



May 22, 2022

Sixth 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.

All: In grateful response to the call of Jesus Christ, we covenant with God and with each other to be a church of Christ. We bind ourselves, in God's redeeming presence, to walk together in ways revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in sacrament and Word, study and prayer, fellowship and mission.

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER OF BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

Rev. Sam McFerran

(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

Anthony Leonard

John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that for four days Lazarus had already been in the tomb. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. So, many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she met him; however Mary remained at the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Rabbi, if you had been here, my brother would never have died. Yet even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even though they die, they will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Rabbi, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who comes into the world."

SCRIPTURE READING

James Moore

John 11:28-35

Now when Martha had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary privately, "The Teacher is here and calling for you." And when Mary heard that she quickly went to Jesus. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. Thus the Jewish community who were with her in the house and consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out; they followed her thinking she was going to the tomb to weep there.

So when Mary came to where Jesus was, seeing him, she knelt at his feet saying to him, "Rabbi, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Thus when Jesus saw her weeping and the Jewish folk who came with her also weeping his spirit was disturbed and he was deeply moved. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They replied, "Rabbi, come and see." And Jesus wept. Therefore the Jewish people said, "See how he loved him!" Yet some said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

Jesus, again, moved within himself, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man said to him, "Rabbi, already there is a stench because it has been four days." Jesus replied, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted his eyes (upward) and said, "Abba, I thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me, for the sake of the crowd standing here have I said this, so that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, with a loud voice he

cried out, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, bound hand and foot with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Wade in the Water"

arr. Mark Hayes

Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children.
Wade in the water
God's gonna trouble the water.
Down in the valley, down on my knees,
Wade in the water,
Askin' my Lord to save me please.
Wade in the water.

Refrain

Up on the mountain, Jehovah, he spoke,
Wade in the water,
Out of his mouth came fire and smoke
Wade in the water,
I heard a rumblin' up in the sky,
Wade in the water,
Must-a been Jesus passin' by,
Wade in the water.
You gotta wade in the water,
You gotta wade in the water, children
You gotta wade in the water
God's gonna trouble the water.

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,
AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
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 “We Are Marching in the Light of God/Siyahamba” (see page 8-9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL BENEDICTION “Halle Halle Halle”

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Make The Sounds Of Praise Robert Hughes

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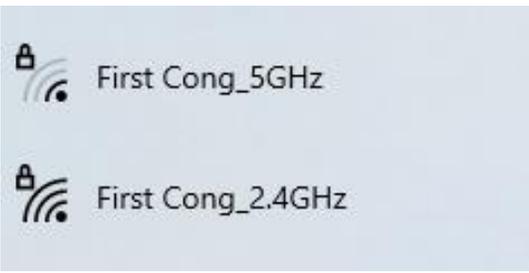
Connect with us!

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. 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.
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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.



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.



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.

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.

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Siyahamba

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha

light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;
nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo
oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - , kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

We are march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba

oo
oo

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing
Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

we are march - ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing...
We are praying...

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.

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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