



Psalm 85 by John August Swanson

August 29, 2021  
Fourteenth 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

*Prelude in C*

Louis Vierne

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN

*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

(see page 8)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lindsay Swisher

MOMENT FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

Andrew Hamilton

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

*(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

*Inner Peace*

Tom Barabas

SCRIPTURE READING

Anthony Leonard

Revelation 21:3-6; 22:1-6

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's people, and God will indeed be with them; God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the former things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." And this one also said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then the same one said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship God; they will see God's face, and the divine name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Sovereign God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And the angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent an angel to show God's servants what must soon take place."

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL SELECTION

*One Brick*

Fran McKendree & Brian McLaren

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

*Lasst Uns Erfruen*

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, 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

*Wade in the Water*

(see page 9)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*I Got Peace Like a River*

Arr. Fred Bock

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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](http://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: Where have you experienced God this week?

### Participating in Worship

First Church Choir

First Church Ringers

Dr. Karen Bartman, Guest Musician

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

### Summer Read Book Discussion Today Following Worship

Following worship, please remain on the Zoom call to join us for conversation on our congregational summer read, "See No Stranger" by Valerie Kaur.

### Sign Up to Serve as Liturgist or Reader this Fall

As we move into autumn, we welcome fresh faces and voices in worship to serve as liturgists or scripture readers. [Click here](#) to sign up to serve. Liturgists provide either a Call to Worship or lead the Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance. Both liturgists and scripture readers can lead from the sanctuary or from home by Zoom; please specify when you sign up. Our worship theme will be "Journey with Us." Questions? Contact Rev. Amanda.

### Sign Up for In-person Worship

"I was surprised how meaningful it felt to be in person."

"I got chills hearing Amanda speak in person. Incredible!"

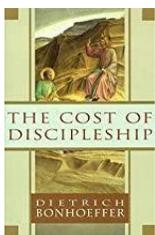
"Loved being in the space and hearing the music live."

"Seeing people was so meaningful."

These are just a few of the comments we've collected from folks who have joined us for worship in the sanctuary. We hope that all who feel comfortable would find an opportunity to sign up and see how the experience works for them.

As we transition from summer to fall, we are also transitioning from inviting people to attend worship in person to open sign ups. In-person worship will still be limited to 25 people per Sunday given our area's current case rates, and we continue to require masking and physical distancing.

[Click here](#) to sign up to worship in-person in the sanctuary any of the next four Sundays. This link will always take you to the sign-up sheet and will always contain the next four Sundays. If you have trouble signing up with this link, please contact Kim Darling directly [kdarling@gmail.com](mailto:kdarling@gmail.com)



### 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.



### Next Sunday, September 5: Faith and Justice, Labor in the Pulpit

For our sixth year, First Church will be honoring Labor Day by focusing on worker justice. The pandemic has shown us just how vulnerable millions of American workers and their families are because of a lack of a living wage, health benefits, and a safety net to support them in their retirement. The faith community has an important role to both be a prophetic voice for economic and social justice, but to be in solidarity with these workers and their families during these difficult times.

This year, we are so excited and honored to welcome Rev West McNeil (they/them) of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State and tri-chair of the New York State Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral revival. For the past decade they have organized with faith communities, labor unions and grassroots community groups around economic justice and human rights. West is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and holds an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where they were a Fellow with the Kairos Center. Prior to joining Labor-Religion Coalition in 2014, West was a parish minister in Tacoma, WA. They have a B.A. in journalism from Ithaca College.

We look forward to welcoming West via Zoom, and we hope you can join us!

Please email Rev. Sam McFerran for any questions at [mcferran.sam@gmail.com](mailto:mcferran.sam@gmail.com).

### September 5 Nurture on Music in Worship:

Please join the Music Director Search Committee on Sunday, September 5 from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. for a nurture focused on music in worship. We will hear from you about how you view the purpose of music in our worship services. *Is it your channel to praising God, your opportunity for personal reflection, your time and place to develop community, etc.?* During the nurture, we will be **inviting everyone** to share reflections on songs that are particularly meaningful to you. For those of you who can’t join, we’d love for you to participate by responding via email—a quick email to [kristy.a.goodfellow@gmail.com](mailto:kristy.a.goodfellow@gmail.com) with a song title and a short explanation will do! The Music Director Search Committee will compile the music and share with the congregation as part of this journey of understanding and appreciating our dynamic perspectives on music in worship.



### Zoom Gathering of Remembrance Honoring Joan King:

Sept 12 at 3:00 PM

[Click here](#) to join us on Sunday, September 12 at 3:00 PM by Zoom for a Gathering of Remembrance to honor the life and mourn the loss of Joan King. This will be a virtual-only gathering including Joan's family from across the country. We will gather to hear stories of how Joan impacted our lives, light candles to represent her light in the world, hear her favorite hymn, view a

slideshow, and pray together. Please plan to join us for this deeply felt gathering to remember our beloved Joan. Her family also invites you to share memories and photographs of Joan at <https://www.forevermissed.com/joan-m-king/about>. Or, if you prefer, you can send photos, stories, or memories to [JoanLifeandMemories@gmail.com](mailto:JoanLifeandMemories@gmail.com) and her daughter Jennifer will add them to the website on your behalf. Let us continue to hold Joan's family in our prayers, that the God of all comfort will be with them and with all of us as we remember Joan.

## Wanted: Ushers!



### Perks:

Access, access, access - to the "brick-and-mortar" version of church

Seeing fellow members and friends in person

The fun of directing crowds (sizes may vary)

Checklists - who doesn't love a good checklist?

Some semblance of what was and what will be

Not Zoom

### Downside:

Pajamas discouraged (slippers optional)

If interested, please sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FAAA72AA1FF2-first1>

Thanks so much,

Outreach and Membership Commission



### Welcome Maria Thompson, New Administrative Assistant

It is with immense gratitude to Cindy Dobbs, who has kept our congregation functioning through many seasons, including a global pandemic, and also with great joy that we welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Maria Thompson. Maria will begin working in the office on Tuesday so she can overlap with Cindy's last week and receive hands-on training. Please take the time to read Maria's bio below, and to welcome her to First Church. We ask for your patience as Maria begins to learn the job. A tremendous thanks to our Administrative Assistant Search Committee, chaired by Lucille Dickinson, staffed by Rev. Amanda, and including Alyx Cheng, Peter Tracey, and Allison Truhlar for bringing such a strong candidate to Council, and thank you to Council for their approval of this hire.

Maria, originally from New York City, grew up in Spanish Harlem, where her parents migrated from Puerto Rico. She is the youngest of five sisters and likes to say she "...was made in Puerto Rico but born in NYC!" She moved to Atlanta GA in 1994 with her then ten-year-old daughter, Gabrielle. She accepted an 'experimental' position at the Archdiocese of Atlanta as assistant to both the Director of Development and Chancellor for Operations and Administration, then advanced to positions including special aide to the Vicar General; Spanish language interpreter [she is bi-lingual, Spanish being her first language]; archdiocesan liaison to the 1996 International Olympic Committee; event planner for the archbishop's residence when they embarked in a \$50MM campaign that resulted in three times the goal! This was her introduction to the world of hospitality.

Maria moved on to Callanwolde Fine Arts Center as the Rental and Events Director for four years before joining the Capital City Club at Brookhaven where she held the position of Catering Director. In 2003, Maria was recruited by the owner of a not-yet-built five-star resort, to be a member of the Founding Executive Team in the capacities of director of both human resources and catering of what is now The Old Edwards Inn & Spa in Highlands NC.

With her daughter Gabrielle in college at Duke University, she decided to move back to NYC where she accepted the position of assistant to the rabbinical placement director of the Reform Movement. After five years in NYC and "because the South had made me soft," she relocated to DC in 2011 to serve as executive assistant to the executive director of a large DC synagogue until June 2020, when the pandemic impacted organizational finances resulting in staff cuts.

Maria enjoys her life here with all DMV has to offer in the way of the fine arts, lectures, culinary delights, music, and all things cultural! Maria is an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction - especially psychological thrillers – both written and in film. She misses her daughter Gabrielle, son-in-law Peter and her two grandchildren, Liliana Aubrey (5) and Noah Peter (3) in NYC. She is on an ongoing 'gentle' campaign to get them to look at the DMV as their next destination.

### Prayer List

Prayers for Priscilla Waters as her sister, Pat, remains in ICU  
Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan, for those being evacuated,  
and for all who have served there.  
Prayers of strength for the people of Haiti as they mourn those lost in the earthquake  
and begin to rebuild.  
Prayers of gratitude and blessing for Cindy Dobbs as she departs from her position  
as our Administrative Assistant.  
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.

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -  
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -  
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.  
all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

## Wade in the Water

♩ = 50

Dm C#dim7/E Dm/F Em7 A7 Dm C#dim7/E Dm/F Em7 A7

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren.

Dm C#dim7/E F/C G/B B7 Dm/A G#dim7/A A7(b9) Dm

Last time, Fine

Wade in the wa - ter, God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

C#dim7 F/C G7/B B7

1. Who's that you - der dressed in red? \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Who's that you - der dressed in white? \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Who's that you - der dressed in blue? \_\_\_\_\_

Dm/A G#dim7/A A7(b9) Dm

God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. Must  
 God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. Must  
 God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. Must

C#dim7 F/C G7/B B7

he the chil - dren that Mo - ses led.  
 he the chil - dren of the Is - rael - ites.  
 he the chil - dren, now let them through.

Dm/A G#dim7/A A7(b9) Dm D.C.

God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.  
 God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.  
 God's gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

## 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](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  
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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