



"Baptism of Christ" by Dave Zelenka

January 10, 2021
First Sunday after Epiphany

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

Voluntary on "Forest Green"

Dale Wood

WELCOME

Rev. Sam McFerran

OPENING HYMN

When Jesus Was Baptized by John

(see page 8)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michael Hopkins

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Sam McFerran

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

In Dulci Jubilo

Marcel Dupré

SCRIPTURE READING

Fredda Sparks

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Rev. Sam McFerran

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Audrey Price

MUSICAL SELECTION

Expectans Expectavi (from Christmas Oratorio) Charles Camille Saint-Saens
Marian Drake, soprano

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 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) Rev. Sam McFerran

*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

Lord, Make Us More Holy

(see page 9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sam McFerran

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Audrey Price

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Epilogue on "A Gallery Carol"

Sidney Campbell

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Connect with us!

Connect with us! If you are worshipping from afar but would like to connect with the First Church community, please [click here](#) to fill out a Visitor's Card and check out our newsletters on our website www.firstuccdc.org.

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 in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Participating in Worship

John Horman, Director of Music

First Church Choir

First Church Ringers

Marian Drake, mezzo soprano

Marian Drake, mezzo, has performed in community opera productions and with choirs in Washington, DC and San Francisco. Church music has inspired her since childhood when she sang her first solo with her church youth choir at age seven. She sang mezzo in children's choirs and at music camps before being "promoted" to the soprano section in high school because she could sing the high notes. At the urging of her voice teacher, Marian returned to her mezzo roots in 2018. She loves singing for the First Church community.



Welcome the Rev. Dr. Audrey Price as our Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Audrey Price has been called to serve as the Executive for Missional Implementation in the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. She recently served as an Associate Conference Minister in the Central Atlantic Conference, and we were blessed to welcome her as the Supply Senior Minister in 2018. She previously served as Interim Pastor at Webster Congregational Christian Church in Maryland.

Dr. Price achieved a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) at The Catholic University of America (CUA) in Systematic Theology with a concentration in Liberation Theology. Her dissertation: *Theological Aesthetics in the African American Anthropologies of Emilie Townes and Shawn Copeland*. Audrey is a contributing author to Psalms 42-89, authored by Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, in *The Wisdom Commentary Series* (Liturgical Press, 2016). She earned a Master of Philosophy degree at CUA, a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Her vocational call is one of Pastoral Leader and Educator. She has served as adjunct faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary and John Leland Center for Theological Studies.

Dr. Price is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. In her "spare time" Rev. Price indulges her passion of reading, traveling to new places, officiating basketball and her newfound joy of riding motorcycles. She is married to Augustine Angba and together they have four wonderful children. Rev. Price is inspired and guided in her daily life by the following precepts:

"But seek first the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" –Matthew 6:33

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." - Maya Angelou



**A LOOK
at the
BUDGET**

Church Budget 2021: Learn and Comment

2021 Budget Hearing First Congregational Church
Today following Worship via Zoom

At this hearing all are welcome to review, question and comment on the 2021 budget before the congregation votes to approve the budget at the annual congregational meeting January 24, 2021.



Second Sunday offering on January 10: Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

As we start the new year, please give generously on January 10 to the Second Sunday offering for Showing Up for Racial Justice. SURJ in DC is part of the SURJ national network of groups and individuals working to undermine white supremacy and to work for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. Here is information from their website:

"WE NEED YOU DEFECTING FROM WHITE SUPREMACY AND CHANGING THE NARRATIVE OF WHITE SUPREMACY BY BREAKING WHITE SILENCE."

– ALICIA GARZA, CO-FOUNDER BLACK LIVES MATTER AND SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR AT THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKER ALLIANCE

SURJ's role as part of a multi-racial movement is to undermine white support for white supremacy and to help build a racially just society. That work cannot be done in isolation from or disconnected from the powerful leadership of communities of color. It is one part of a multi-racial, cross-class movement centering the leadership of people of color. Therefore, SURJ believes in resourcing organizing led by people of color and maintaining strong accountability relationships with organizers and communities of color as a central part of their theory of change.

SURJ believes that we must ground our organizing in a framework of "mutual interest" -- white supremacy is integral to economic injustice, to maintaining patriarchy and other forms of oppression. Racism and white supremacy keep the many divided for the benefit of the few. We must have an inclusive, open-hearted approach to organizing, calling people into this work rather than creating barriers to participation while maintaining a clear political line. When those of us who are white realize that racial justice is core to our liberation as well, then masses of white people will withdraw support from white supremacy. Together, as part of a powerful multi-racial, cross-class movement for collective liberation we can force the system of white supremacy to crumble.

In order to activate this theory of change, SURJ employs three core strategies:

- Delegitimize racist institutions
- Fight for a fair economy that refuses to pit communities against each other
- Shift culture (meaning the underlying beliefs folks have about people and the world) in a way that undermines support for white supremacy

Within this framework, our network is using a number of tactics, including leading and participating in campaigns, base-building, direct action, relationship-building, communications work and more.



Save the Date: Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday January 24, 2021, after Worship via Zoom

Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Approval of Minutes from Fall Congregational Meeting
- Moderator’s Report
 - Approval of Annual Report
 - Approval of Nominations for 2021
 - Discuss Anti-Racism Audit Plan
- Designated Senior Minister’s Report
- Treasurer’s Report and 2021 Budget
- Transition to new Council and Commissions
- Closing and breakout commission rooms to determine first meeting date and council rep



Theology Book Group: January 26 at 6:00 PM

The Theology Book Group will meet again on January 26 at 6:00 PM to discuss Walter Brueggemann, *Sabbath as Resistance*. The highly regarded UCC theologian argues that “Sabbath is about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society.” The Zoom link is <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97841224122>. All are welcome.

First Church (virtual) Trivia, Saturday, January 30 at 7-8:30 PM

[Click here](#) to join Care of Parish for a virtual trivia night. Trivia questions will include general questions, in addition to specific questions about the Bible and First Church. Participants will compete as individuals or as a family unit. All are welcome to participate, although this event is primarily intended for adults. No RSVP needed. Please send any questions to Kristy Goodfellow Mills at kristy.a.goodfellow@gmail.com or 563.580.5558.



Monday Night Meals to Go

We are grateful to renew our partnership with Sasha Bruce Youthwork as together we seek to feed those who may be hungry or living on the streets this season. To-go meals will be distributed outdoors along with PPE and resource cards on Monday evenings in front of the church. Trained volunteers are needed; please complete the doodle poll sent out by Janneke Ratcliffe to sign up if you have previously volunteered at the Drop-in Center. We give thanks for the opportunity to help make food and resource distribution possible in this season.

Prayer List

Prayers healing for the family of Priscilla Waters, following the sudden death of her grand-niece Bryana, especially for Bryana's children.

Prayers of healing for the Goodfellow Mills family as they recover from COVID-19.

All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the coronavirus vaccine.

Families struggling to eat and make ends meet this holiday season.

Prayers for the safe and successful transition of the incoming Biden administration.

Dwan Reece and Peter Parsons

Garnell Yarbrough, for continued healing

Immigrants in the Farmville ICE Detention Center

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 and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, who serve as chaplains.

Hospital employees and first responders

Pat Ashbrook • Don Bassler

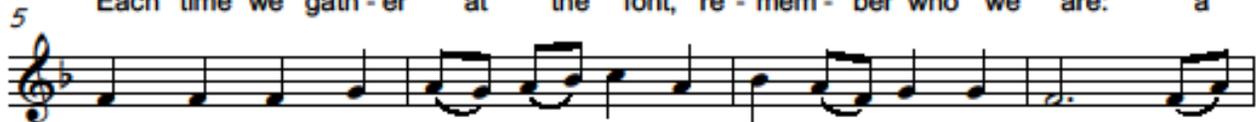
WHEN JESUS WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN

Mary Nelson Keithahn

English Folk Tune



When Je - sus was bap - tized by John, the sky was torn a - part. The
Thus Je - sus heard his call from God and gift - ed with God's grace, be -
Like Je - sus we have been bap - tized, ac - cept - ed as God's own, and
Each time we gath - er at the font, re - mem - ber who we are: a



5
Spi - rit, like a dove came down and fell u - pon his heart. As
gan to spread the light of love in ev - ery dar - kened place. He
in that ho - ly sac - ra - ment our mis - sion was made known. The
9
peo - ple charged to love and serve our neigh - bors near and far, a



he rose from that des - ert spring, a voice from heav - en cried: "You
healed the sick the blind, the lame; the bro - ken, con - trite heart. He
Ris - en Christ lives on in us, his bod - y here on earth, and
13
peo - ple called to be a friend to all who are in need, to



are my Son, be - lov - ed one, my cho - sen one, my pride."
called for jus - tice for the poor and all those set a - part.
we are in - stru - ments of grace to give God's love new birth.
show that love is just and fair in ev - ery word and deed.

Lord, Make Me More Holy

75

African-American spiritual



1 Lord, make me more ho - ly. Lord, make me more ho - ly.



Lord, make me more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly un - til we meet a - gain.

- 2 Lord, make me more faith-ful, . . . Faith-ful, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.
- 3 Lord, make me more hum-ble, . . . Hum-ble, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.
- 4 Lord, make me more righ-teous, . . . Righ-teous, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.

The origins of this African-American spiritual have been traced to the area of Charleston, South Carolina, where it may have been sung as a closing hymn for worship. It is one of a number of devotional songs expressing the desire to attain the spiritual character of Jesus.

Tune: LORD, MAKE ME MORE HOLY
6.6.6.6.6.6.

African-American spiritual



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



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