



May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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	“There Is No Name So Sweet”	William Bradbury
WELCOME		Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
*OPENING HYMN	“Come O Fount of Every Blessing”	(see page 7)
CALL TO WORSHIP		Ellen Bushmiller

UNISON PRAYER Adapted from John W. Howell
Healing God, we come with songs aching to be sung, with questions aching to be answered, with hearts aching for love, with wounds aching to be healed, with emptiness aching to be filled, with joy aching to overflow. Let your love soak into the spirit and the skin like soothing salve, so that all may say, we have met with God today and all is well with our souls. Amen.

PASSING OF 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 Susan Anderson
Deuteronomy 28:1-6

Now then, it shall be that if you truly heed the voice of the Holy One your God, to be watchful and to perform all God’s commandments that I am commanding you today, then the Sovereign One your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Just One your God:
Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field.
Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the calving of your cattle and the lambing of your flock.
Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.

SCRIPTURE READING Jean Alexander
Acts 5:12-16

Now, many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles; they were all together in the Portico of Solomon. None of the others dared to join them, but the people extolled them. Yet more believers were added to Christ, a multitude of both women and men. So much so that they even carried the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats so that Peter’s shadow might overshadow some of them as he passed. Multitudes would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all made well.

SERMON Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM "May The Angels of God Watch Over You" William Bradley Roberts
May the Angels of God watch over you,
May the love of God enfold you,
May all the saints in heaven and on earth pray with you and for you.
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Lord
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer be upon you
And remain with you forever. Amen.

OFFERING Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
As we worship both in person and virtually, we invite you to give in a variety of ways. Place your offering in the offering plate on the way out of the sanctuary, send your check to the office, or give online through our website at www.firstuccdc.org, which includes options to give through PayPal or Vanco. Consider signing up for auto-giving to sustain our ministries.

*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, PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYER OF THE SAVIOR Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
**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 "It is Well with My Soul" (see page 8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Halle Halle Halle" Traditional Caribbean

CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Here I Am, Lord" arr. Lloyd Larson

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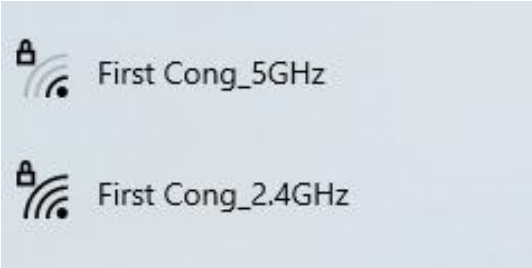
Connect with us!

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. 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, Allison Truhlar and Barry Mills 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

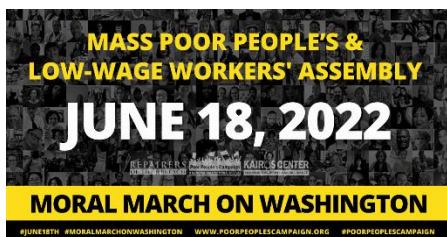
First Church Choir
(under the direction of Polly Gordon)
Dennis Turner, Musician

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



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.



Poor People's Campaign March on Washington: Sign Up!

[Click here](#) to sign up for any one of the following: serve food at the community dinner on Friday, June 17 in Freedom Plaza; attend the memorial service for all who died from COVID at the Lincoln Memorial on Friday, June 17; host marchers in your home; provide hospitality at the church on Saturday, June 18

before the march and rally for UCC folks from around the country. The Poor People's Campaign is asking everyone who plans to march/rally to register, [click here](#) to do so. This is a family-friendly event aiming to shift the moral narrative, build power, and make real policies that fully address poverty. Please remember that you can give to our Second Sunday offering to support PPC throughout the month of May by writing a check or donating on our website through Vanco or PayPal; please indicate "Second Sunday offering" in the memo/note section.



DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK Voting Rights & the 2022 Elections

Saturday May 21st 9:30am-12pm

**Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.
Preacher**

Hosted at Peoples Congregational UCC, Washington DC

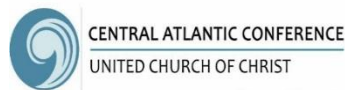
RSVP Now at <https://bit.ly/May21Democracy>

(Online

& In-Person)

Join us for a denomination-wide pre-event to the Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly & Moral March on Washington & to the Polls June 18th in Washington D.C. UCC justice leaders, clergy and local churches will gather for worship, learn from civil rights leaders about the state of our democracy, voting rights and what is at stake in the November elections, and get prepared to stand side-by-side with poor people and low-wage workers to demand real change on June 18th. There is no moral cause more urgent right now than protecting our democracy and advancing the right to vote. Every justice cause is impacted by whether citizens can participate fully, fairly and freely in elections. Coming together as a people of faith to organize and fight for justice, we will work to safeguard our nation against authoritarianism and move closer to a true democracy. We look forward to your participation.

Organized in partnership with the Washington DC Office of the UCC Justice & Local Church Ministries



God is still speaking,



Spring Congregational Meeting May 22, 2022

Council warmly invites you all to attend our Spring Meeting which will be held after our Sunday Morning service on May 22nd. Like our services, this will be a hybrid meeting with both Sanctuary and Zoom attendees. An agenda will be available by May 15th. One item will be our initial steps into living the findings of our Racial Justice Audit. Your attendance and input at our three yearly Congregational Meetings allows us to

determine how we live our faith and enact the policies to make this happen. We value the presence of each and every one of you on the 22nd.

worship
with us



Hybrid Worship Update: Seeking Volunteers

Following thoughtful conversation with our Zoom Moderator team, Council, and Worship Commission, beginning in June we will move pre-recorded content and remote worship leadership (such as scripture readers or liturgists) to the first two Sundays of the month. For the remaining 2-3 Sundays, our service will still be accessible by Zoom, and we are seeking Zoom Coordinators to open the Zoom meeting and monitor it. Please note that most people who use Zoom fluently can serve in this capacity, and our Zoom Coordinator can volunteer either from the sound booth (in the sanctuary) or from the comfort of their home. This allows our Zoom

Moderators (who are responsible for sound checks, pre-recorded content, and spotlighting Zoom worship leaders) can volunteer at a more sustainable pace while still maintaining our commitment to hybrid worship and the Zoom platform. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a Zoom Coordinator, please email Rev. Amanda who will share the schedule for sign-ups and connect you to a basic how-to.



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.



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>

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

When Peace, Like a River

(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife settled in Jerusalem.

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9, with refrain
 Philip P. Bliss, 1876

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 Priscilla Waters and her family following the death of her grand-niece Janiya.

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 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.



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.



**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



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