



September 5, 2021 Labor Justice Sunday

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

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

Wilbur Held

WELCOME

Rev. Sam McFerran

OPENING HYMN

Here I Am Lord

(see page 7)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrew Hamilton

BAPTISM OF ARTHUR J. MILLS

INTRODUCTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CALL TO PARENTS:

Do you desire to have your child baptized into the Christian faith? If so, please answer "we do."

RESPONSE: We do.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with your child in faith, to help him be a faithful member of the Christian community? If so, please answer "we do, with the help of God."

RESPONSE: We do, with the help of God.

Do you promise to love Arthur for your whole life, to bring him to church when you come, and to help him learn to know Jesus?" If so, please say, "We do."

RESPONSE: We do.

COMMUNITY ASSENT & COVENANT

MODERATOR: Today Arthur's community of faith witnesses the sacrament of his baptism. And so I ask all of you who are present as the friends and family of Arthur, do you, who witness and celebrate this baptism, promise your love, support and care to him as he lives and grows in Christ? If so, please answer "we do, with the help of God."

ALL: We do, with the help of God.

MODERATOR: Let us now proclaim our covenant in community.

ALL: In grateful response to the call of Jesus Christ, we covenant with God and with each other to be a church of Christ. We bind ourselves, in God's redeeming presence, to walk together in ways revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in sacrament and Word, study and prayer, fellowship and mission.

WELCOMING BY NAME

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Rev. Karl Goodfellow

PRESENTATION

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Little Children, Welcome"

(see page 8)

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

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

A Prayer for the Innocent

George Frederick McKay

SCRIPTURE READING

Lauren McFerran

James 2:1-18

My siblings, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved siblings. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom promised to those who love God? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my siblings, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a sibling is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Rev. Sam McFerran

SERMON

Rev. E. West McNeill

MUSICAL SELECTION

"Amen/We Shall Overcome"

Shades of Yale

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

As we worship virtually, we invite you to give virtually. 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. Amanda Hendler-Voss

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.

CLOSING HYMN

"We Are One in the Spirit"

(see page 9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

BENEDICTION

Rev. E. West McNeill

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fugue in D Major a 3

George Frideric Handel

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: Where have you experienced God this week?

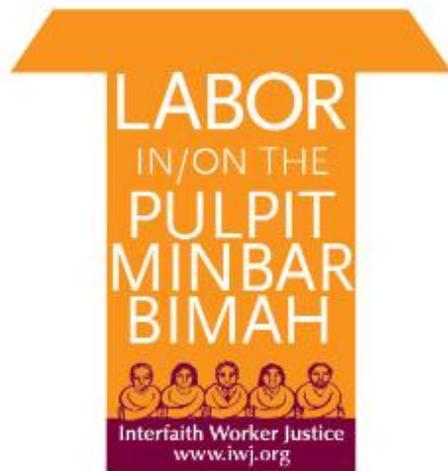
Participating in Worship

First Church Choir

First Church Ringers

Dr. Karen Bartman, Guest Musician

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



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.

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

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.

Prayers of recovery for Rev. Sam's mother after surgery.

Here I Am Lord

Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

All

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Little Children, Welcome

Unison

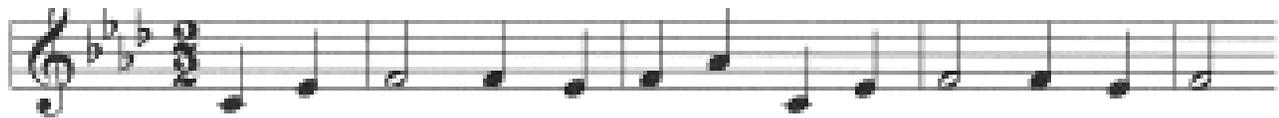
The first system of music consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

*1 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! Earth is yours to live in;
2 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! Je - sus cares a - bout you;
3 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! We, the church of Je - sus,
4 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! God will make you hap - py,

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

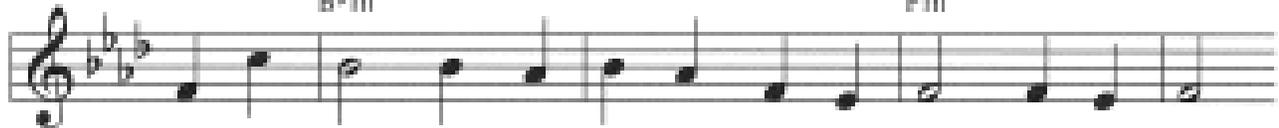
arms of love pro - tect you, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!
Je - sus now en - folds you, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!
we will help your grow - ing, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!
Je - sus save and keep you, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!

We Are One in the Spirit



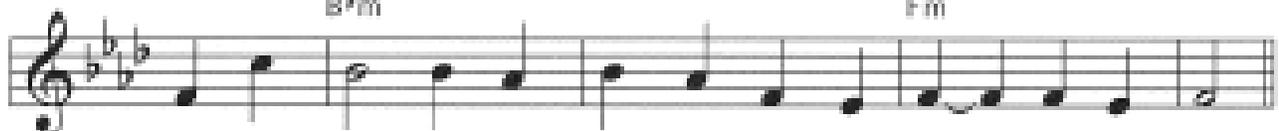
1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

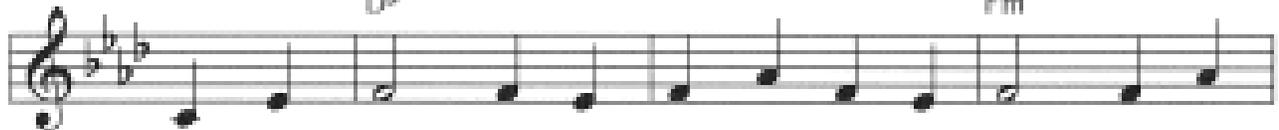
(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain

(C) (Em)
 D^b Fm



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
 B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.



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. Maria Thompson
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell



945 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001
Phone: 202.628.4317 • Fax: 202.347.4911

www.firstuccdc.org