



Photograph by Khoa Vo

June 6, 2021
Second Sunday after Pentecost

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	<i>Westminster Chimes</i>	
OPENING VOLUNTARY	<i>Ode to St. Cecilia's Day</i>	Georg Frideric Handel
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
OPENING HYMN	<i>Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling</i>	(see page 7)
PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Mary Hayes
	Our hearts are hard, O God--soften them with your love. Our hands are clenched, O God--open them with your grace. Our feet are planted too firmly, O God--invite us to dance with you. Our lives are not our own, we know--let us live and move and have our being in you, O God. Amen.	
		Beth Merrill Neel
WORDS OF ASSURANCE		Mary Hayes
	Hear the good news—in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Today, we begin anew. Thanks be to God!	
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>	
CENTERING MOMENT		Rev. Laura Johnson
SCRIPTURE READING		Randy Jones

John 5:1-18

After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethzatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many people who were invalids—those who were blind, lame, and paralyzed. One person was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw this person lying there for what he knew had been a long time, Jesus said, "Do you want to be made well?" That person answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the person was made well and took up the mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the religious authorities said to the one who had been cured, "It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." But the person who had been healed answered them, "The one who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked, "Who said to you, 'Take it up and walk'?" Now the person who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found the

person in the temple and said, "See, you have been made well! Do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." The one who had been healed went away and told the religious authorities that Jesus was the healer. Therefore, the authorities started persecuting Jesus for doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered, "My Abba is still working, and I also am working." For this reason the religious authorities were seeking all the more to kill Jesus, not only for breaking the sabbath, but also for calling God his own Abba, thereby claiming equality with God.

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL SELECTION

Laudamus Te (from "Gloria")
Polly Gordon, soprano
Judith Gray, alto

Antonio Vivaldi

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Sam McFerran

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

COMMUNION PRAYER

COMMUNION MUSIC

Improvisation on "Wade in the Water"

Arr. John Horman

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN

Take Me to the Water

(see page 8)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chaconne

Francois Couperin

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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 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.

Following worship, please join us for a nurture on microaggressions and building an anti-racist world co-led by Lynaya Morris, MDiv, and Rev. Sam. This conversation will take place on the same link as our worship service in place of our usual coffee hour.

Participating in Worship

John Horman, Director of Music

First Church Choir

First Church Ringers

Polly Gordon, soprano

Judith Gray, alto

Scott Herman, trumpet

Fred Marcellus, trumpet



Micro-aggressions and Their Impact on Our Ability to Build an Anti-racist World: Today Following Worship (via Zoom)

A Nurture Led by Lynaya Morris, MDiv, and Rev. Sam McFerran

We hope you can join us for this important conversation about what it means to be an anti-racist community. Using the topic of micro-aggressions as a starting point, we will explore the hard issues that sometimes get in the way from us fully committing to being an anti-racist body of Christ.

During this conversation, we will be breaking into small groups and reflect upon the following questions:

- 1) When have there been instances when positive intentions sometimes have a negative impact on being a welcoming and anti-racist community? Why is it important to reevaluate our good intentions in the light of their broader impact on the community?
- 2) Where do you have power to make a difference in creating an anti-racist society?
- 3) When welcoming a person of color into our community, whose comfort am I valuing? Whose discomfort am I tolerating? How do these dynamics play out in the common life of the church?
- 4) What are tangible ways we can be a disruptive anti-racist force?



Racial Justice Audit: Fill out the Congregational Survey Now!

[Click here](#) to complete the First Church Racial Justice Audit Survey as part of our year-long audit process. The survey includes questions from the following ministry areas: Council, Worship, Social Action & Awareness, Outreach & Membership, Care of Parish, Finance, and Facilities. Please know that your responses in each ministry section will only be shared with those Commission members; for example, your answers in the Worship section will only be viewed by members of the Worship Commission. While trends in responses will be shared with staff, staff members will not view your responses. Because the survey is comprehensive, please plan to respond when you can take the time needed to answer this in-depth survey in its entirety, as your answers will not be saved if you exit the survey and return. Of all that you do this year to contribute to our Racial Justice Audit process, this may be the most important. Thank you for taking the time to lift your voice!



Second Sunday Offering on June 14: Shaw Community Center

This month's Second Sunday Offering is Shaw Community Center or SCC. Dale Ostrander and Meg Maguire are the First Church caring ambassadors to Shaw. They both volunteer as after-school tutors and help with the Christmas gift drive. Dale is also on the Board of Trustees. They were kind enough to share this information. SCC has services available to all age groups and has been a positive impact for 30 years.

Recognizing the critical need in the Shaw neighborhood for educational and social services to benefit low-income residents, leaders of Lincoln Temple and Westmoreland UCC churches founded Shaw Community Ministry in 1991 with support from the Potomac Association.

While First Church supports Shaw through our June Second Sunday Offering, and while the organization has been successful in receiving grants, the Center needs many additional gifts and talents:

- Donors to help expand day-to-day operations and address the serious structural problems with the building the Center must now manage;
- Donors to the scholarship fund; and
- Volunteers who can help students with their homework during the school year or activities during the summer.

Your contribution will directly enrich the lives of children in our city who live on the margins. Please give generously. For more information, please see the June issue of [Gabriel's Horn](#).

Prayer List

Prayers of gratitude and grace as we celebrate the music ministry of John Horman and bless his retirement.

Prayers of joy as we celebrate Gay Pride

Prayers of gratitude that 12-15-year-olds can now be vaccinated.

Prayers of healing for Dwan Reece's daughter, Maya, with long haul COVID

Prayers of joy for Lynaya Morris upon her graduation from Wesley School of Theology.

Prayers of justice and peace for Palestinians and Israelis,
that displacement and dehumanization may end.

Prayers of healing for the people of India; medical workers, the sick and those grieving the dead.

Prayers of comfort for the family of Suzanne Snyder, following her death.

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.

Garnell Yarbrough, for continued healing

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.

Pat Ashbrook

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Timothy Rees, 1922; alt.

1 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho - liest realms of light;
 2 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev-er breath-ing on the church the breath of life;
 3 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev-er work-ing through the church-'s min - is - try—

Ho - ly Spir - it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and
 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev-er striv - ing through your peo - ple's cease-less
 Quick-en-ing, strength-en-ing, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners

blight; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev-er rais - ing earth-bound souls to glo - ry
 strife; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev-er form - ing in the church the mind of
 free; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev-er bind - ing age to age and soul to

high; Liv-ing, life - im - part-ing Spir - it; you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
 Christ: In our wor-ship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts un - priced.
 soul, In com - mu - ni - ty un - end - ing you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Timothy Rees, Welsh curate, lecturer, chaplain, and winner of the Military Cross in World War I, was appointed Bishop of Llandaff in 1931. These words were written for the Anglican Community of Mirfield, Yorkshire, of which he was a member.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.



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, LaTayna Purnell



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