Assistant – Ms. Cindy Dobbs
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, Dwight Davis
Nursery & Childcare Staff – Timur Murillo, Ziyah Holman, Jordann Edwards, Patrick Darling-LaGamma



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