



"Jesus Lulls the Storm" by Jesus Mafa

July 25, 2021

Ninth 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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Air

Raymond Haan

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

(see page 8)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

*(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

I Need You Every Hour/Thank You, Lord

Michael Gore

CHILDREN'S MOMENT FROM GENERAL SYNOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Jamey Moore

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL SELECTION

Wake Up Jesus
The Porter's Gate

OFFERING

Rev. David Lindsey

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.

Praise God from whom all bless- ings flow. Praise God all crea- tures here be -
 4 low. Al- le - lu - ia! Al- le - lu - ia! Praise God for all that love has done; Cre -
 9 a - tor, Christ and Spir- it, One. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 13 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

My Lord, I have no idea where I'm going.

I do not see the road ahead. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does please you.

I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always

though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

(The Merton Prayer)

CLOSING HYMN

Lead Us from Death to Life

(see page 9)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Echo Fanfare

Lani Smith

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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 our Zoom coffee hour, a time of fellowship with one another. The optional discussion question will be: What is the best thing that happened to you this week?

Participating in Worship

Dennis Turner, Guest Musician

First Church Choir

First Church Ringers

Pre-recorded hymns and anthems were created under the direction of John Horman.



Guest Preacher Next Sunday, August 1: Lynaya Morris

Originally from Pocomoke on Maryland's Eastern Shore Lynaya holds a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from George Washington University, and a bachelor's degree in biology from Syracuse University. She recently graduated Wesley Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Lynaya served and lived among students as part of GWU for eight years, as an Area Coordinator, Residence Director, and later a Career Coach. Lynaya currently works at Catholic University as an Academic & Career Advisor but will return to GWU as an Associate Director of Career Coaching this summer. Lynaya enjoys not just science disciplines and theology, but also creative endeavors such as baking, painting, knitting, and listening to music.

Summer Fun at Yard's Park on August 21

Join us on August 21 for summer fun at Yard's Park. Come meet Rev. Amanda in person from 10:00 AM through noon on Saturday, August 21, at Yards Park. Yards Park is located at 355 Water Street SE, Washington DC. We will meet on the west bank of the water feature. Consider packing swim clothes if you want to splash around and walking shoes to go for a stroll on the boardwalk. For more information about Yards Park, including parking options, please check out their website: <https://www.capitolriverfront.org/yards-park/faqs>. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact Kristy Goodfellow Mills with questions at kristy.a.goodfellow@gmail.com or 563.580.5558.



Memorial Service for Pat Ashbrook: August 4 at 2:00 PM

Join us in the sanctuary on Wednesday, August 4, at 2:00 PM for a Memorial Service to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Pat Ashbrook led by the Rev. Sam McFerran with John Horman providing music. [Click here](#) if you prefer to join us by Zoom. A reception hosted by Care of Parish will follow in the Community Room. The reception is being coordinated by Kristy Goodfellow. To read Pat's loving obituary written by her family to honor her life and legacy, [click here](#). Let us continue to hold Pat's family and all who have loved her in our hearts and prayers.

Regathering Update

The Regathering Task Force recommended the following changes to our Regathering Plan (for return to live worship), which were approved by Council. These changes are based on observations made during the first several weeks of Phase 3 and the rapidly improving COVID metrics in the Washington, DC area.

Phase 3 Changes

1. We welcome brief visiting (with masking) in the sanctuary after the service.
2. We plan open sign-ups, of up to 50 worshippers, for services on August 22, August 29, and September 6. To sign up, contact Kim Darling at kdarling@gmail.com.
3. In the online (pre-worship) signup form, we are now asking an optional question about household vaccination status. This is strictly to provide congregation-wide statistics for the Regathering Task Force to inform their recommendation as the church moves into Phase 4.

Phase 4 Changes

1. On September 12, we will begin using open sign-ups with no attendance limit (instead of dividing congregation into in-person groups). We will continue to ask worshippers to sign up in advance to attend in-person services, so that we have necessary information for contact tracing.
2. We welcome brief visiting (with masking) in the sanctuary and narthex after the service.
3. We will need four ushers each Sunday during Phase 4.
4. We will continue to track community case numbers. If case rates begin to rise steadily, we will step back to Phase 3.

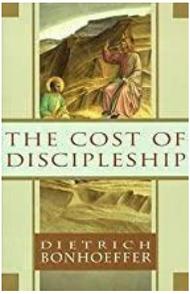
The completed updated Regathering Plan [Regathering Plan Update](#) and updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) [FAQs Update](#) can be found on our website. We acknowledge that we are taking a cautious approach, relative to other institutions. This approach is informed by our desire to prioritize the health and safety of the whole congregation and to ensure that all feel welcome and comfortable at live services. We are encouraged by the improving metrics and optimistic that we will be able to further relax our protocols in the future. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Phase 3 Schedule	
Aug. 1	Finance & CE Commissions
Aug. 8	Anti-Racism Task Force
Aug. 15	Young Adults
Aug. 22	TBD
Aug. 29	TBD



All-Church Summer Book Read: *See No Stranger* by Valerie Kaur

This year's selection is *See No Stranger* by Valerie Kaur. Valerie is a Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer. In this memoir/manifesto, Valerie shares her personal experiences confronting racism, sexual assault, and police violence and her vision for a revolutionary love that can transform and heal our personal relationships, our communities, and nation.



Theology Book Group: September 7

The Theology Book Group meets next on September 7, at 7:00 PM, to discuss Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic and ever relevant, *The Cost of Discipleship*. The meeting will be held on Zoom: <https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/93643277834>. All are welcome.

Search for New Music Director

Council is pleased to announce that we have appointed a search committee to help select a new director of music in the wake of John Horman's retirement. Marian Drake has agreed to chair the committee. She will be joined by Kristy Goodfellow Mills, Andrew Hamilton, Michael Hopkins, Emily Laing, Priscilla Waters, and Jason Carson Wilson. Jo-Anne Henry has agreed to assist the committee with its initial work of implicit bias training and preparation of a position description and announcement.

The committee hopes to begin reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates in September, with a goal of selecting a new music director by Thanksgiving. But we intend to be deliberate, to maximize our chances of attracting high-quality candidates and securing the best person for the position. In accordance with our bylaws, the committee will bring a candidate to the congregation for the congregation's approval. Upon the committee's recommendation, Council may hire the selected candidate on a temporary basis to fill the vacancy prior to the next scheduled congregational meeting. Until a new director of music is hired, we will rely on a quality pool of substitute musicians.

Council is very grateful to each of the committee members for agreeing to undertake this important task for the church. If you have ideas or suggestions for the committee, please feel free to contact Marian at mariandrake@yahoo.com.

If you have any questions about the search process, etc., please feel free to contact Moderator John Smeltzer at johnsmeltzer@gmail.com or Assistant Moderator Susan Anderson at ssba92@gmail.com.

Develop a Spiritual Practice: Come Meditate with Us!

From Nora Marsh: for the past few years, I have had a regular spiritual (non-religious) practice of participating in our Wednesday 12:15-12:45 PM meditation group. We previously met in the chapel but have been meeting remotely via Zoom since September during COVID. We do a mix of silent and guided meditations with time on either end for checking in with each other. Taking even ½-hour a week in a regular practice has been very grounding for me especially during the stress of COVID.

We welcome newcomers and drop-ins, so please give it a try. And it's free! You can contact me, Nora Marsh, at knorammarsh@icloud.com or Amanda Hendler-Voss at ahendlervoss@gmail.com to receive an invitation on Wednesday mornings. We hope to resume in the chapel in the near future.

Prayer List

Prayers of peace and liberation for Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.
Prayers of comfort for the family of Ron Hopson after the death of his nephew.
Prayers of comfort for the family of Pat Ashbrook following her death.
Prayers of healing for Dwan Reece's daughter, Maya, with long haul COVID
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.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Lead Us from Death to Life

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kumar
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985

Refrain

C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

s-pair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus - tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

 peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus - tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

The text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World Peace Prayer." It is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism. Since its introduction at a service in Westminster Abbey on Hiroshima Day, 1981, the prayer has been translated into numerous languages and circulated around the world. The musical setting and additional stanzas were composed by Marty Haugen, composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER
 12.11.9.10. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1985

Phase 3 Protocol for In-Person Worship:

- Please keep your mask on at all times
- Observe physical distance from those outside your family group
- Please refrain from singing
- Place your completed survey in the basket as you exit
- One family group at a time in the elevator
- Remain in the sanctuary for an optional time of fellowship with one another



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
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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