



"Miriam": serigraph by Shraga Weil, 1975. Safrai Fine Art, Jerusalem

September 13, 2020  
Homecoming 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.)*

OPENING VOLUNTARY	<i>Processional in G Major</i>	John Stanley
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
OPENING HYMN	<i>Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken</i>	(see page 8)
CALL TO WORSHIP		Peter Byrne
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		Rev. Sam McFerran
PASSING OF THE PEACE		Rev. Sam McFerran
<i>(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.)</i>		
ANTHEM	<i>God is My Rock</i>	John Horman
SCRIPTURE READING		Lauren McFerran

### Exodus 14:19-31, 15:20

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into panic. God clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in God's servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL SELECTION

*Faith Rewoven*  
Josie Hoover, dancer

Arr. By John Horman

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](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 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.

CLOSING HYMN

*Deep in the Shadows of the Past*

(see page 9)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

EXIT MUSIC

*Psalm XIX*

Bennetto Marcello

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*Following worship, please join our Zoom coffee hour for a time of fellowship.  
An optional discussion question: What do you love about the fall season?*

## Connect with us!

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!

## Participating in Worship

John Horman, Director of Music  
First Church Choir  
First Church Ringers  
Dr. Josie Hoover, dancer

## Music Notes

This morning we will sing *Old Hundredth* as our Doxology. The melody that Kethe used for *Old Hundredth* is one of the most famous Christian hymn tunes. It can be traced back to the Geneva Psalter of 1562. It was composed or adapted by the Frenchman Louis Bourgeois. Bourgeois (d. 1560) was invited to come to Geneva when John Calvin returned there in 1541 for the second part of his pastorate. His tune and harmonization were used extensively to carry the singing of Psalms. *Old Hundredth* is especially significant to First Congregational Church because of its founding during the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln. It was our 16<sup>th</sup> president's favorite hymn.



Dr. Josie Hoover is a teacher, preacher, choreographer and consultant in liturgical dance. She is a 2008 and 2015 graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, DC). Josie is currently on staff at Wesley serving as the Director of Human Resources and also serves as Adjunct Professor of Liturgical Dance for the Henry Luce III Center for the Arts & Religion. Josie has 20 years of experience serving as a choreographer, panelist, workshop & conference facilitator & chaplain in her capacity as a liturgical dancer. With inspiration from her doctoral thesis, *Liturgical Dance as Transformative Worship: Meeting God through Movement*, Josie teaches courses on theory and practice, embodiment, and dance as a spiritual practice.

Josie is a contributing author to the academic resource book, *Engage: A Theological Field Education Toolkit* and the online dance magazine, *Ngoma Reader Magazine*.

Community outreach efforts include serving on the boards of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center (Berea, KY); Joy of Motion Dance Center and as a mentor for RISE Together National Mentoring Network (DC Cohort).

Josie is married to Pastor Ashley B. Hoover, Senior Pastor of Jerusalem-Mount Pleasant UMC in Rockville, MD, who is also an industrial engineer for the Department of Navy.



## Today's Second Sunday Offering: Faith UCC's Mobile Food Market

In the midst of the COVID pandemic that is causing (and increasing) food insecurity, the Social Action and Awareness Commission has decided to designate the Second Sunday offering in September to a food ministry in Northeast DC. Faith UCC, located at 4900 Tenth Street NE, offers a free Mobile Food

Market monthly, each third Thursday of the month. Folks can drive up, open their trunks, and have food placed into the trunk. They can walk up to get a "grab and go" bag, and food is also dropped off both at senior buildings as well as the Mary Elizabeth House, an apartment building for young women who have aged out of the Foster Care System (currently housing 12 women each with a child).

In July they served 113 households -- 38 were new households, 75 were returning households. There were 335 people in the households with 101 children, 114 seniors and 13 veterans. Most of the persons receiving food were from DC. Our financial donations will greatly help the program provide consistent services.

Look for future announcements from SAAC about other ways we can support this Mobile Food Market – e.g., volunteering to transport food to senior buildings (the bigger the vehicle, the better), volunteering onsite to help with food distribution (outside at Faith UCC), and donating non-perishable food items.

Here is their website: <https://faithuniteddc.com/our-ministries/> Please give generously on September 13.



## Unity Walk: Today

[Click here](#) to check out all of the opportunities to take part in Interfaith Council's annual Unity Walk, which will be virtual this year. From the opening ceremony and visiting houses of worship to cooking, interfaith conversations on racial justice and climate

change, and youth-led discussions, there is something here for everyone. A new video featuring the history of First Church and our building, created by Hannah Long-Higgins and Meg Maguire, will be part of the tour this year--thank you Hannah and Meg! We also salute the Rev. David Lindsey, IFC's new Executive Director, who has been worshiping with us recently, and our own Ron Yoder, who serves on IFC's Board of Directors. We are indeed blessed to count ourselves among a community where the richness of many religious traditions is represented and comes together in unity.

## Help Us Lead Worship This Fall

As we move to streaming from the sanctuary beginning September 13, there are three ways you can serve as a liturgist or scripture reader this fall: submit a pre-recorded video of yourself, participate by Zoom from home, or join the small crew streaming live from the sanctuary while following our guidelines for safety. [Click here](#) to sign up to serve as a liturgist or scripture reader this fall. We are so grateful for your voice!



## Advent and Christmas Worship Planning:

Thursday, September 17 at 6:00 PM

On Thursday, September 17, at 6:00 PM, the Worship Commission will hold a Zoom meeting to plan for Advent and Christmas. Rev. Amanda and all the Commission members want to extend a special invitation to all members and friends of First Church to participate in the planning discussion. Please come and tell us what is most important for you about the Advent season this year. Are there themes or concerns that should be addressed? The Zoom link is <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/2023655260>. If you cannot participate on September 17 but would like to express your ideas, please email Commission chair, Peter Byrne at [byrne@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:byrne@law.georgetown.edu).

## Connect with Rev. Amanda This Fall

[Click here](#) to sign up to connect with Rev. Amanda this fall by phone, Zoom, or (on Friday mornings only) at the church (please note that physical distancing will be observed and masks will be worn by all). If none of these dates work for you but you would still like to connect, there is a space at the bottom of the sign-up sheet to indicate that and Rev. Amanda will be in touch with you to find a time that works. These one-hour meetings may include pastoral care, a time to better get to know each other, and an opportunity to catch up and share from the heart.



## OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE 2020

Seven (7) Sundays Left to November 3!

Now is the time to get your vote on! Are you ready?

What's your plan? You must be able to answer these questions if you live in the District/Maryland/Virginia:

- Are you registered to vote?
- Will you vote by mail or in person?
- Where will you vote?
- Will you vote early?

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- September 18: Early voting starts in Virginia
- First Week in October: DC will send mail-in ballots to all registered voters
- Register to vote by October 13 in the DMV
- October 26 & 27: Early voting begins in Maryland and DC

Don't let these dates slip under the radar. Make your plan today!

Official websites for DMV voting questions:

[WWW.DCBOE.ORG](http://WWW.DCBOE.ORG)

[WWW.ELECTIONS.MARYLAND.GOV](http://WWW.ELECTIONS.MARYLAND.GOV)

[WWW.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV](http://WWW.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV)

*Deadline for October Gabriel's Horn: Monday, September 28*

Staff Vacation Schedule:

- Byron Adams – September 15-18
- Cindy Dobbs – October 6-9

**Prayer List**

Paul Bushmiller, recovering from surgery  
John and Nora Marsh, as they care for their Aunt Louise and Uncle Bill,  
transitioning them to a nursing home.  
Garnell Yarbrough, for healing from illness  
Dwan Reece and Peter Parsons, as Peter prepares for another procedure.  
Immigrants in the Farmville ICE Detention Center, upon the police violently disrupting their  
peaceful protest, and the outbreak of Covid  
The family and friends of George Floyd, and the city of Minneapolis and our nation  
Asian Americans and other racial, cultural, and religious communities  
targeted by threats based on COVID conspiracy theories  
All elders living in care facilities  
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  
Rosa Gutierrez Lopez (in sanctuary at Cedar Lane UU Church)  
Pat Ashbrook • Don Bassler

# 81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.  
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,

God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.  
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.

On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?  
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,  
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.  
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20-21 with allusions to several other passages.

TEXT: John Newton, 1775, alt.  
 MUSIC: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797, alt.

AUSTRIAN HYMN  
 8.7.8.7.D

# DEEP IN THE SHADOWS OF THE PAST

Tune name: FOREST GREEN  
CMD

Brian Wren

English Folksong



Deep in the sha-dows of the past, far out from set-tled lands, some  
While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys-ter-y, in-  
From Ex-o-dus to Pen-te-cost the pro-mise changed and grew, while  
For all the writ-ings that sur-vived, for lea-ders, long a-go, who

5



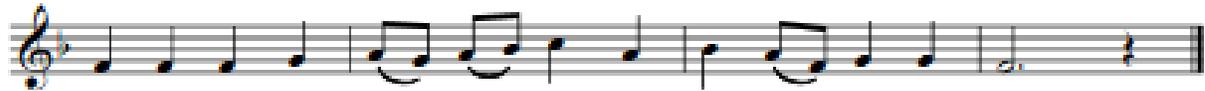
no-mads tra-veled with their, God a-cross the des-ert sands. The  
vi-si-ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE"; and  
some, re-mem-ber-ing the past, re-cord-ed what they knew, or  
sift-ed, cop-ied, and pre-served the Bi-ble that we know, give

9



dawn-ing hope of hu-man-kind by them was sensed and shown: a  
by their tents, a-round their fires in stor-y, song, and law, they  
with their let-ters and la-ments, their proph-e-cy and praise, re-  
thanks, and find its stor-y yet our pro-mise, strength and call, the

13



pro-mise call-ing them a-head, a fu-ture yet un-known.  
praised, re-mem-bered, hand-ed on a past that pro-mised more.  
cov-ered, kin-dled and ex-pressed, new hope for chang-ing days.  
mo-del of e-merg-ing faith, a-live with hope for all.



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  
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



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