



February 20, 2022
Seventh 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Please prepare your heart and space for worship)

OPENING VOLUNTARY	Deep River	Mark Hayes
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
OPENING HYMN	"Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise"	(see page 7)
PRAYER OF CONFESSION <i>Adapted from Howard Thurman</i>		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Merciful God, we do not wish war within ourselves, our circles, or the world. Yet we confess that the seeds of war are within us. Deep is the conflict within. One slight injury to our pride, and it ferments in the spirit. Sometimes we like to nurse our wounds. Whole nations do this. Forgive us, we pray. Create in us goodwill toward life and our fellow human beings. Tenderize our judgment. Mold us into peacemakers as your beloved children. Amen.		
Silent Prayer		
WORDS OF ASSURANCE		
Beloved community, hear the good news in Jesus Christ—we are forgiven! O Peace of God, settle over us and within us. Amen.		
MOMENT FOR MINISTRY		Peter Tracey
PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD <i>(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.)</i>		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
CENTERING MOMENT	Abide With Me	Chester Nordman
SCRIPTURE READING <i>Isaiah 2:2-5</i>		Polly Gordon
"And it will be in coming days, the mountain of God's home shall be the highest of the mountains, and shall be elevated beyond the hills, and all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Let us go and ascend the mountain of the Holy One of Sinai, to the home of the God of Jacob [of the line of Rebekah]; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."		
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Holy One from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and shall decide justly for many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob [line of Rebekah] come, let us walk in the light of the Holy One of Old!		
SCRIPTURE READING <i>1 Corinthians 1:25-31</i>		Rev. Laura Johnson
Now God's foolishness is wiser than mortal wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, sisters and brothers, since not many of you were wise according to mortal flesh, not many powerful, not many highborn. Rather,		

what is foolish in the world is what God chose to shame the wise, and what is weak in the world God chose to shame the strong. Also, what is of low status in the world God chose along with that which is despised, that which is nothing, in order to bring to naught that which already is, so that no mortal flesh might boast in the presence of God who is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Holy One."

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Hand in Hand"

Rollo Dilworth

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 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

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

(see page 8)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"Praise"

Gilbert Martin

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Connect with us!

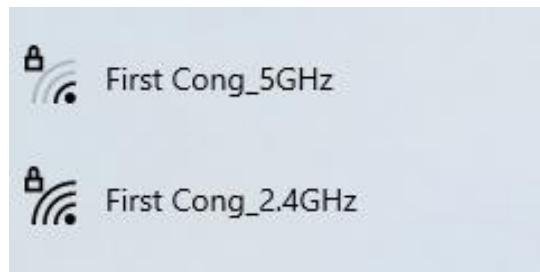
Connect with us! If you are worshiping from afar but would like to connect with the First Church community, please [click here](#) to fill out a Visitor's Card and check out our newsletters on our website www.firstuccdc.org. We are so grateful to be extending our reach beyond the DC region and welcome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



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.

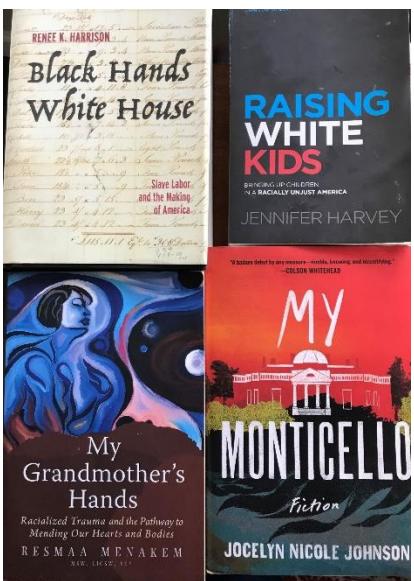
Please give generously for the benefit of these two programs.



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.



Joint Worship on February 26: Jazz Vespers

Join Peoples Congregational, Hope UCC, Westmoreland Congregational, Cleveland Park Congregational, Covenant Baptist UCC and Rock Springs UCC on Saturday, February 26 at 5:00 PM for A Fierce Love: Jazz Vespers with the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis (guest preacher) and the Peoples Church Jazz Band. This will be a hybrid service with limited in-person attendance. To access the service virtually, visit peopleschurchucc.org for live streaming (you can also find the livestream on Peoples' Facebook page and YouTube channel). To register for in-person attendance, [click here](#) (note there will be congregational singing). The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis is the first African

American and first female Senior Minister of Middle Collegiate Church in New York City. Their historic building was gutted by a fire in 2020; a portion of Dr. Lewis' honorarium will go toward helping rebuild the church.



Guest Preacher on February 27: The Rev. Dr. Sherry Molock

The Rev. Dr. Sherry Davis Molock, Ph.D., M.Div., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. Dr. Molock graduated with honors from Dartmouth College, earned a master's degree and a doctoral degree in Clinical/Community Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She graduated with honors with a Master of Divinity degree from Howard University. Dr. Molock teaches undergraduate and doctoral courses in the field of clinical psychology and conducts research on the prevention of suicide and HIV in African American adolescents and young adults. Dr. Molock's work has appeared in a number of professional journals, she has served on several local and national boards,

and she currently serves on the editorial board of the American Journal of Community Psychology. She also serves as a grant reviewer for NIMH, NIDA, CDC, and SAMHSA. She recently served as a member of the Scientific Work Group that served as advisors for the Congressional Black Caucus' Emergency Task Force on Suicide Prevention for Black Youth. In addition to her work in psychology, Dr. Molock and her husband, Guy Molock, Jr., are the founding pastors of the Beloved Community Church – United Church in Christ in Accokeek, Maryland. Their ministry focuses on "family healing" designed to bring spiritual, physical, and emotional healing to the community. She is the proud mother of the Molock Jewels: Amber, Jelani and Diarra and the proud "Mimi" of Makayla and Oliyah.

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 brill - iant 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.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king-dom's goal, lest we miss thy king-dom's goal,
 serv-ing thee whom we a - dore, serv-ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

Prayer List

Prayers of healing for Rose Berman following her recent surgery.
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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