

March 20, 2022

Third 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.

Outreach & Membership Representative: Do you promise to enlist in the work of First Congregational United Church of Christ as it serves this community and world? If so, please answer, *I do, with the help of God.*

New Member: I do, with the help of God.

First Church Covenant

Andrew Hamilton

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.

PRAYER

Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"God, Who Called Us Through the Prophets"
Stanza 5

*God of mercy, God of justice, we give thanks that we belong
To a people, loved and loving, rich and needy, weak and strong.
You have blessed our past and present, bless the future we await.
Keep us faithful to our mission, as your love we celebrate.*

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

(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

Lindsay Swisher

Psalms 96: 1-13

Sing to the exalted a new song; sing to the Creator, all the earth. Sing to the Most High, bless her name; proclaim from day to day her salvation. Declare among the nations her glory, among all the peoples, her marvelous works. For great is the Ageless God, and greatly to be praised; revered is she above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, yet the Womb of Life made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before her; strength and beauty are in her sanctuary. Give to the Majestic One, you families of the peoples, give to the Mighty One glory and strength. Give to the Fire of Sinai the glory due her name; bring an offering and come into her courts. Bow down and worship the Sovereign One in majestic holiness; tremble in her presence, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Ever-Living God reigns! Indeed, the world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. God will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad; let the sea roar, along with what fills it. Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Wisdom of the Ages; for she is coming, for she is coming to judge the earth. She will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with her truth.

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God is the one who did not spare the very Child of God, but rather for all of us, handed the Messiah over. Will not God—with Christ—also give us everything else? Who then will bring any charge against the elect of God? God is the one who justifies. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus, the one who died, moreover the one who was raised and who is at the right hand of God, who intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are completely victorious through the one who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor powers-that-be, nor things that are, nor things that will be, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Redeemer.

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Make me a Channel of Your Peace”

Jane Holstein/Sebastian Temple

*Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.*

*O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace, Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.*

*O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

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

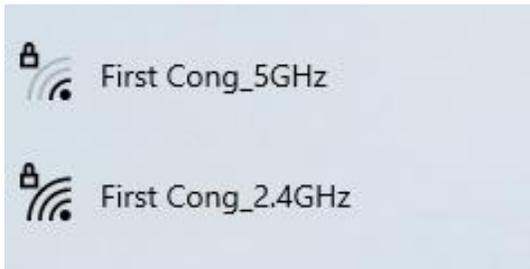
“Old Hundredth”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ all people here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore.

One Triune God whom we adore. Amen.



First Church Wi-Fi password:

first1865

To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.



Calvin Brown Photography

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.



New Member Welcome: Amanda Rojana

My name is Amanda Rojana, and I am a wife, mother, government employee, community member and a soon to be member of your church. I am married to Dan, my outstanding partner for life, for 18 years and together for 23 years. We are Virginia transplants and hail from Texas. I've lived most of my life in Texas so we moved to the area to see something new and different. We didn't want to raise our kids with such a limited view on life so we picked Virginia since it is so close to Washington D.C. and other states. The move has really brought so much joy to our lives. We love to travel and eat at new and different places. We want to see what we can while we are here. I love the Virginia trees! I have two children both are the greatest loves of my life; they bring me great happiness with everything they do. We are really active in the Scouting community and are looking forward to starting our first ever girl troop with the Boy Scouts of America. I am a certified American Sign Language Interpreter and have been doing that for 20+ years. I work as a staff interpreter with a government agency and have really enjoyed the many things I have learned with my time there. I don't do a lot of religious interpreting so this is all very new for me. I hope to learn a lot from my church community, as I am coming to this with an open mind and heart. Thank you for being so warm and welcoming to me.



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.



First Church Featured in UCC's Join the Movement

[Click here](#) to see First Church featured in the United Church of Christ's Join the Movement hub for story-sharing to ignite new possibilities and practices in racial justice. This story-sharing video features the Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice in the UCC, and Dr. Sharon Fennema, Curator, in conversation with Dr. Renee Harrison of Howard University's School of Divinity and Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss as they excavate the historical narratives that shape First Church and share our anti-racist practices.



Easter Flower Orders

[Click here](#) to order an Easter plant in honor of or in memory of a loved one. On Easter Sunday, we will list their names in our worship folder. A hard copy of this form is also available for those worshipping in the sanctuary; please fill it out and place it in the offering plate on the way out of worship. Payments will be received online via Vanco or PayPal (indicate Easter flowers) or you may mail a check (with Easter Flowers on the memo line) to the church at 945

G Street NW, Washington, DC, 20001. You may also email your order information to the church office

at: churchoffice@firstuccdc.org. Please note that all orders must be received by Sunday, April 3, 2022. Please indicate whether you plan to collect your plant(s) from the church on Easter Sunday or the Sunday that follows or if you wish to donate them to members and friends who are homebound or experiencing special sorrows or joys. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



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.

God Who Called Us Through the Prophets

God, who called us through the pro - phets to be mer - ci - ful and fair, and in Je - sus, walked a -
 When we pon - der sa - cred scrip - tures, when we come to you in prayer, let us see with new-found
 Fill us with your grace and wis - dom, give us cou - rage that we may, like the saints gone on be -
 Make our church a sanc - tu - ar - y for each one who needs a friend: poor and im - mi - grant and
 God of mer - cy, God of jus - tice, we give thanks that we be - long to a peo - ple, loved and

6
 mong us, teach - ing us to love and care, send your Spir - it now, re - new us, that to -
 vi - sion what we're called to do and dare. As more truth and light are spring - ing dai - ly
 fore us, meet life's chal - len - ges to - day. Help us trust in one a - noth - er, e - ven
 out - cast, who on kind - ness now de - pend. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, may they
 lov - ing, rich and need - y, weak and strong. You have blessed our past and pre - sent, bless the

11
 geth - er we may be one in faith and one in mis - sion, one in our di - ver - si - ty.
 from your Ho - ly Word, and your thoughts in - vade our think - ing, help us act on what we heard.
 when we dis - a - gree, show re - spect in hard de - ci - sions, work for peace and har - mon - y.
 al - ways find a place and, in shar - ing bread and cha - lice, know, with us, your heal - ing grace.
 fu - ture we a - wait. Keep us faith - ful to our mis - sion, as your love we cel - e - brate.

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

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*George Matheson, 1882; alt.**Rom. 8:38-39; John 8:12*

1 O Love that will not let me go,
 2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,
 3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,
 4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,

I rest , my wea - ry soul in you;
 to you I yield my flick - ering flame;
 to you I can - not close my heart;
 from you I dare not seek to flee;

I give you back the life I owe, that
 Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that
 I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
 Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but

in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.
 from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.
 know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.
 from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

Although he was nearly blind, George Matheson studied for the Church of Scotland ministry, assisted by his sisters, who learned Latin, Greek, and Hebrew to help him. Matheson wrote this hymn in five minutes on June 6, 1882, at his parsonage.

Tune: ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.6.
 Albert L. Peace, 1885

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 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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