



**July 24, 2022**

Sunday Worship

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)*

PRELUDE Hymn Medley Katie Koza

WELCOME Rev. Sam McFerran

\*OPENING HYMN "God is Here! As We Your People Meet" (see page 6)  
Verses 1, 2 & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP "Draw the Circle Wide" Children & Youth  
Draw the Circle, Draw the Circle Wide  
Draw the Circle, Draw the Circle Wide  
No one stands alone, We'll stand side by side  
Draw the Circle, Draw the Circle Wide  
Draw the Circle, Draw the Circle Wide  
No One Stands Alone, Standing side by Side  
Draw it Wider Still

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 Nick McConnell  
*Psalms 85*

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people, to those who are faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts. Surely salvation is at hand for those who revere God, that the glory of God may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. God will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before God, and will make a path for God's steps.

SCRIPTURE READING Nan McConnell  
*Judges 4:4-10, 23, 5:3*

Deborah, a woman, a female prophet, a fiery woman, she was judging Israel at that time. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the women and men of Israel came up to her for judgment. She sent and called for Barak ben Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Did not the Most High, the God of Israel, command you? Go! March on Mount Tabor, and take ten thousand men from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will march toward you to

draw to you, by the Wadi Kishon, Sisera the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." Then Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." And she said, "I will surely go with you; however, there will be no glory for you on the path you are taking, for the Mighty God will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand men went up with him; and Deborah went up with him.

And on that day, God subdued King Jabin of Canaan before the women and men of Israel.

And the land was pacified for forty years.

SERMON

Rev. Sam McFerran

SPECIAL MUSIC "What a Wonderful World"

Louis Armstrong

Eric Olson, piano  
Robin Olson, vocalist

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 & PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Sam McFerran

*Alternative Prayer of our Savior by Manny Santiago*

**Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.**

**May your reign be a reality here on earth.**

**May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.**

**Let us share our bread with those who hunger.**

**Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.**

**Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.**

**For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

(see page 7)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Sam McFerran

POSTLUDE

Fiddle Inspired Postlude

Katie Koza

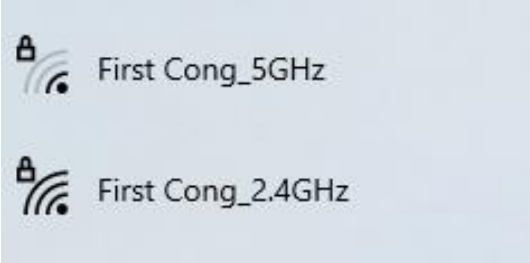
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## Connect with us!

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"

	First Church Wi-Fi password:  <b>first1865</b>  To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.
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### Music Notes by Eric and Robin Olson

"What a Wonderful World" was composed by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele, and recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1967. The sunny message was somewhat incongruous with the tumult of the 60's, but its simple, prayerful vision clearly resonated, as it became a standard. We think of it as a vision of Beloved Community, all the more poignant and compelling when performed amid all the troubles of our times. 1967 found the Olson brothers as young members of First Church, where along with supportive family, they were encouraged in their musical interests. They both grew up to pursue long careers in piano service, each being trained at Shenandoah University, and have lived lives full of music making. While at Shenandoah, Robin also received his degree in trombone performance, and has played in many local orchestras, brass ensembles, and bands. Eric enjoys playing several different instruments in a variety of genres.



### July Second Sunday Offering: Strengthen the Church

The [Strengthen the Church](#) (STC) Offering is one of the four special offerings of the national United Church of Christ that we take up annually. It reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, ministry, and

innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity

will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



### **Coffee Hour is Back: Check Your Hosting Date**

Care of Parish has taken the liberty of signing folks up for coffee hour through the end of the year (with the exception of the July 4th weekend when there will be no coffee hour), using emails in the church directory. This is a return to our pre-COVID system of scheduling coffee hour hosts and one that has worked well in the past. You should get an email reminder for the date when you are signed up to host, but [click here](#) to take a look at get it on your calendar now. If you can't make your date, please try to either trade with someone or find a substitute. No one should be signed up more than once for the rest of 2022 unless you volunteered for a dual sign-up, but if you find that you are signed up more than once feel free to either find a substitute or let Mark Jensen, Chair of Care of Parish, know. [Click here](#) to view instructions for hosting coffee hour. Thank you for helping bring coffee hour back!



### **New Church Directory Now Available**

Thanks to the hard work of Trista, our Administrative Assistant, the 2022 church directory is now available in print. You can pick up a copy any Sunday when you attend worship. As a reminder, the online directory is also always available with the most updated information. [Click here](#) to access our online directory.



First Church Returns to Nationals Stadium on July 31<sup>st</sup>!

After two summers away, we are thrilled to return to the ballpark to support our Nationals!  
Washington Nationals vs St. Louis Cardinals

1:35 PM on July 31<sup>st</sup>

If you have already reserved a ticket, Rev Sam will email them to you the week prior to the game.

If you have not reserved a ticket but would like to go, please email Rev. Sam no later than July 15<sup>th</sup> at [mcferran.sam@gmail.com](mailto:mcferran.sam@gmail.com) . Tickets are \$31 each.

Go Nats! Go First Church! Go God!

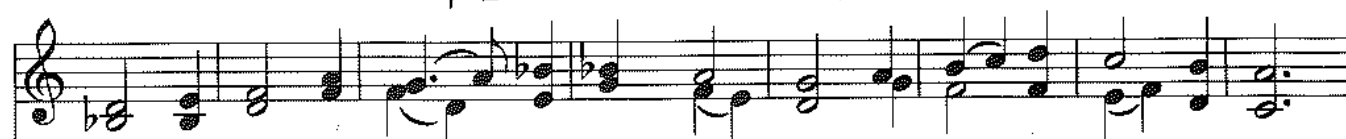
## God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

*Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.*

1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,  
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;  
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;  
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt



May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.  
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.  
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!



## Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,  
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.  
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

## Prayer List

Prayers of strength for Monica, daughter-in-law to Diane Brenneman, and wife of Sara, after a recurrence of cancer.

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 celebrate LGBTQ + Pride!

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

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](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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