

Artist Janet McKenzie

April 14, 2022
Maundy Thursday
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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Moira Jones

John 18:1-5; 10-11

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he."

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that God has given me?"

TESTIMONY

Rev. Sam McFerran

MUSICAL OFFERING

Largo

Mary Hayes & Dennis Turner

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Rev. Sam McFerran

COMMUNION PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE 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

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

(See page 9)

SCRIPTURE READING

Joe Mills

John 18:17-18; 25-27

Peter Denies Jesus

The woman who guarded the gate said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

SCRIPTURE READING

Andrew Hamilton

John 19:16b-18; 26-30

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Sam McFerran

John 19:38-42

The Burial of Jesus

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the authorities, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Were You There?"

(see page 10)

Stanza 1, Nora Marsh; Stanza 2 (Tenors & Bass); Stanza 3 (Sopranos & Altos)

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Psalms 22, excerpted

Plea for Deliverance

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

It was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax, it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all of my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Amanda Hendler -Voss

Please depart the sanctuary in reflective silence.

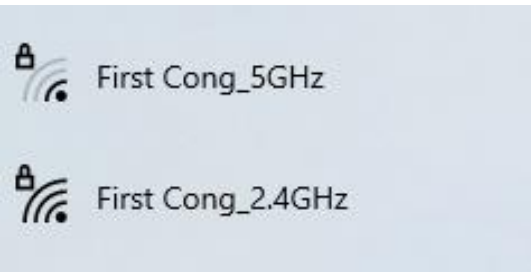
Connect with us!

Connect with us! If you are worshipping 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.

(*) Indicates "Please rise in body or in Spirit"

Participating in Worship

First Church Choir
(under the direction of Polly Gordon)
Dennis Turner, Guest Musician
Mary Hayes, Violin

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



Worship with us on Easter Sunday: April 17

[Click here](#) to worship with us by Zoom at 10:30 on Easter Sunday or [click here](#) to sign-up to worship with us in the sanctuary as we celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave with the new life of resurrection. Dwan Reece and Dennis Turner will open our service musically and Lynaya Morris will serve as our liturgist. Rev. Sam will invite our children and youth forward to help flower the cross. Lindsay Swisher and Lucille Dickinson will serve as our scripture readers with focus texts from Genesis 1-2 and the gospel of Matthew's account of Jesus' resurrection, and Rev. Amanda will preach. We will be blessed by the gorgeous music of our church choir. Our celebration will culminate in the joyous feast of communion, so if you are joining us from home, please set

your worship tables with the elements of bread and cup, which we will bless and break together. All are welcome, so please do invite friends and family! Following worship, we will enjoy an outdoor coffee hour (as well as a Zoom coffee hour), and all are invited to attend an afternoon egg hunt in Garfield Park at 1:00. Join us!

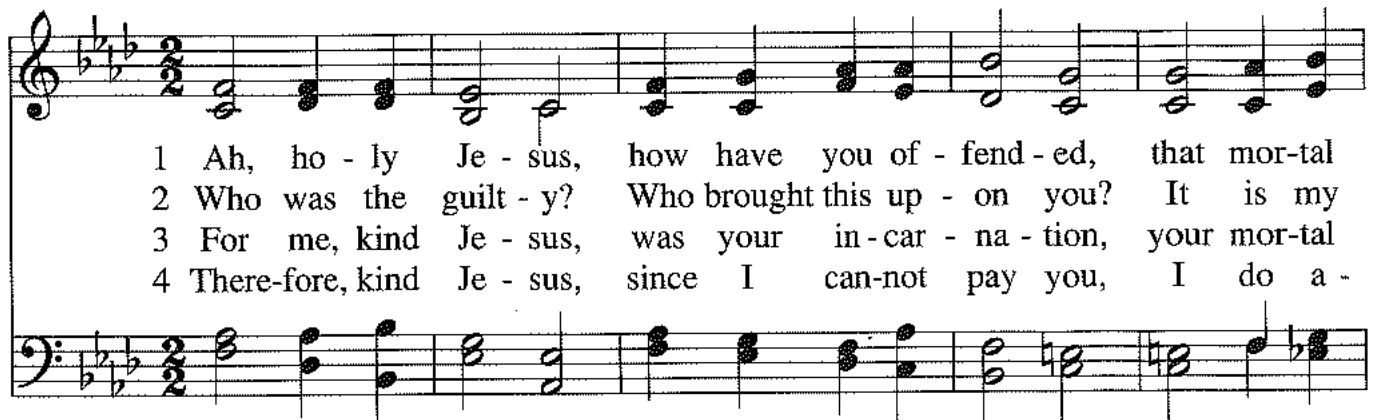
Ah, Holy Jesus

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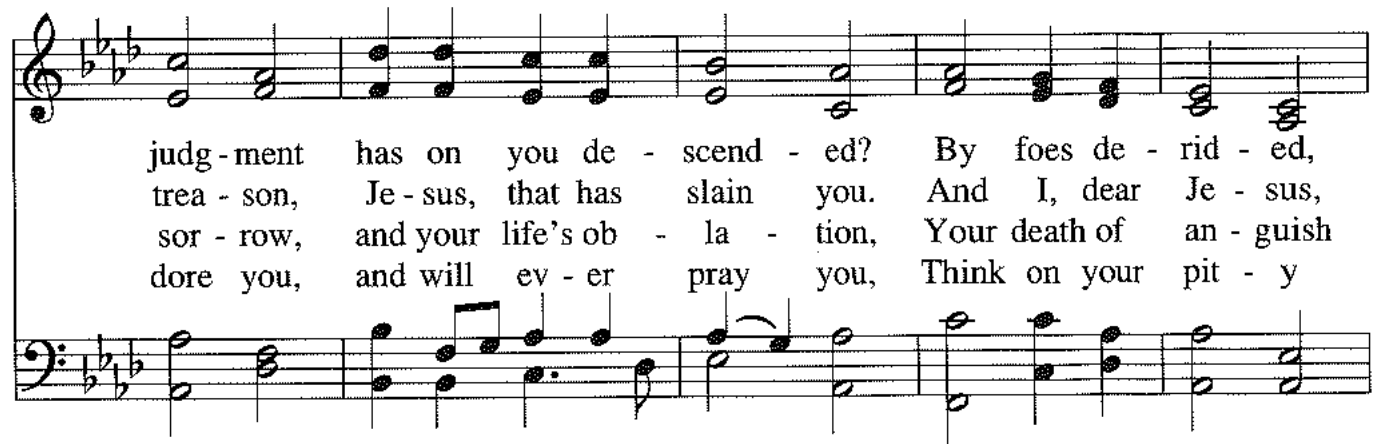
Johann Heermann, 1630

Isa. 53:3-5; John 1:11; 18:15-17

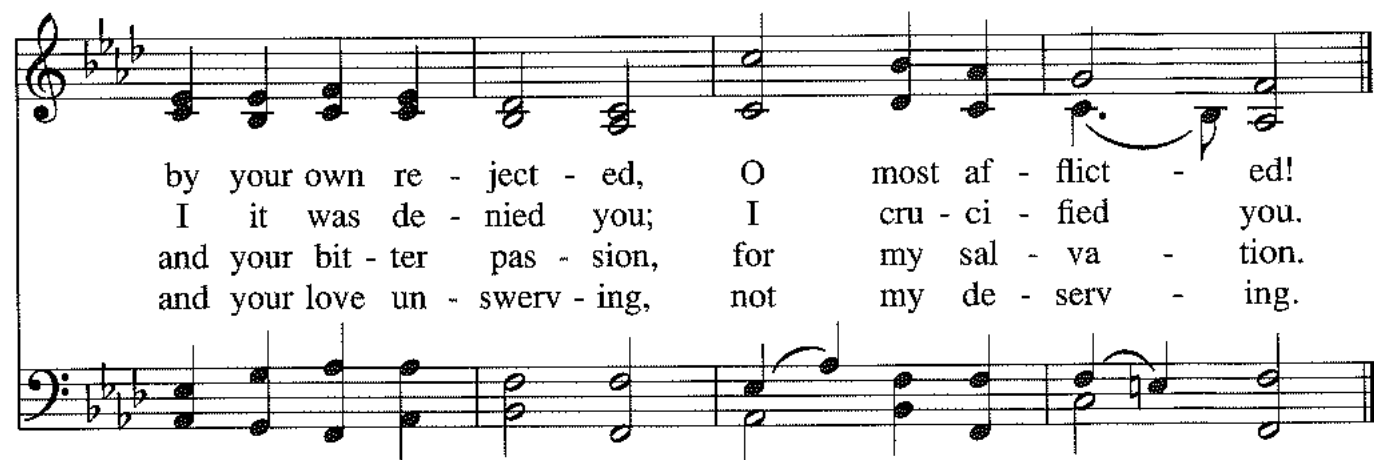
Paraphr. by Robert Bridges, 1899; alt.



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed, that mor - tal
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you? It is my
3 For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion, your mor - tal
4 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay you, I do a -



judg - ment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
tre - a - son, Je - sus, that has slain you. And I, dear Je - sus,
sor - row, and your life's ob - la - tion, Your death of an - guish
dore you, and will ev - er pray you, Think on your pit - y



by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.
and your bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and your love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Based on an eleventh-century Latin meditation by Jean de Fécamp, this is one of many fine hymns by Johann Heermann. Though poor, Heermann's parents prepared him for the Lutheran pastorate. Much of his ministry took place during the Thirty Years' War.

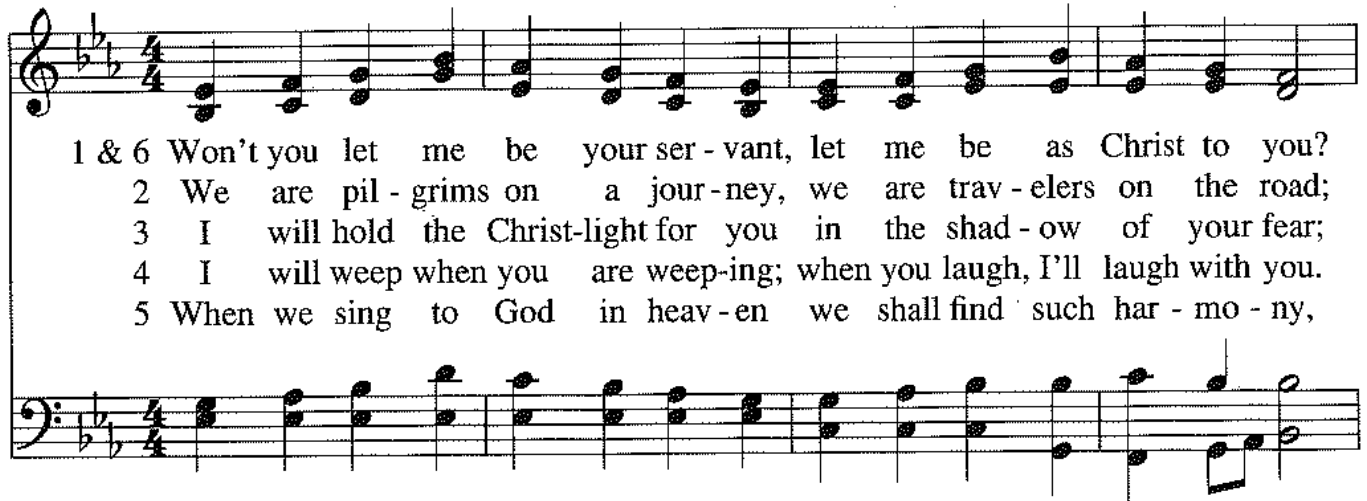
Tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5.
Johann Crüger, 1640

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

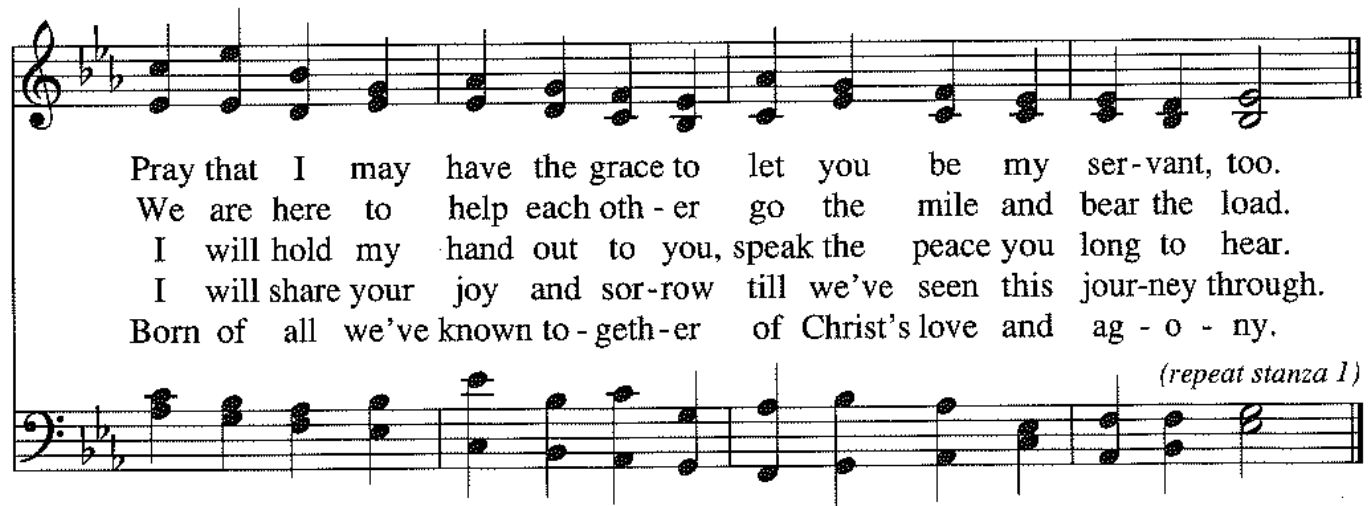
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Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

John 19:16-18; 20:11-17

African-American spiritual

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 3 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 4 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

O some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

While many spirituals begin solemnly but end on a high pitch of praise, this is one of the true "sorrow songs" that W. E. B. DuBois spoke about in his book *The Souls of Black Folk*.

Tune: WERE YOU THERE Irr.
 African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

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 comfort for Anthony Brooks, Jr.

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.

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.

We are an Open & Affirming congregation, welcoming all LGBTQ+ individuals and families into the full life and leadership of our church.



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



945 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001
Phone: 202.628.4317 • Fax: 202.347.4911

www.firstuccdc.org