



May 8, 2022  
Fourth 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"
- WELCOME Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
- \*OPENING HYMN "For the Beauty of the Earth" (see page 7)
- CALL TO WORSHIP Lynaya Morris
- UNISON PRAYER Lynaya Morris  
**Love Incarnate, from the corners of the world, from the confusion of life, from the loneliness of our hearts, gather us into one body. To feed our minds, to fire our imagination, to free our hearts, gather us into one body. In our worship, make your Word come true in our flesh. Amen.**
- PASSING OF 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 Nora Marsh  
*Acts 2:22-24*  
Peter said, "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God in your midst with deeds of power, marvels, and miracles that God did through him among you as you yourselves know: This man, through the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, betrayed by the hands of the lawless, you all crucified and killed. He who God raised up freed from the birth-pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held in its power."
- SCRIPTURE READING Lauren McFerran  
*2 Corinthians 4:7-12*  
Now we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that this supreme power is God's and not of us. In every way we are oppressed, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken: knocked down, but not destroyed; always bearing forth in the body the death of Jesus, in order that the life of Jesus might also be revealed in our bodies. Always, for as long as we live, we are being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. Thus death is at work in us, but life in you all.
- SERMON Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Love One Another”

Hal H. Hopson

*Love one another, love as I have loved you.*

*This is a new commandment I give you:*

*to love one another with all your heart,*

*by this I will know you are mine.*

Hear, oh, hear me: see the hungry, then share your food.

Hear, oh hear me: see the homeless, then build a house.

You are my hands. You are my feet and my voice.

For when you help all those in need you do it for them and for me.

*Refrain*

Hear, oh, hear me: see the suffering, then share a word.

Hear, oh, hear me: see the captives, then set them free.

You are my hands. You are my feet and my voice.

For when you help all those in need you do it for them and for me.

CALL TO ACTION

Elliott Smith, National Youth Coordinator for Poor Peoples Campaign

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 giveonline 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 & PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope**

**and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

\*CLOSING HYMN

“Canticle of the Turning”

(see page 8-9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Halle Halle Halle”

Traditional Caribbean

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“How Firm A Foundation”

Phillip Severin

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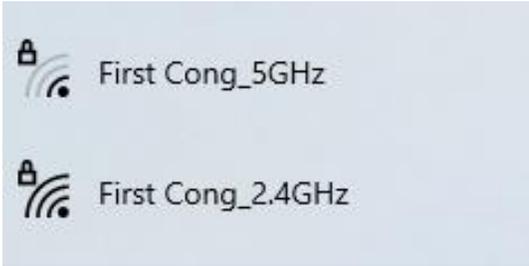
*Connect with us!*

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 Cipparon, 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)  
Catherine Pruet  
(Guest Musician)

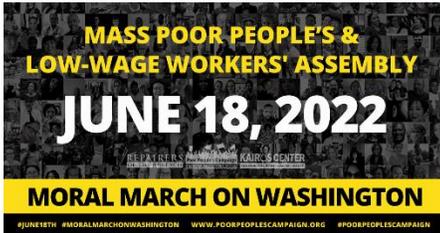
	<p>First Church Wi-Fi password:</p> <p><b>first1865</b></p> <p>To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.</p>
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Calvin Brown Photography

**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.



## Second Sunday Special Offering: Poor People's Campaign March on Washington

This month's second Sunday special offering, received on May 8, will support the Poor People's Campaign March on Washington, scheduled for June 18. As people from all over the nation prepare to descend on Washington, DC for a generationally transformative and disruptive gathering of poor and low-wealth people, faith communities, state leaders, moral allies, and unions, your support will help the PPC assist with the costs of transportation, lodging, and food. This mass march aims to shift the moral narrative, build power, and make real policies that fully address poverty. On Friday, June 17th, the PPC will host a community dinner for 1,000 poor and low-wealth people in Freedom Plaza from 5:00 - 7:00 PM, followed by a 7:30 PM memorial service at the reflection pool near the Lincoln Memorial to remember all who died due to COVID-19. Rev. Amanda is serving on the Host Committee for these events, and First Church will serve as a place of hospitality and launching space for UCC leaders and members prior to the march on June 18. [Click here](#) to register to march with us on June 18. Wish to give of your time and talents? Stay tuned for opportunities to greet marchers, provide hospitality, serve at the community dinner in Freedom Plaza, and more.



## 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.

## 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.

worship  
with us





## **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>

## For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, *Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.*St. 4, *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

*Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
 Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

## Canticle of the Turning (My Soul Cries out with a Joyful Shout)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## 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 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**

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  
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