



February 27, 2022
Eighth 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	Spirit Medley Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness Sweet, Sweet Spirit	James Manley Doris Akers
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
OPENING HYMN	"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"	(see page 8)
CALL TO WORSHIP		Lynaya Morris

BAPTISM OF XAVI BAYARD SAUDEK

INTRODUCTION

BLESSING THE WATER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CALL TO GRANDPARENTS & GODPARENTS

CALL TO PARENTS & SIBLINGS:

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the Christian faith? If so, please answer "We Do."

Response: **We do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with your child in faith, to help him be a faithful member of the Christian community? If so, please answer "We do, with the help of God."

Response: **We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise to love Xavi for your whole life, to bring him to church when you come, and to help him learn to know Jesus? If so, please say, "We do."

Response: **We do.**

COMMUNITY ASSENT & COVENANT

Moderator: Today Xavi's community of faith witnesses the sacrament of his baptism. And so I ask all of you who are present as the friends and family of Arthur, do you, who witness and celebrate this baptism, promise your love, support and care to him as he lives and grows in Christ? If so, please answer "we do, with the help of God."

All: **We do, with the help of God.**

Moderator: Let us now proclaim our covenant in community:

All: **In grateful response to the call of Jesus Christ, we covenant with God and with each other to be a church of Christ. We bind ourselves, in God's redeeming presence, to walk together in ways revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in sacrament and Word, study and prayer, fellowship and mission.**

WELCOMING OF THE NAME

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER OF BLESSING

PRESENTATION

SONG OF RESPONSE

Unison

*1 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! Earth is yours to live in;
2 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! Je - sus cares a - bout you;
3 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! We, the church of Je - sus,
4 Lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come! God will make you hap - py,

arms of love pro - tect you, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!
Je - sus now en - folds you, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!
we will help your grow - ing, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!
Je - sus save and keep you, lit - tle chil - dren, wel - come!

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.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. David Lindsey

Judges 2:10-23

Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and another generation grew up after them, who did not know the Lord or the divine work done for Israel.

Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and worshiped the Baals; and they abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them, and bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. They abandoned the Lord, and worshiped Baal and the Astartes. So the anger of the Lord

was kindled against Israel, and God gave them over to plunderers who plundered them, and sold them into the power of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them to bring misfortune, as the Lord had warned them and sworn to them; and they were in great distress.

Then the Lord raised up judges, who delivered them out of the power of those who plundered them. Yet they did not listen even to their judges; for they lusted after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their ancestors had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord; they did not follow their example. Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord would be moved to pity by their groaning because of those who persecuted and oppressed them. But whenever the judge died, they would relapse and behave worse than their ancestors, following other gods, worshiping them and bowing down to them. They would not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel; and God said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their ancestors, and have not obeyed my voice, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died." In order to test Israel, whether or not they would take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their ancestors did, the Lord had left those nations, not driving them out at once, and had not handed them over to Joshua.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sherry Molock

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Fill-a Me Up!"

Pepper Choplin

Fill-a me up, come-a Holy Spirit,
fill-a me up to the top-a my soul.
Fill-a me up, come-a Holy Spirit,
fill-a me up now and take control.

So many things try to fill me up.
So many things try to weigh me down.
Fill-a my heart now until you stay
and chase the other things away.

Fill-a my heart, come, Spirit.

Now my heart is an open door.
Here your Spirit is welcome, Lord.
Fill-a my heart now and let it grow
and change my life so all will know.

Fill-a my heart, you come and fill-a me up,
come-a Holy Spirit, fill-a me up to the top-a my soul.
Fill-a me up, come-a Holy Spirit,
fill-a me up now and take control.

Come O Spirit, Come.
Now come, O Spirit, come.
Fill-a me up now and take control.
Fill-a me up!

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"

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

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Rev. Sam McFerran

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

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

(see page 9-10)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sherry Molock

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"Toccata"

Johann Pachelbel

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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.

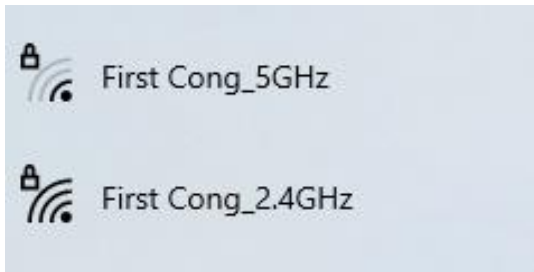
Participating in Worship

First Church Choir

(under the direction of Polly Gordon)

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.



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.



Worship with us on Ash Wednesday, March 2

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom at 7:00 PM on Ash Wednesday, March 2, as we participate in an ancient ritual that reminds us of the frailty of human living and our need for healing—the imposition of the ashes. Or, [click here](#) to sign up to join us in the sanctuary. In the sanctuary, Rev. Amanda and Rev. Sam will provide and impose the ashes on your forehead (or hand) for all who wish to participate. For those joining us by

Zoom, [click here](#) to view last year's video explaining the meaning of the ashes, the season of Lent, and options for making your own ashes or anointing oil as a way to observe this ritual from home. This service marks the start of our six-week Lenten journey together as we prepare our hearts to receive the mystery of Easter. The service will feature a centering song from the choir, personal sharing from Mark Jensen and Diane Brenneman as well as a slideshow of moments of gratitude set to special music from the Rev. David Lindsey. Please join us.



Lenten Book Circles

During the forty days of Lent (beginning March 2), our congregation commits to deepening our faith journey with the spiritual practice of community learning through Lenten Book Circles. Each circle focuses on a book rooted in antiracism and provides 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 4-12 individuals, including a virtual host or co-hosts from the Anti-Racism Committee who helped to select these books. Although the sign-up period has passed, if you wish to join a book circle, contact Rev. Amanda. Thank you to all who are making this a spiritual practice in Lent as we prepare our hearts for the journey to the cross, the tomb, and beyond into resurrection.

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in. | En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in. |
| 2 | O - pen your - self to the song. | O - pen your - self to the song. |
| 3 | O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. | O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. |
| 4 | Don't be a - fraid of some change. | Don't be a - fraid of some change. |
| 5 | En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in. | En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in. |

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in.

This song, based on Psalm 100, became popular in the 1970s in the United States. It works equally well with organ, piano, or guitar accompaniment.

Tune: ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.
Louise Ruspini
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Slowly

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know that Spir - i - s full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - i: when you say, "I am

to Refrain

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; And for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise. With-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Peg Lorenz, following her death.
Prayers of healing for Rose Berman following surgery.
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.



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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