



April 3, 2022  
Fifth 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.*



Now to you Gentiles am I speaking. Since I am, on the one hand, an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry in order to make my own in the flesh jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what is their acceptance but life from the dead? If the first fruits are holy, then the whole batch is holy, and if the root is holy, thus are the branches also.

Now, if some of the branches were broken off and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted among them to share the oil-rich root of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. If you should boast: it is not you that bears up the root, rather the root bears you up. You may say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." Well then, through unbelief were they broken off while you stand only through faithfulness. So be not proud, rather be in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, God may not spare you. Behold the graciousness and the sternness of God: toward those who have fallen, sternness, while toward you, graciousness, provided you continue in that graciousness; otherwise you also will be cut off. And yet, if they do not remain in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you out of what is by nature a wild olive tree have been cut and, contrary to nature, grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree?

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Esto Les Digo"

Kinley Lange

Si dos de ustedes se ponen de acuerdo aquí en la tierra  
para pedir algo en oración,  
mi Padre que está en el cielo se lo dará.  
Porque donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre,  
allí estoy yo en medio de ellos.

*This I say to you:*

*If two of you here on earth ask for something in prayer,  
the Creator in heaven will give it to you.  
Because where two or three are gathered in my name,  
"there am I, in their midst"*

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.

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" (see page 8)

BENEDICTION Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CLOSING VOLUNTARY At the Lamb's High Feast Theodore Beck

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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.*

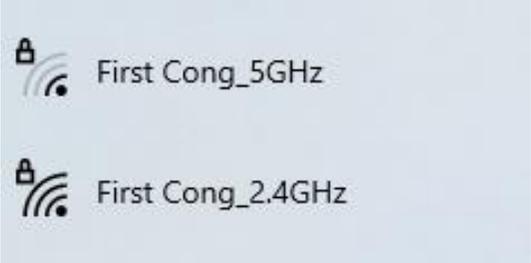
**Participating in Worship**

Andrew Hamilton  
First Church Choir

(under the direction of Polly Gordon)

Karen Bartman, 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>
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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.



### **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](mailto: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.



## **April Second Sunday Offering: [Interfaith Power & Light \(DMV\)](#)**

In April we have the opportunity to give generously to our local environmental interfaith collaborative. **Interfaith Power and Light of DC, MD, NOVA (IP&L DMV)** is a project of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington, led by First church member, David Lindsey. The staff and volunteers of IP&L DMV work with hundreds of congregations of all faiths across DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change.

With Interfaith Power & Light we can:

**LEARN:** IP&L helps congregations **EDUCATE**, by incorporating environmental concerns into worship, teaching, and preaching. Check the extensive list of worship and program resources, the [Speakers Bureau](#) and our [Film Library](#).

**ADVOCATE:** IP&L provides opportunities for people of faith to **SPEAK OUT** for Creation in the public square, and to bring a uniquely powerful moral voice to local, state, and national environmental advocacy campaigns. [Find out what campaigns are going on in your community and take action.](#)

**GO GREEN:** IP&L helps congregations **GO GREEN**, by supporting them to go solar, buy clean power, and make green choices for home church and city. You can sign up for the green leaders' email listserv at [program@ipldmv.org](mailto:program@ipldmv.org).



## **Worship with Us on Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 PM**

[Click here](#) to join us by Zoom or [click here](#) to sign-up to join us in person on Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 PM for this Maundy Thursday service focused on Jesus' last supper and final evening with his friends. We will mark this holy day with beautiful music, scripture readings from the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, and heartfelt testimony as we break the bread and share in the cup together. If you plan to join us by Zoom, please plan to set your worship table at home with some form of bread and cup, which we will bless together.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

Palm Sunday-April 10, 10:30am, In-person & Virtual

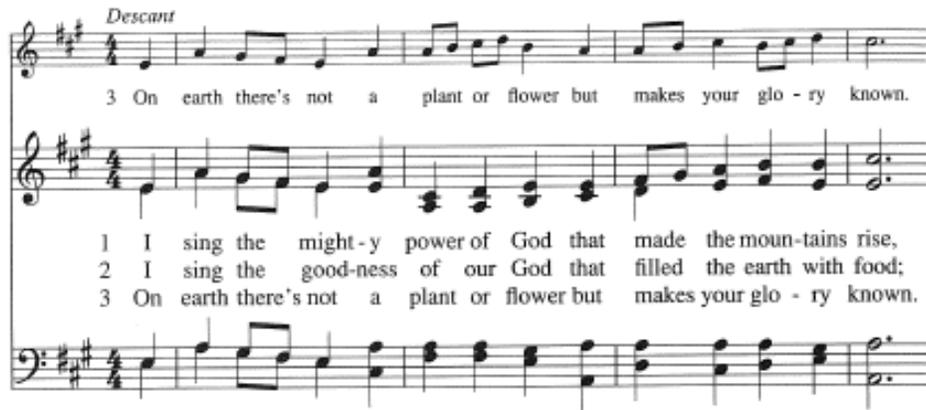
Maundy Thursday- April 14, 7pm, In-person & Virtual

Good Friday- No Service

Easter-April 17, 10:30am, In-person & Virtual (Easter Egg Hunt in Garfield Park at 1:00 PM)

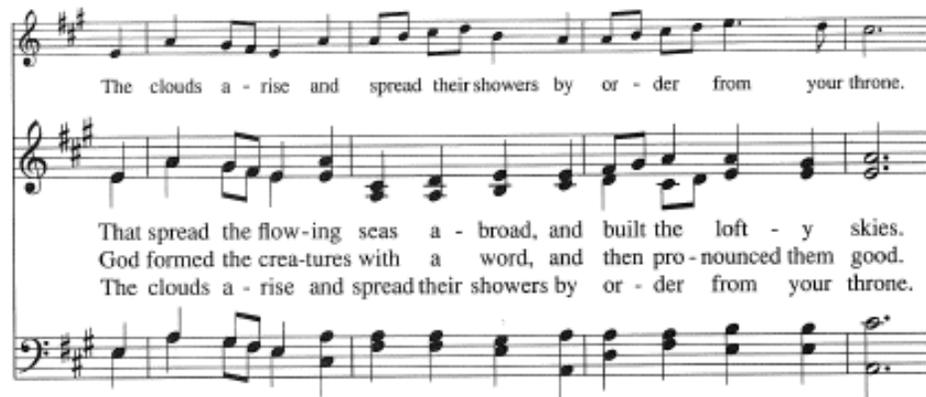
# I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*Descant*



3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.



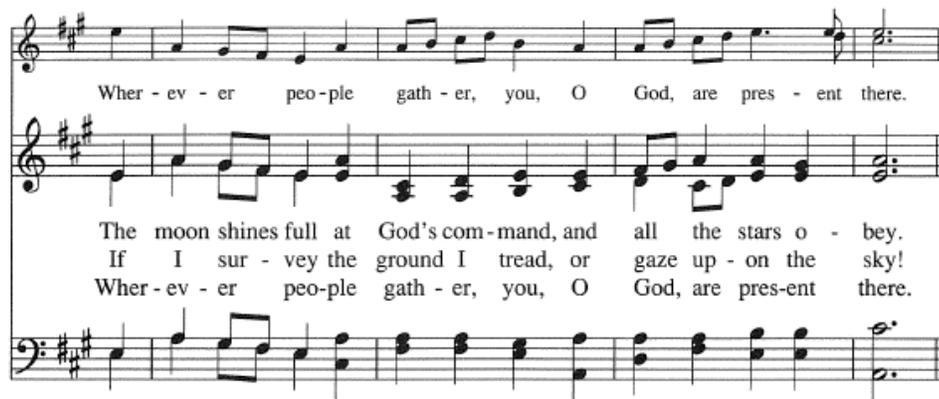
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.  
God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.  
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;  
Oh, how your won-ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:  
All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

## You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Matt. 5:13-15

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Unison  
D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!  
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-avor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!  
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

*Refrain*

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain  
Marty Haugen, 1986

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## 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 peace and strength for the people of Ukraine.  
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.



**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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