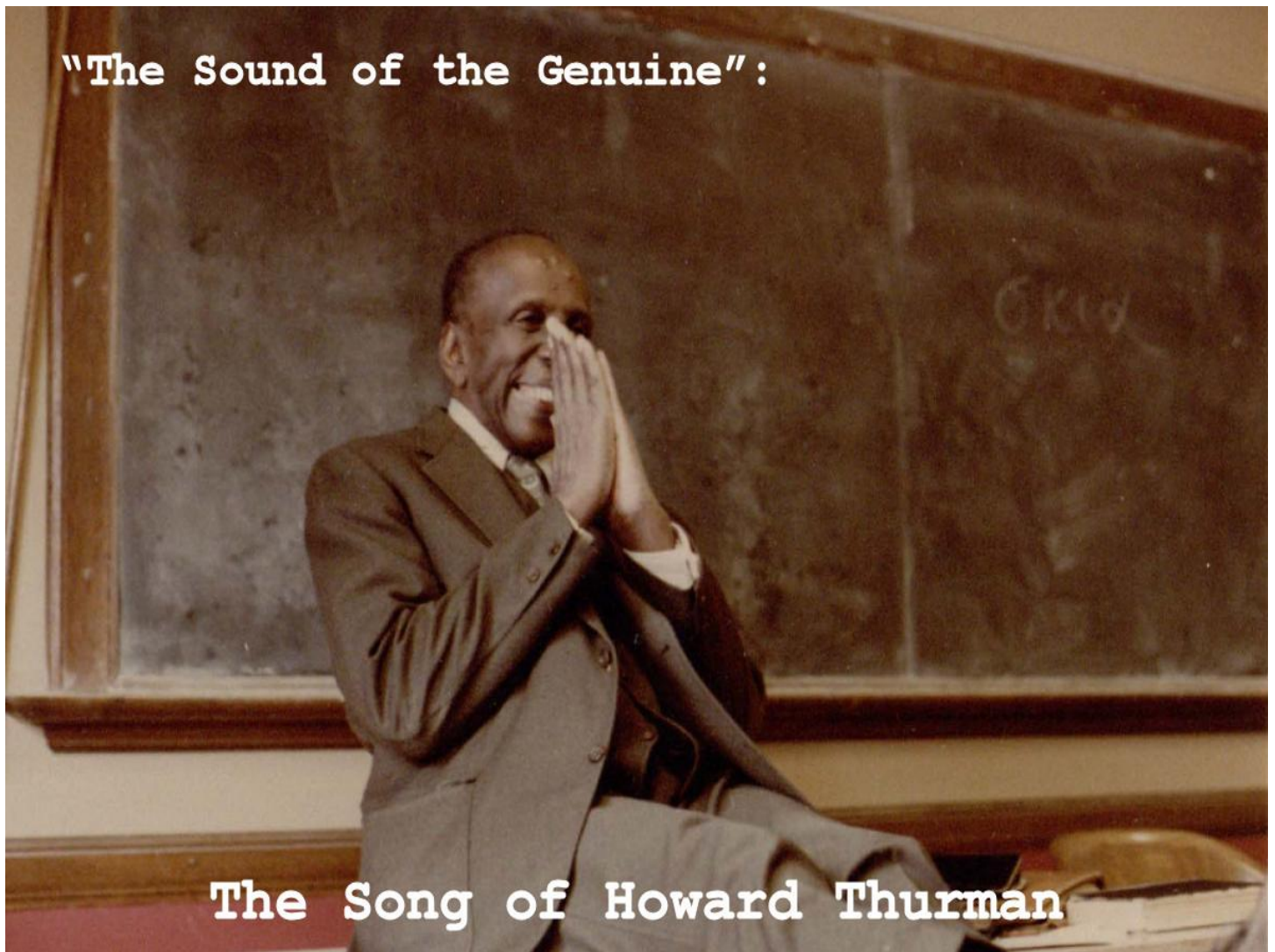


"The Sound of the Genuine":



The Song of Howard Thurman

**February 6, 2022**

Fifth 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	Elevation	Dom Paul Ben
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
OPENING HYMN	"Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"	(see page 6)
CALL TO WORSHIP		Peter Byrne

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Sam McFerran  
*Adapted from Howard Thurman*

**Loving God, we confess there is so much traffic in our minds and the noise of our own ambition crowds out the sound of the genuine. We cannot hear our own idiom, nor do we listen for the sound of the genuine in others. Help us quiet the heart and cultivate the ability to listen. May the sound of the genuine in all of us make music pleasing to your ears. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Rev. Sam McFerran  
Take heart: Blessed are those who seek the face of God. All who ask, receive, and all who seek, find. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.

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 Praeludium J.S. Bach

READING OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Andrew Hamilton  
*Kings 17:8-16*

The word of the Holy One to Elijah was, "Get up, go to Zarephath, which is part of Sidon, and settle there; watch now, I have commanded a widow woman there to provide for you." And Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. Then he came to the gate of the town, and look! A widow woman was there gathering sticks; so he called to her and said, "Bring me, please, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." She went to bring it, and he called to her and said, "Bring me, please, a bit of bread in your hand." Then she said, "As the Holy One your God lives, if I had a cake. There is only a handful of flour in a jar, and a little oil in a jug. Now look, I am gathering two sticks, then I will go home and prepare the oil and flour for myself and for my child; we will eat it, and we will die." Then Elijah said to her, "Fear not; go and do as you have said, only make me a little cake of it and bring it to me first, then make something for yourself and your child afterwards. For thus says the Holy One the God of Israel: The jar of flour will not empty and the jug of oil will not decrease until the day that the Holy One grants rain upon the earth." She went and she did as Elijah had said, and she and he, and her household, ate for many days. The jar of flour did not empty and the jug of oil did not decrease according to the word of the Holy One that God spoke through Elijah.

## Luke 4:16-27

Now Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been nurtured and went, according to his practice on the day of the sabbath, to the synagogue. And he stood up to read. Then was given him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*"The Spirit of the Most High is upon me, because God has anointed me to proclaim good news to those who are poor. God has sent me to preach liberation to those who are captives and recovery of sight to those who are blind, to liberate those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Most High's favor."*

Then Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down and every eye of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. Then he began to speak to them, saying, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all bore witness to him and marveled at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" Then Jesus said to them, "Of course you all will quote me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you all will say, 'The things we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown.'" And Jesus said, "Truly, I tell you, no prophet is accepted in their hometown. But I speak truth to you all, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were closed three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land. Yet, Elijah was sent to none of them, rather to Zarephath in Sidon, to a widow woman. And there were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

## SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

## CHORAL ANTHEM

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

## 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](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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Sam McFerran

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## COMMUNION PRAYER

## PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN	“O Sing to the Lord”	(see page 7)
BENEDICTION		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
CLOSING VOLUNTARY	My Tribute (Andre Crouch)	P. Keveren/D. Turner

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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](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, 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)



**Black History Month Worship Theme: The Sound of the Genuine**

In the month of February as we honor Black History Month, our worship services will explore the theme "The Sound of the Genuine," a concept associated with theologian Howard Thurman. In a 1980 address at Spelman College, Thurman preached, "There is something in every one of you that waits, listens for the genuine in yourself—and if you can not hear it, you will never find whatever it is for which you are searching and if you hear it and then do not follow it, it was better that you had never been born. You are the only you that has ever lived; your idiom is the only idiom of its kind in all the existences, and if you cannot hear the sound of the genuine in you, you will, all of your life, spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls...Now if I hear the sound of the

genuine in me and if you hear the sound of the genuine in you it is possible for me to go down in [my spirit] and come up in [your spirit]. So that when I look at myself through your eyes having made that pilgrimage, I see in me what you see in me. [Then] the wall that separates and divides will disappear, and we will become one because the sound of the genuine makes the same music." Join us for worship as we explore this theme and share quotes from Thurman's sermon in our weekly newsletters and on Facebook in February.





### **Black Hands White House Book Reading with Dr. Harrison: Feb. 12**

Join us on Saturday, February 12 at 7:00 for an evening with Dr. Renee Harrison, author of [Black Hands White House: Slave Labor and the Making of America](#) and Associate Professor of African American and U.S. Religious History at Howard University's School of Divinity. Dr. Harrison will read from her book and engage us in discussion, there will be time for Q and A, led by Rev. Amanda. This will be either a virtual or hybrid event with limited attendance in the sanctuary, stay tuned for more information. This event is for everyone, including those who have not yet read the book, so please invite your friends to join us!



### **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](mailto: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.

# Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Jamaican Folk Melody

Text by Fred Kaan

Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy,  
Christ is a - ble to make us one,  
Je - sus calls us in, sends us out

reach - ing out with a shout of joy; Bread is bro - ken, the  
at his ta - ble he set the tone, Teach - ing peo - ple to  
bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt, Gives us love to tell,

wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) e - v'ry - where!

Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain,

pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

# O Sing to the Lord

Cantai Ao Senhor  
Brazilian Folk Song



1 O sing to the Lord; O sing God a  
2 For God is the Lord, and God has done  
3 So dance for our God and blow all the  
4 O shout to our God, who gave us the  
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a  
won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done  
trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the  
Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the  
lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.  
won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

## Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Peg Lorenz, following her death.  
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](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 – Mr. Byron Adams

Administrative Assistant – Ms. Trista Dunlap

Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez

Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell



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