

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season. Psalm 1: 3a*



October 10, 2021

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

Invocation

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

(see page 7)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Laura Johnson

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Alisa Tanaka-Dodge

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

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

The Gift of Love

Hal Hopson

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:17-31

Lindsay Swisher

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, someone ran up and knelt before him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your parents.’” The questioner said to Jesus, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus looked upon the questioner with love and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to those who are poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” Having heard this, the person was shocked and went away grieving, for the questioner had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or siblings or parents or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, siblings, parents and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL SELECTION

Rooted in Your Love

Natalia Serna (La Muna)

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.

DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Geneva Psalter

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

A Prayer of Julian of Norwich

**In you, God all-mighty, we have our bliss.
In you, Christ, we have our saving.
You are our mother, brother, and savior.
In you, Holy Spirit, is marvelous grace.
You are our maker, lover, and keeper.
Teach us to believe that by your grace, all shall be well,
And all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

The Summons

(see page 8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

SUNG BLESSING

Now I Walk in Beauty (A Navajo Prayer)

Gregg Smith

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

All Good Gifts

Stephen Schwartz (Godspell)

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Connect with us!

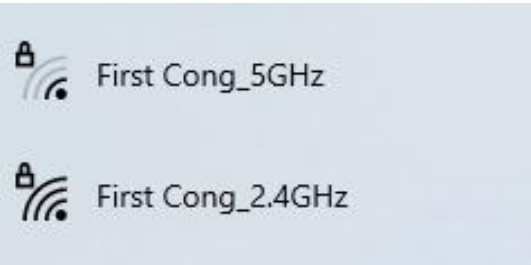
If you are worshiping from afar but would like to connect with the First Church community, please [click here](#) to fill out a Visitor's Card and check out our newsletters on our website www.firstuccdc.org. We are so grateful to extend our reach beyond the DC region and welcome you warmly!

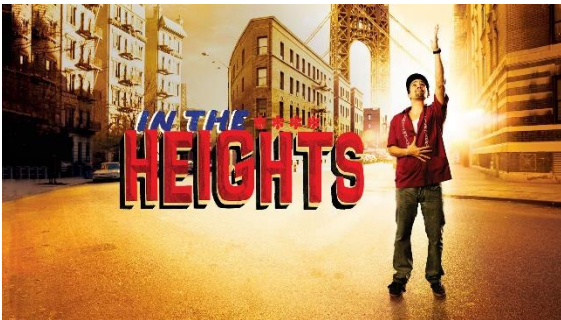
*With gratitude we thank Alyx Cheng and Allison Truhlar for serving as our Zoom moderators each week. Their work makes our worship possible!
We also thank Tom Sowers and Graham Marsh, our sound designers.*

Participating in Worship

First Church Choir
First Church Ringers
Dennis Turner, guest musician

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

	<p>First Church wifi password:</p> <p>first1865</p> <p>To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.</p>
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Fall Movie Night: October 16

Join Care of Parish this Saturday, October 16 for a viewing of “In the Heights.” The movie will start at 7 p.m. and is 143 minutes long. The movie will be shown in the church sanctuary, where it should be easy to social distance. COP will provide a seasonal snack during a 15-minute intermission (served outside). Please bring whatever you need to make yourselves

comfortable for a movie—a camping chair, a blanket and pillow, etc.—and a mask. RSVP to Kristy Goodfellow Mills at Kristy.a.goodfellow@gmail.com or call or text (563) 580-5558. The number of participants will be limited to 35. The parking garage will be available starting at 6:30 p.m.

Serve as an Usher for In-Person Worship

We are also seeking ushers for our in-person services. We currently need 3 ushers per Sunday. Ushers will greet people and check everyone in at the door to register attendance. [Click here](#) to sign up.

Second Sunday Offering: Neighbors in Need

This October we are gathering donations for Neighbors in Need (NIN), a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. In 2021 the NIN “Unfailing Love” offering supports organizations and projects that serve homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). The other two-thirds will fund grants to UCC churches and organizations to lead justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

Two projects that received NIN funding:

- **Hope Station Nogales to provide reverse sanctuary to deportees in Mexico.**
A United Church of Christ sanctuary church offering immigrants refuge in the Arizona borderlands will soon offer a place of hospitality, support and hope on the Mexican

side of the border for people deported from the U.S. The Shadow Rock UCC Sanctuary Team are in the process of establishing Hope Station Nogales in Sonora, Mexico.

- **Houston teens learn wage activism from working adults**

This summer with a Neighbors in Need grant, 24 students from an economically challenged neighborhood learned about activism and carried out a local campaign for a \$15 minimum-wage law. The Rev. Darnell Fennell pastors [Just Love Church](#) and teaches high school social studies. With a background in community organizing, he sought the NIN grant to introduce young people to local activists in the national Fight for \$15 wage campaign.

Sacred Conversation with Rev. Amanda: October 17

Join us after worship on Sunday, October 17 for a sacred congregational conversation with Rev. Amanda in anticipation of our congregational vote the following Sunday on calling her to become our permanent senior minister. This will be an opportunity for all members and friends of the church to share their hopes for the church as well as any concerns. We will ask Amanda questions about her vision for the church's ministry. We hope for a time of collaborative imagining for our continuing ministry together. Please plan to join us by Zoom or in person.

Upcoming Outdoor Service: October 17

Join Rev. Sam next Sunday at Anacostia Park (by pavilion) for an experiential worship service for children and their families. Services begin at 10:00; please arrive by 9:45 AM. The theme for the service is "What Does God Require of Me?" and we ask you to bring non-perishable food donations for Martha's Table. The service will include a Gathering, Dramatic Reading of the Story, Sharing the Message, Offering, Prayers, and Sending. Please connect with Rev. Sam if your children would like to help lead the service.

Call to Fall Congregational Meeting: October 24, 2021

The Church will gather for its Fall Congregational Meeting after worship services on October 24, 2021. The topics on the agenda will include:

- a vote on a motion from Council to call the Reverend Amanda Hendler-Voss, to be our permanent senior minister;
- an update on Church finances and presentation of the asking budget for 2022;
- an update on our plans for further reopening of the Church for in-person worship and other events, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- an update on staff vacancies (Director of Music Ministry and Administrative Assistant);
- an update on our Racial Justice Audit; and
- other reports/issues from the community.

You may attend via zoom or in person from the sanctuary. To join from the sanctuary, you will need to sign up for in-person worship, in accordance with phase three of our regathering plan. To sign up for in-person worship, please [click here](#). Save the date and plan to join us in conducting the important business of the church. We need full participation to ensure a

quorum for the vote! Questions for Council? Please contact Moderator John Smeltzer (johnsmeltzer@gmail.com) or Assistant Moderator Susan Anderson (ssba92@gmail.com).

Prayer List

Prayers of healing for Diane Brenneman's daughter Sara as she recovers from surgery.

Prayers for Priscilla Waters upon the loss of her sister, Pat.

Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan and Afghan families resettling here.

Prayers of strength for the people of Haiti.

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

Prayers for Lance Warren as he prepares for surgery.

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

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.

Prayers of comfort for all who mourn the loss of a beloved one from COVID-19.

Prayers of mercy for families struggling to eat and make ends meet.

Prayers of love for People's UCC, our sibling congregation.

Gratitude for Emmanuel Okorie-Dunn and Ellen Bushmiller, who serve as nurses, and Rev. Laura Johnson and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, who serve as chaplains.

NURTURE

459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

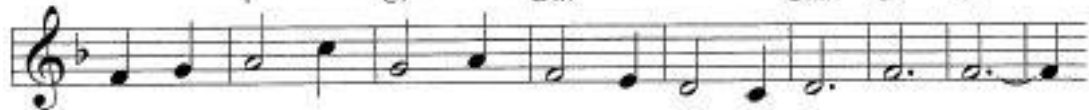
Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 hum, rather than sing
- 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
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell



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