



**May 29, 2022**

Seventh 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      "Early American Folk Hymns"      Don Hustad

WELCOME      Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

OPENING HYMN      "God of Grace and God of Glory"      (see page 7)

CALL TO WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL PRACTICE      Welling Hall

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.)*

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 111:      Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

ONE:      Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Holy God with my whole heart,

MANY:      **In the council of the upright, and in the congregation.**

ONE:      Great are the works of the Creator of All,

MANY:      **sought after by all who delight in them.**

ONE:      Glorious and majestic is her work,

MANY:      **and her righteousness endures forever.**

ONE:      She has become renowned by her wonderful deeds,

MANY:      **gracious and loving is the Mother of All.**

ONE:      The power of her works has she shown her people,

MANY:      **all her precepts are trustworthy.**

ONE:      Redemption has she sent to her people; she has commanded her covenant forever.

MANY:      **Holy and awesome is her name.**

ONE:      The reverence of She Who is Wisdom is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

MANY:      **Her praise endures forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING      Nan McConnell

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Redeemer Jesus Christ who in great mercy has engendered a new birth for us into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, into an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you all, who in the power of God are kept through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the end time. In this you rejoice even when necessary for you to suffer various trials, in order that the examination of your faith, more precious than gold, which though perishable is tested by fire, may be found yielding praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. You have not seen him, yet you love him. You do not see him now, yet you believe in him and rejoice with a joy glorious and beyond words. You are receiving the completion of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

SERMON      Rev. Dr. David Lindsey

CHORAL ANTHEM

"The 23rd Psalm" (dedicated to my mother)

Bobby McFerrin

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,  
She makes me lie down in green meadows,  
Beside the still waters, She will lead.  
She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,  
She leads me in a path of good things,  
And fills my heart with songs.  
Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,  
There is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said, she won't forsake me, I'm in Her hand.  
She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,  
She anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup overflows.  
Surely, goodness and kindness will follow me,  
All the days of my life,  
And I will live in Her house forever  
Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,  
And to the Holy of Holies,  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be,  
World, without end. Amen.*

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

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](http://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

*Adapted by Parker Palmer* **Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

(see page 8)

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Halle Halle Halle”

POSTLUDE:

“My Heart Ever Faithful”

J.S. Bach

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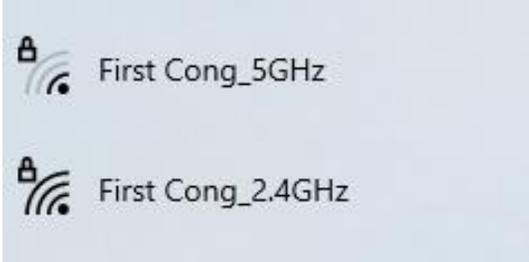
**Connect with us!**

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, Barry Mills 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**

Leela Koilpillai, Director of Music Ministry

	<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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### **Welcome our New Director of Music Ministry: Leela Koilpillai**

Leela Koilpillai came to the United States at the age of six, eventually returning to study medicine in Pune, India. While in college she was offered an opportunity to lead a girls' choir and loved it so much it switched to a music major. She holds degrees in piano and vocal performance and has studied choral conducting under Robert Shaw, Helmut Rilling and Don Neuen. She has sung with the Washington Opera, and performed extensively in the Washington, D.C. area. Her soprano voice was favorably reviewed by the Washington Post as "... beautifully

crystalline."

Leela has taught and conducted every age group and level of experience, from Kindergarten to Elderhostel. Her high school choirs (Fairfax County, VA) have sung at the White House, Kennedy Center and St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC. She is skillful as at developing, motivating, and inspiring musical groups. She formed and directed a chamber vocal ensemble in Portland, Maine, "Northern Lights," which focused on contemporary choral repertoire with an emphasis on Scandinavian and Russian music.

Leela's organ teachers include Ray Cornils and David Maxwell. In the summer of 2016 she had the honor to be one of the organists in the Kotschmar (which boasts 102 ranks, 6,862 pipes in eight divisions) Organ Day festival. She has taken organ coaching with Ray Cornils and David Maxwell (State Street Church, Portland, ME).

In Maine, Leela taught at Waynflete School, coached musicals at Greeley HS, in Cumberland, led the "Rocka' My Soul" gospel ensemble in S. Berwick while maintaining a private piano and vocal studio. She has led tours in the Eastern U.S and Europe. She loves to cook, draw, paint and write in her spare time.



### **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.

## Hybrid Worship Update: Seeking Volunteers

worship  
with us



Everyone is missing coffee hour, so we are going to restart it with a caveat and an assist from the Care of the Parish Commission. The caveat is that there will be less food and it will be restricted to the types of items at Amanda's installation: clementines and bananas that come in their own wrappers that we can individually remove before we eat them, and wrapped snacks. Baked goods and other delights will need to wait until there are fewer viruses running around. The assist is that Care of the Parish can reimburse people for what they spend, although we would prefer that you don't get

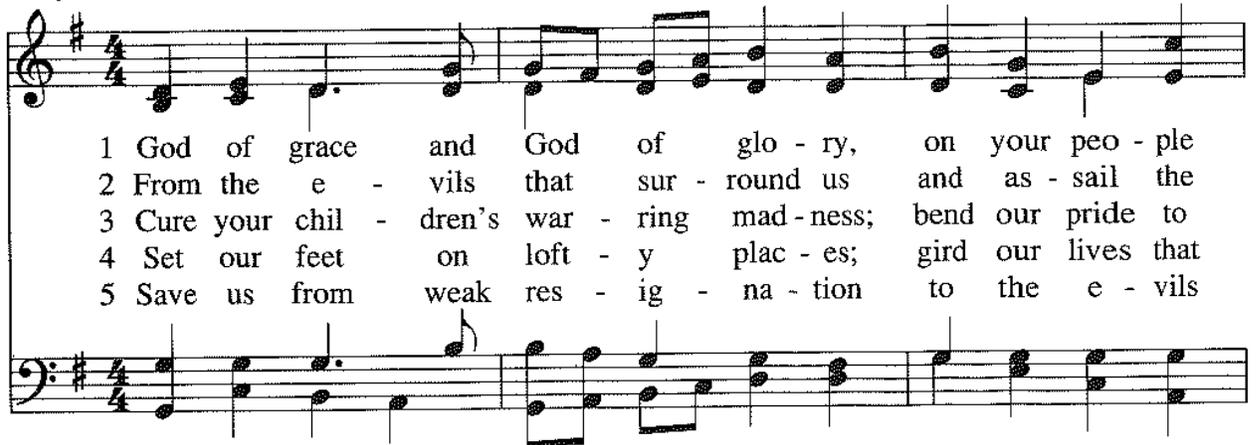
your items from a French restaurant or Ye Olde Expensive Tea House. Costco or Giant sound fine! No one should have to host coffee hour more than twice a year. To start, we are providing a Sign-up Genius Link - please feel free to sign up starting May 29. Given the reduced size of coffee hour, we are asking for two hosts per session. After sign-ups if there are gaps, Care of the Parish is planning to assign people to coffee hour as we did pre-Covid, with the option of saying that you don't want to be called on for whatever reason you choose. If you want to be taken off the hosting list, contact the Care of the Parish Commission and we'll remove your name for as long as you want.

Love and Fellowship,

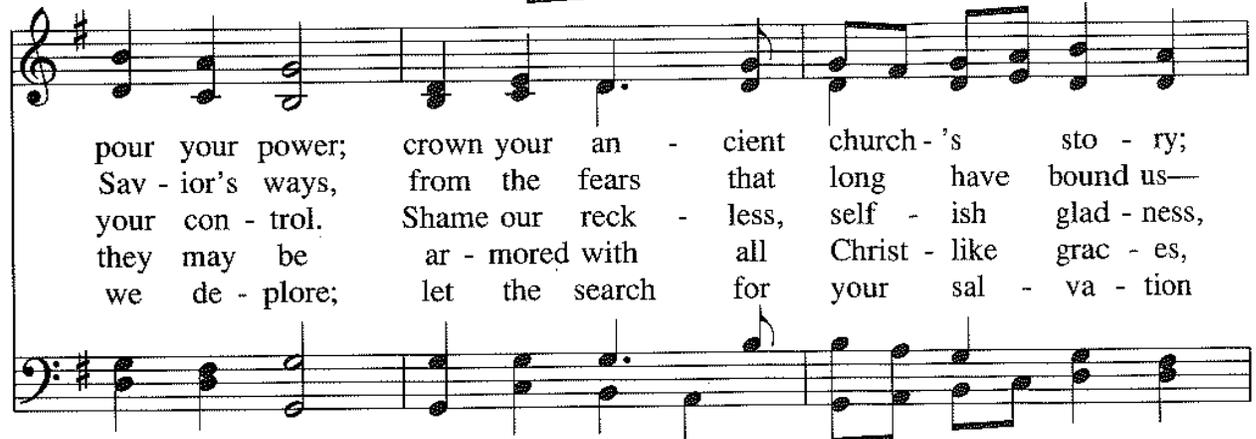
Care of the Parish

## God of Grace and God of Glory

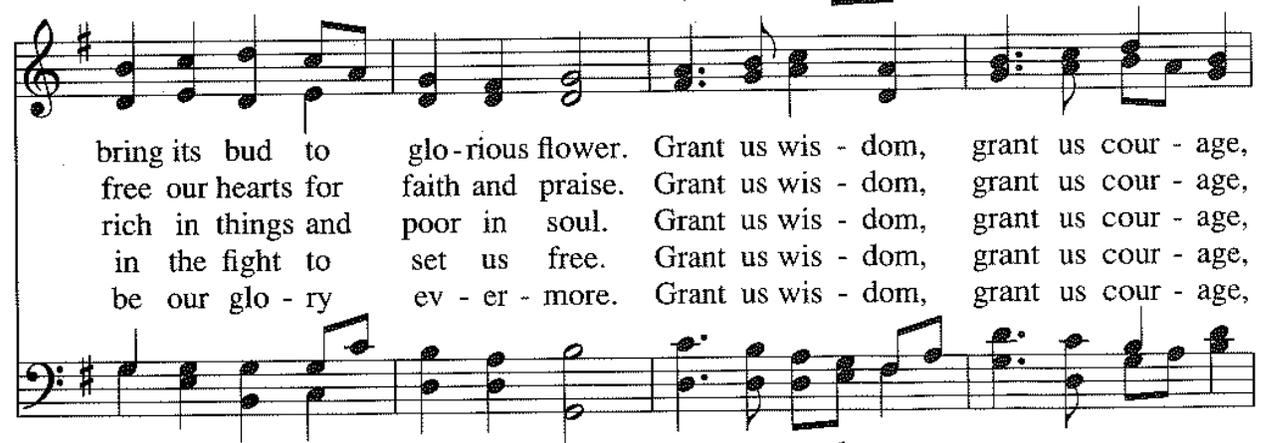
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*Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.*


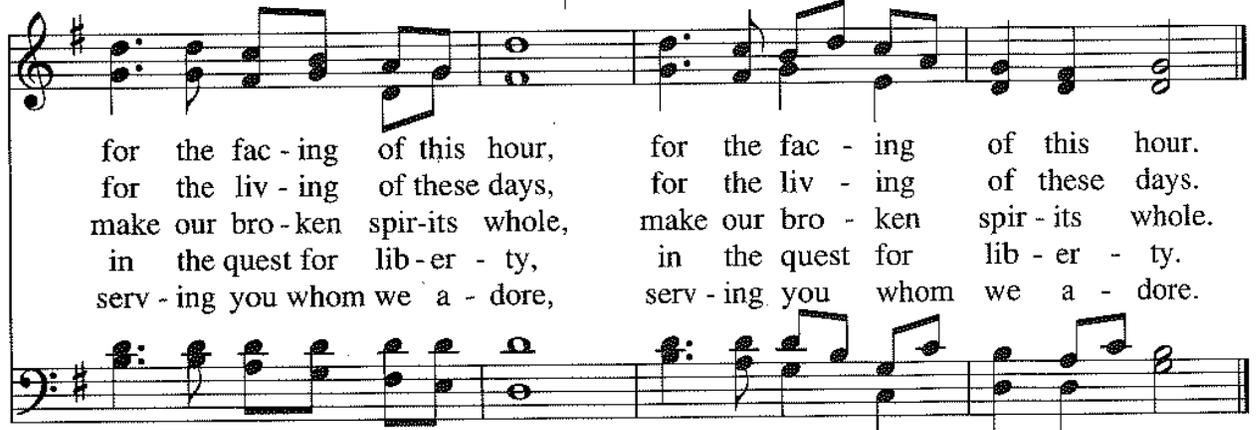
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,  
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.  
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?  
Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

## Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the communities of Buffalo and Uvalde as we mourn lives lost to white supremacy and gun violence.

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](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  
Director of Music Ministry – Leela Koilpillai  
Administrative Assistant – Ms. Trista Dunlap  
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez

Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

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