



**March 13, 2022**

Second Sunday in Lent

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	"Near To The Heart of God"	Mary McDonald
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
OPENING HYMN	"For the Beauty of the Earth"	(see page 7)
LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY REFLECTION		David Greer

SILENT MEDITATION

A CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

PRAYER

**Loving God, as we breathe through this holy season of Lent, meet us here--in heartache and hope, in fear and joy, in clenched fists and cupped hands. Fill our lungs with breath and our lives with meaning. Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew  
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:  
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
But live with you the perfect life of your eternity.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Sam McFerran

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 Ellen Bushmiller  
Genesis 3:1-7

*Now the serpent had more naked intelligence than any other animal of the field that the Sovereign God had made. And it said to the woman, "Indeed, did God say, 'You two shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of any tree in the garden we may eat, though of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden God said, 'You two shall not eat and shall not touch it lest you two die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You two will certainly not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you two will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes,*

and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her man, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mary Alice Ball

Ephesians 2:4-10

*Now God, who is rich in mercy, loving us with a great love when we were dead through our trespasses, brought us to life together with Christ—by grace have you all been saved. And God raised us up together with Christ and seated us all together in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. This, that God might show in the ages to come, the abundant riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace have you all been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God. It is not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has crafted, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our path.*

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me”

K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;  
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;  
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;  
And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;  
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;  
And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;  
And, with actions neighborly, Speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;  
Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;  
Separate from sin, I would And cherish all things good,  
And whatever I can be Give God who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;  
Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;  
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;  
Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

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](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”  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Christ all people here below.  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.  
One Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

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

Rev. Amanda  
Hendler-Voss

**Beloved, our Father and Mother, in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name, followed be your royal way, done be your will and rule, throughout the whole creation. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, Strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, Now and forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“God of the Sparrow God of the Whale”

(see page 8)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

FanFare

Eric Thiman

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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.

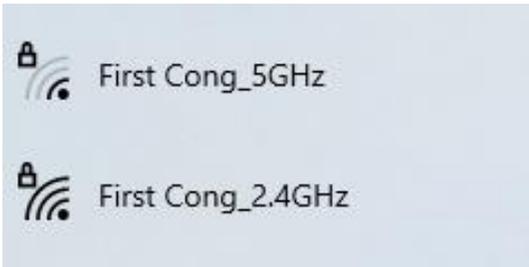
**Participating in Worship**

First Church Choir

(under the direction of Polly Gordon)

Dennis Turner, Guest Musician

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

	<p>First Church Wi-Fi password:</p>
	<p><b>first1865</b></p>
	<p>To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.</p>



**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.



**When the Women Gather: March 14**

[Click here](https://metroucny.org) to join the Metro New York Association of the United Church of Christ in conversation with Rev. Amanda as part of their Women's History Month series, "When the Women Gather." This virtual event will take place on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 PM by Zoom. It will be the second in a 3-part series of Euro-descendent women sharing their stories around racial justice in conversation with the Rev. Susan Switzer and the Rev. Kris Watson. Join us!



**Nurture Conversation on our Racial Justice Audit: March 20**

Following worship on Sunday, March 20, we invite you to join us for a nurture conversation about our Racial Justice Audit Report ([click here](#) to access the report). Please do take the time to read the report, which is nearly 30 pages and includes reflections from each of our Commissions and ministry areas. Council extends an extravagant, wide

welcome to all to attend. As the first congregation to beta-test this tool, produced by the Central Atlantic Conference and currently in the revision phase so it can be used by other congregations, we are mindful that we worked through technical and framing challenges to provide feedback to the Conference. We made a faithful commitment to this work in response to God's call to action. The audit process led to introspection that stretched us beyond our comfort zones. We invite you to join us in this time to truly be present in covenant with one another as we contemplate our strengths, challenges, next steps, and resources for the journey.



**One Great Hour of Sharing is the March Second Sunday Offering**

Once a year in March we give dig deep to give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ.

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, OGHS funds provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the United Church of Christ channels resources for international and domestic disaster response, for international health, education and agricultural development, for refugee ministries, and for emergency relief. Once a year in Lent, First Church asks all to contribute generously to fund this loving response to human need, both domestic and international.

[Learn more from this video.](#)



**Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist this Lent - Easter**

[Click here](#) to sign up to serve as a scripture reader or liturgist in worship in Lent, Easter, and beyond. We welcome members and friends, local and far flung, adults, youth and children to participate. Your voice helps make us who we are, so please take a moment to sign up. Our worship is enriched by your active participation. Please indicate as you sign up whether you plan to lead in the sanctuary or by Zoom.



**Lent Season Begins**

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent for the Church. Traditionally Lent is a season of preparation for Easter. Some pray, fast, or give of their time, money, or energy to worthy causes as a form of preparation. This year, we will be preparing for Easter using the Lenten theme "Breath of Life." God breathed life into humanity and all of creation. It is breath that *still* brings forth life and it is breath

that *still* sustains us. All around us, we see images that threaten to take away the breath of life and we want to provide a time as a congregation to reflect on the ways in which God is calling us to breathe life into the world around us. During each week of Lent at First Church, we will extinguish one candle as we move towards the cross. Please join us during Lent as we prepare for the death and resurrection of the Breath of Life-Jesus.

## For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

### *Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

## God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale  
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7            C            FM7            E7            Am            Em

God of the swirl - ing stars                      How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the trum - pet blast                      How does the crea-ture cry  
 God of the emp - ty grave                      How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prod - i - gal                      How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prun - ing hook                      How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the lov - ing heart                      How do your chil-dren say

FM7            Em7            Am            Dm            1-5            Gsus4            G            6            C

Awe                      How does the crea-ture say Praise  
 Woe                      How does the crea-ture cry Save  
 Grace                      How does the crea-ture say Thanks  
 Care                      How does the crea-ture say Life  
 Love                      How does the crea-ture say Peace  
 Joy                      How do your chil-dren say                      Home.

## 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 comfort for the family of LaTayna Purnell following the death of her father.

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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