

BUILDING A
JUST
&
LOVING
COMMUNITY

August 15, 2021
Twelfth 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

Rotation 2
Michael Hopkins, marimba

Eric Sammut

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

(see page 6)

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

Be Still
Michael Hopkins and Abigail Cipparone

The Fray

SCRIPTURE READING

Moira Jones

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the King of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan several times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if

the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash and be clean'?" So Naaman went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the prophet of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young child, and he was clean.

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL SELECTION

Have Mercy on Me
David Gungor

The Porter's Gate

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

Lasst Uns Erfruen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER, UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

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

There is a Balm in Gilead

(see page 7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kim Darling

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love/I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Ghanaian folk song, African American Spiritual
Arr. Michael Hopkins

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.

Following worship, please join us for our Zoom coffee hour, a time of fellowship with one another.

The optional discussion question will be:

What parts of summer do you want to savor (or what things do you want to do) before the start of fall?

Participating in Worship

First Church Choir

First Church Ringers

Michael Hopkins

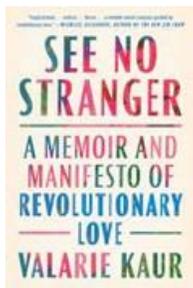
Abigail Cipparone

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

Michael Hopkins is a native of Raleigh, NC, and grew up in the Presbyterian Church. He attended Northwestern University where he earned dual Bachelor's Degrees in Civil Engineering and Percussion Performance. He then pursued graduate studies at Cleveland Institute of Music and has worked as a percussionist in "The President's Own" United States Marine Band since 2018. Michael enjoys sports, architecture, design, civic engagement, and southern food.

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.

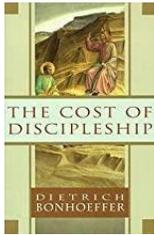


All-Church Summer Book Read: *See No Stranger* by Valerie Kaur

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.

Summer Read Book Discussion

Join us by Zoom following the worship service on August 29 as we discuss our congregational summer read, *See No Stranger*, by Valerie Kaur. If you are in need of a book, please contact Rev. Amanda who has an extra book to share (donated by Jamey Moore). We hope you will join us for a deeper dive into this profound book.



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.

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 knoramarsh@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 comfort for the family of Joan King, following her death, and for this community who loved her.

Prayers for Monte Hillis and her husband Bert, as she faces the rapid onset of dementia.

Prayers of healing for Lance Warren.

Prayers of peace and liberation for Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.

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.

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul. *Fine*

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

to Refrain

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

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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