



March 6, 2022

First 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.

human to see what it would call them; and whatever the human called every living soul, that was its name. The human gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the human there was not found one to rely on as its partner.

The Sovereign God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the human, and it slept; then took one of its sides and closed up its place with flesh in place of it. And the Sovereign God built the side that had been taken from the human into a woman and brought her to the human. Then the human said, "This time, this one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called a woman for out of a man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his mother and his father and clings to his woman, and they become one flesh. And they were, the two of them, naked, the man and his woman [or the woman and her man], and were not ashamed.

SERMON

Rev. Sam McFerran

CHORAL ANTHEM

"In Remembrance"

Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red

*In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.
In remembrance of me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbors in.
Take, eat, and be comforted.
Drink, and remember, too,
That this is my body and precious blood shed for you.
In remembrance of me, search for truth.
In remembrance of me, always love.
In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart, for God.
Do this in remembrance of me.*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Rev. Sam McFerran

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



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.

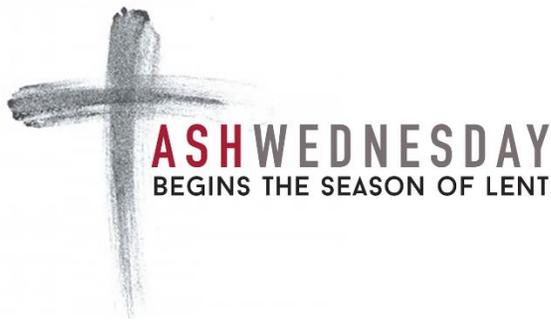
Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the United Church of Christ channels resources for international and domestic disaster response, for international health, education and agricultural development, for refugee ministries, and for emergency relief. Once a year in Lent, First Church asks all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

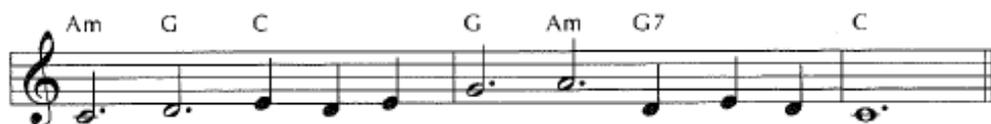
Morning Has Broken



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

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.



**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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