



Rooted in Love



October 17, 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

Meditation

Douglas Wagner

As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. Psalm 42:1

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

(see page 6-7)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nora Marsh

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Fredda Sparks

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

Kum Ba Ya ("O Lord, come by here")

arr. Philip Keveren

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 53:1-6

Garnell Yarbrough

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

INTRODUCTION OF PREACHER

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

SERMON

"Against Scapegoating"

Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson

MUSICAL OFFERING

Christ Has Broken Down The Wall

Mark Miller

OFFERING

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

We invite you to give in person or 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,
and PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

(see page 8-9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

BENEDICTION

Now I Walk In Beauty (A Navajo Prayer)

Gregg Smith

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Trumpet In Dialogue

Louis Nicolas Clerambault

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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 be extending our reach beyond the DC region and welcome you warmly!

With gratitude we thank Alyx Cheng, Allison Truhlar, and Abigail Cippaorone 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
Dr. Karen Bartman

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



Guest Preacher: Dr. Ron Hopson

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson into our pulpit this morning. Dr. Hopson is Associate Professor of Psychology and Divinity at Howard University. Dr. Hopson received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Michigan State University. He attended Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University and is ordained in the United Church of Christ. His most current work is in the area of Sexuality and the Black Church, for which he was recently honored with a Prophetic Ministry Award by Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice at the 2021 General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Dr. Hopson previously served this congregation and continues to be an Associate Member and

beloved friend. He recently led implicit bias training for our Director of Music Ministry Search Committee. We warmly welcome home the Rev. Dr. Ron Hopson!

Prayer List

Prayers of healing for Lance Warren as he recovers from surgery.

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 in the U.S.

Prayers of strength for the people of Haiti as they mourn
those lost in the earthquake and begin to rebuild.

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 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.

All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.

Families struggling to eat and make ends meet.

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.

Call to Conversation with the Rev. Amanda & Call to Fall Meeting

Conversation with the Reverend Amanda – Today after Worship Service

The Church Council convened on October 5, 2021, to continue our planned three-step process for calling the Reverend Amanda Hendler-Voss to be our permanent senior minister. Amanda has served since March 2020 as our *designated* senior minister (a time-limited role). At the first step of the call process to permanent ministry, the Designated Minister Relations Team (DMRT) met with Amanda on September 29, 2021, for a progress review focused on the three goals established for her designated ministry: (1) to assist us on our continuing journey to become a multiracial and multicultural church, (2) to strengthen our church community, and (3) to develop consensus about the social justice issues to prioritize within the mission of the church. Council received an enthusiastic report from DMRT and then initiated the second step of the process, a series of sacred conversations with Amanda about the future ministry of the church. Following its conversation with Amanda, Council voted unanimously to extend a call to Amanda to be our permanent minister, subject to ratification by vote of the congregation.

We now invite the full congregation to participate directly in this process. Please join us **today after worship service** for an all-church gathering to continue the sacred conversation with Amanda on our future ministry. This will be an opportunity for all members and friends of the church to share their concerns and hopes for the church and to ask questions of Amanda about her ideas and visions for the church's ministry. We hope for a time of collaborative imagining as we think about and plan for our continuing ministry and mission together, both physically at 10th and G Streets and across our newfound virtual platform.

The third and final step in this process will be a vote by the congregation at our fall congregational meeting on **October 24, 2021**, on a motion from Council to call the Reverend Amanda to be our next permanent senior minister.

Call to Fall Congregational Meeting on October 24, 2021

The church will gather for its Fall Congregational Meeting after worship services on October 24, 2021. Topics on the agenda will include (1) a vote on a motion from Council to call the Reverend Amanda Hendler-Voss to be our permanent senior minister, (2) an update on church finances and presentation of the asking budget for 2022, (3) 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, (4) an update on staff vacancies (Director of Music Ministry and Administrative Assistant), (5) an update on our Racial Justice Audit, and (6) other reports/issues from the community.

We are working to make it possible for members to attend either via zoom or from the church. To participate from the church, you will need to sign up for in-person worship on the 24th. Please plan to join us in conducting the important business of the church. We need full participation to ensure a quorum for the vote!

If you have any questions, please contact moderator John Smeltzer (johnsmeltzer@gmail.com) or assistant moderator Susan Anderson (ssba92@gmail.com). Thank you!

Holy, Holy, Holy

Rev. 4:8-11; Isa. 6:1-8

Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.

Descant

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

TRINITY SUNDAY

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

This hymn by Reginald Heber was published in a book of hymns for Banbury Parish Church in England. Nicaea, one of nearly 300 tunes by John B. Dykes, was named for the famous council that defined the doctrine of the Trinity.

Tune: NICAEA 11.12.12.10.
John B. Dykes, 1861
Descant David McK. Williams, 1948

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My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in *Bright Jewels* for the Sunday School,
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing-ing?
 Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing-ing?

	<p>First Church wifi password:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">first1865</p> <p>To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.</p>
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Serve as an Usher for In-Person Worship

We are 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.

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, the hymns.
- 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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