



**April 24, 2022**

Second Sunday in Eastertide

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	“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”	Terry Kirkland
WELCOME		Rev. Sam McFerran
*OPENING HYMN	“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”	(see page 7)
CALL TO WORSHIP		
EMBODIED PRAYER		Rev. Laura Johnson
CHILDREN’S MOMENT		Rev. Sam McFerran
PASSING OF THE PEACE OF GOD		Rev. Sam McFerran
<i>(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.)</i>		
CENTERING MOMENT	“Give Me Jesus”	Mark Hayes
SCRIPTURE READING		Karen Tramontano
<i>John 20:19-31</i>		

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples were closed for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you all.” And having said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his side, and then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Messiah. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you all, just as the Living God has sent me, so I send you all.” When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas, one of the twelve who was called Didymus (the Twin) was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Messiah.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

And within eight days his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were shut, and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you all.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Bring your hand and put it in my side and do not doubt, rather believe.” Thomas answered him, saying, “My Savior and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Was it because you have seen me that you believed? “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”.

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mari Castellanos

Acts 5:27-32

When the captain with the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at God's right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey God."

SERMON

"No One Left Behind"

Rev. Diana D. Gomez de Molina

CHORAL ANTHEM

"I Believe"

Adapted by Mark A. Miller

*I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.  
I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.  
I believe in God, even when God is silent.*

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.

\*DOXOLOGY

"Old Hundredth"

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Sam McFerran

**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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Pass It On"

(see page 8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sam McFerran

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Halle Halle Halle”

Traditional Caribbean

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Praise the Lord”

Gilbert M. Martin

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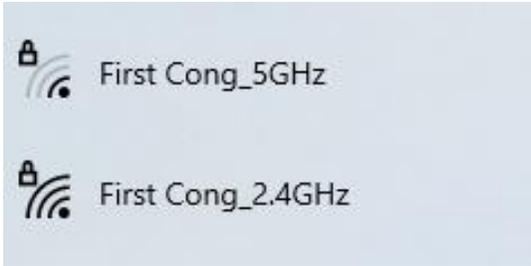
### Connect with us!

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](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.

**(\*) Indicates “Please rise in body or in Spirit”**

### Participating in Worship

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

	<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>



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.



### **Guest Preacher: The Rev. Diana D. Gomez de Molina**

The Rev. Diana D. Gomez de Molina, M.S., M.Div., BCC (her/she/ella) was born in Indianapolis to Cuban and North American (Irish-German) parents; who moved to Spain with her when she was 5 years old. She attended Roman Catholic schools, where she was immersed in Spanish mystical traditions. She returned to the U.S. at 17 to finish High School. She attended Barry University in Miami, where she obtained a B.S. in psychology/religious studies and went on to get her M.S. in Counseling.

Her career as a psychotherapist includes working with substance abuse clients, refugees, inmates, and Latino court ordered (Sex/DUI/domestic violence) offenders. She then transitioned to chaplaincy through a yearlong Clinical Pastoral Education residency with Vitas Hospice.

When her wife, the Rev. Dr. Mari Castellanos, was called to work in the Justice and Witness office of the UCC on Capitol Hill, they moved to the DC area and became members of First Church in 2002. Diana completed another CPE chaplaincy residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, then graduated in 2005 from Howard School of Divinity. Mari and Diana have been together since 1980 and were legally married at First Church in 2010.

Diana was ordained to chaplaincy ministry by First Church and the Potomac Association in 2005. She started work as a full-time staff chaplain in 2006 in the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health; where she continues to work full time.

Her spiritual path has led her to explore and participate in Jewish celebrations, serving as a Shabbat Shikza to her Jewish patients. She also participated in Lakota sweat lodges for 15 years, including as a firekeeper. She was gifted a prayer pipe, made by her adoptive Lakota brother. She provides ritual items for her Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist patients. Diana has a passion for travelling, bird watching, cooking, listening to music from various countries and occasionally engages in craft.



### **Seeking Scripture Readers and Liturgists**

We are in need of a scripture reader this Sunday as well as scripture readers and liturgists for the Sundays between now and Pentecost on June 5. [Click here](#) to sign up; you can lead by Zoom or in person. Or, if you have trouble using Google docs, just email me back with a date that works for you and I will get you signed up quickly. Your voice and participation enrich our worship experience as a community! Thank you for your consideration.



**Install. of Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss: Sat. April 30**

[Click here](#) to join us by Zoom or [click here](#) to sign-up to join us in the sanctuary for the installation of Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss as Senior Minister of First Congregational United Church of Christ on Saturday, April 30 at 3:00 PM. Please join the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, delegates of local churches, and authorized ministers as we prayerfully install Rev. Amanda in

this service of worship. The service will include a procession of local clergy, a candle-lighting liturgy led by commissions, choral music, a sermon from the Rev. Aubra Love, and a charge to our congregation by Dr. Renee Harrison. Please note this service will be recorded for later viewing and made available on our YouTube channel. The service will be followed by a reception organized by Care of Parish. Please support Rev. Amanda with your presence and participation.



**Adult Nurture on Book Circles: May 1**

Over the six weeks of Lent nearly 40 members and friends committed themselves to the spiritual practice of learning in community by taking part in our Lenten Book Circles discussing racial justice. Each circle explored one of these five books: My Monticello (novel); Black Hands, White House: Enslaved Labor and the Making of America (history); My Grandmother's Hands (somatic/experiential); In My Grandmother's House (memoir); or Raising White Kids in a Racially Unjust America (parenting). On May 1, participants will have an opportunity to share insights from their book and the experience of collective learning as we deepen our spiritual commitment to dismantling racism within ourselves and in community with one another and God. All are welcome to take part in the conversation that will follow

participants sharing. Rev. Amanda will facilitate this hybrid nurture, which will take place both in the chapel (in-person) and on Zoom.



## Wanted: Ushers!

Perks:

- Access, access, access—to the “brick-and-mortar” version of church
  - Seeing fellow members and friends in person
  - The fun of directing crowds (sizes may vary)
  - Checklists—who doesn’t love a good checklist?!
- Some semblance of what was and what will be
  - Not Zoom

If interested, please sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FAAA72AA1FF2-first1>

# Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.  
 2 O - pen your - self to the song. O - pen your - self to the song.  
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.  
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.  
 5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joyce, and come in.

*This song, based on Psalm 100, became popular in the 1970s in the United States. It works equally well with organ, piano, or guitar accompaniment.*

Tune: ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.  
 Louise Ruspini  
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

# Pass It On 309

Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,  
 2. What a won-drous time is spring—when all the trees are bud-ding,  
 3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that I've found— pass it on!

And soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;  
 The birds be-gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom-ing;  
 You can de-pend on Him, it mat - ters not where you're bound; pass it on!

That's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-ienced it: You  
 That's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-ienced it: You  
 I'll shout it from the moun-tain top, I want my world to know: The

spread His love to ev - 'ry - one, you want to pass it on.  
 want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.  
 Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

TEXT and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser

PASS IT ON  
 Irregular meter

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## Prayer List

Prayers of joy as we welcome Robin Skye, beloved child of God, born to Emily Laing & Allison Truhlar

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.

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.

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



a just  
world  
for all  
[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

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.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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](http://www.firstuccdc.org)

