

February 13, 2022

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

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.

Luke 7:11-17

The day after healing a centurion's slave Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. He had just approached the gate of the town and suddenly, being carried out was a man who had died, his mother's only son and she was a widow; with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Messiah saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then Jesus came forward and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God visited God's people!" This word about Jesus spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Remember Mercy"

The Many

OFFERING

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

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"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER,
AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Our Creator in heaven, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best – As above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes.

CLOSING HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

(see page 7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Arise Your Light is Come"

*Arise your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"Glory To God On High"

George Blake

Music reprinted with permission by One License A-720443.

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, Abigail Cipparone and Allison Truhlar for serving as our Zoom moderators each week. Their work

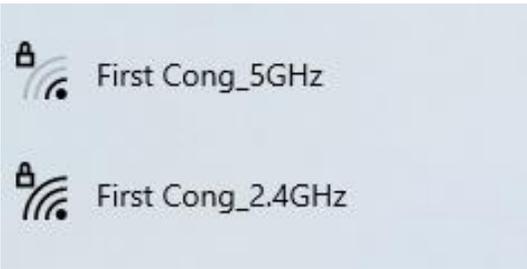
makes our worship possible! We also thank Tom Sowers and Graham Marsh, our sound designers in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Participating in Worship

First Church Choir

Dennis Turner, Guest Musician

(All pre-recorded hymns were created under the direction of John Horman)

	First Church Wi-Fi password: first1865 To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.
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Inquirers' Gathering: February 13

Save the date of February 13, following worship, to join Rev. Amanda, Rev. Sam, Moderator Susan Anderson, members of our Outreach & Membership Commission, and newcomers for our winter Inquirer's Gathering. This will be a time of getting to know one another, sharing stories, exploring the history of First Church and the UCC, and answering any questions about membership. All newcomers are welcome to attend! This virtual gathering will happen by Zoom following worship at

11:40; those who plan to attend can remain on the worship Zoom call. If you plan to attend, please email Rev. Amanda at ahendlervoss@gmail.com; however, you do not have to RSVP to attend.



Note Regarding Translation

Today's gender-expansive translation of the biblical texts comes from the Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney, a Hebrew biblical scholar and Episcopal priest, a former Army chaplain, and a congregational pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. This translation hails from her new lectionary *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*, published by Church World Publishing Incorporated in 2021.

February 2022 Second Sunday Offering

The Second Sunday offering on February 13 will be split between Thrive DC and Seabury's Age-in-Place Program.

Thrive DC works to prevent and end homelessness by providing vulnerable individuals a comprehensive range of services -- meals, showers, laundry, and more -- to help stabilize their lives. Originally founded and housed at First Church from 1979 to 2009 (when it was

known as the Dinner Program for Homeless Women), Thrive DC is comprehensive, professionally staffed, and bilingual, now located at 1525 Newton Street NW. It is unique in providing the last available safety net for people facing economic crisis and housing instability while also providing the first step toward independence for people experiencing extended periods of homelessness.

Seabury's Age-In-Place program Seabury Resources for Aging specialized and affordable services, including housing, to seniors in the Washington, D.C. area. Those services give them the independence to live with dignity. Seabury offerings include congregational resources and LGBTQ+ programs. Go to [Seabury Resources for Aging | Age-In-Place®](#) for more information.

Please give generously for the benefit of these two programs.



Nurture Program on A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: February 20

Following worship on Sunday, February 20, join us for a hybrid nurture program on "Year W: A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church." The Rev. Mahogany Thomas, Executive Minister at Peoples Congregational UCC, will join us as a panelist reflecting on Dr. Wil Gafney's revolutionary new lectionary from a womanist perspective. The Rev. Barbara Gerlach will also serve as a panelist, reflecting on the history of inclusive language in our congregation and the denomination. Lynaya Morris, Master of Divinity will engage us in a time of Q and A discussion. Please join us as we discuss Year W, the lectionary we are using at First

Church this year.



Lenten Book Circles: Sign Up Now

During the forty days of Lent (beginning March 2), we invite you to deepen your faith journey with the spiritual practice of community learning by joining a Lenten Book Circle. Each circle will focus on a book rooted in antiracism and provide space for a community circle (gathering virtually) to share facilitation, dialogue, and personal reflections. Books range from a novella and somatic healing to DC history, theology, and parenting. Each circle will include 6-8 individuals, including a virtual host or co-hosts from the Anti-Racism Committee who helped to select these books. [Click here](#) to complete the sign-up form; please as soon as possible (deadline is February 20) so we can create the circles and allow time for the circle host to be in touch with your group to schedule discussion times. Let this be our spiritual practice in Lent as we prepare our hearts for the journey to the cross, the tomb, and beyond into resurrection. All

are welcome.

NURTURE

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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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Peg Lorenz, following her death.

Prayers of healing for Byron Adams following a fracture to his hand.

Prayers of strength for LaTayna Purnell as she provides care for her ailing parents.

Prayers of support for Andre, the mother of Scott Prentice, as she battles leukemia.

Prayers of support for Diane Brenneman and her daughter Sara.

Prayers of healing for Liz and Lance Warren.

Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan and Afghan families resettling in the U.S.

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

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

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.



**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 or 202.628.4317.

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church

Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran

Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams

Administrative Assistant – Ms. Trista Dunlap

Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez

Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell



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