

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



November 14, 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

*Let All Things Now Living*

David Cherwien

WELCOME

Rev. Sam McFerran

OPENING HYMN

***Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

(see page 7)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Katherine Antos

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

David Greer

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

*Morning Has Broken*

arr. Larry Shackley

SCRIPTURE READING

*Mark 13:1-8*

Myles Bohrer-Purnell

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am the one!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

SERMON

"The Beginning of the Birth Pangs"

Rev. Dr. David Lindsey

MUSICAL SELECTION

*We Shall Be Known*

MaMuse  
(feat. Thrive Choir)

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

*We invite you to give in person or virtually. 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

**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. Sam McFerran  
Interpreted by Sarah Dylan Breuer

**Loving Creator, we honor you, and we honor all that you have made.  
Renew the whole world in the image of your love.  
Give us what we need for today,  
And a hunger to see the whole world fed.  
Strengthen us for what lies ahead;  
Heal us from the hurts of the past,  
Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.  
For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need,  
In this world and in the world to come. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

**We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky**

(see page 8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sam McFerran

SUNG BENEDICTION

*Now I Walk In Beauty (A Navajo Prayer)*

Gregg Smith

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. Gayden Sikes

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\* Please rise, in body or in spirit.

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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](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, 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

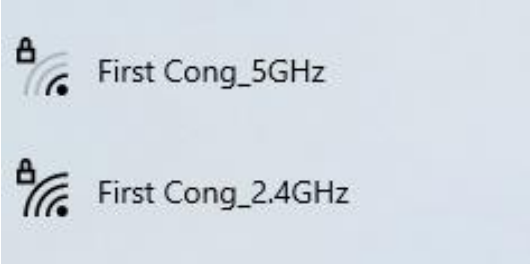
First Church Choir  
First Church Ringers  
Guest musician Karen Bartman

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

### Guest Preacher: Dr. David Lindsey



Rev. Dr. David B. Lindsey serves as the Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington. Ordained in the UCC in 2003, David has served local churches in California, Minnesota, and Northern Virginia. He grew up Southern Baptist in Kentucky and Indiana at a time when that denomination was splitting. Finding himself spiritually homeless, David spent years studying a variety of world religions, particularly Tibetan Buddhism and Zen Buddhism. Still, he felt called to Christian ministry, so he finished his Bachelor's degree in theatre at Centre College (KY) and moved west to Claremont School of Theology in Southern California. There, he encountered the United Church of Christ for the first time. Outside of work, David and his wife Carrie ordinarily like to spend time travelling domestically and internationally. During the pandemic, most of their energy has been spent on creative projects at home, including David's lifelong interests in writing music and poetry. He and Carrie currently attend her Lutheran church online on Sunday mornings, then join the First Congregational service online. First Church was grateful to welcome David as a member in October, 2020.

	First Church wifi password:  <b>first1865</b>  To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.
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### Second Sunday Offering

Our November Second Sunday offering is dedicated to two organizations: **Through Piscataway Eyes** and **Strengthen the Church**, a special offering of the United Church of Christ.

**Through Piscataway Eyes** seeks to "enhance understanding of the Piscataway People as original Native People, Marylanders, and Americans by providing educational and interpretive opportunities regarding Piscataway culture in Southern Maryland." Their initiatives include a land trust, cultural center, housing assistance, and healthcare and education funds. Through this offering, we acknowledge the legacy and presence of the Piscataway

people in this area, and support them in carrying this heritage forward (you can read their detailed master plan [here](#)). During this month of Thanksgiving, we also acknowledge the loss this holiday represents to Indigenous Americans. You can read more about the real history of Thanksgiving in [this Smithsonian Magazine article](#), one of many resources to help us reflect on the sources and costs of white privilege and plenty in this nation.

The UCC's special offering, **Strengthen the Church**, supports new church starts, youth ministry, and innovative projects within local churches. Having previously received grant funding from STC for her new church start, Land of the Sky UCC, Rev. Amanda can attest to its significance in growing the UCC, particularly in places where progressive, ONA churches do not currently exist. Learn more [here](#).

## Greening the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas: November 21st

The Worship Commission invites you to help decorate the sanctuary and narthex on Sunday, November 21st, following worship. We'll start at 11:45 am or thereabouts. Join us! Lunch plans will need to be outdoors per regathering guidelines. Please let Lucille Dickinson know if you plan to help: [lucilledickinson@aol.com](mailto:lucilledickinson@aol.com).

## Next Outdoor Children's Service: Nov. 21st

Our next outdoor service will be at Anacostia Park on Sunday, November 21st at 10:00 AM. We will meet near the Pavillion at 1900 Anacostia Dr., Washington, DC 20020. [Click here](#) to sign up. We hope you can make it! And bundle up, as winter is approaching! If you have any questions or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Sam at 202-294-5437.

### 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>

## Prayer List

Prayers of love for Peg Lorenz, who is in Hospice Care  
Prayers of healing for Hugh Bushmiller  
Prayer for the mother of Cynthia Hobbs as Cynthia cares for her.  
Prayers of healing for Bob Crossley as he recovers from a fall.  
Prayers of healing for Priscilla Waters as she recovers from a back injury.  
Prayers of healing for Liz and Lance Warren, as Liz recovers from a fall and Lance  
recovers from surgery.  
Prayers of healing for Diane Brenneman's daughter Sara  
as she recovers from surgery.  
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.

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

# 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.



## 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.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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  
Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss  
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran  
Building Manager – Byron Adams  
Administrative Assistant – Trista Dunlap  
Sexton – Ines Marquez  
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

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