

August 28, 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 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" arr. H Alexander Matthews

WELCOME Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

*OPENING HYMN "We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear" (see page 7)

CALL TO WORSHIP Kristy Goodfellow Mills

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.

CENTERING MUSIC "God is My Shepherd" Dvorak
Abigail Cipparone, Soprano

SCRIPTURE READING Anthony Leonard

Philemon 1:1-7

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved co-worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our companion in struggle, and the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father-Mother and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

SCRIPTURE READING Meg Maguire

Philemon 1:8-25

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending Onesimus back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will.

Perhaps this is why Onesimus was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive Onesimus as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand, I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Eric Thiman

Abigail Cipparone, Soprano

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 OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Amanda

From a New Zealand Prayer Book

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

(see page 8)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

POSTLUDE “Recessional on ‘St. Anne’ attributed to William Croft 1708

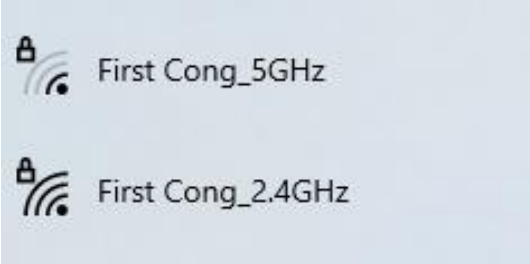
arr. Gordon Young

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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, 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: first1865 To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.
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Second Sunday Special Offering: Pathways to Housing DC

August's Second Sunday offering will support the work of Pathways to Housing DC, an organization that seeks to end homelessness in DC and support recovery for people with complex health challenges. Founded in 2004, the group has helped over 900 people move into permanent housing. 100% of the people that Pathways to Housing helps are overcoming mental illness, substance use, or severe health challenges. Their Housing First model begins by housing people directly from the streets, without preconditions. Then mental health, addiction, physical health, employment, and educational challenges are addressed via behavioral healthcare, an

urgent care clinic, a supported employment program, and a downtown day services center. Please consider donating to Pathways to Housing DC to directly aid the most vulnerable of our citizens. How you can best support and participate? Please [click here](#) to fill it out even if portions are not relevant to your specific situation. Please don't hesitate to speak to me in person or by phone. Yours in love and service, Leela/Director of Music Ministry.



Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist this Fall

[Click here](#) to sign up to serve as a scripture reader or liturgist in worship this fall as we launch a new worship theme, "Gathered from the Four Corners of the Earth." We welcome members and friends, local and far flung, adults, youth, and children to participate. Your voice helps make us who we are, so please take a moment to sign up. Our worship is enriched by your active participation.



Support Migrants Arriving in DC: Hygiene Kit Project on October 2nd

First Church's Sanctuary Committee invites you to an all ages, hands-on event to help our newest neighbors. Since April, the governors of Texas and Arizona have been sending hundreds of buses to DC carrying thousands of migrants, including families with children and infants. These individuals and families are entering the U.S. legally, seeking asylum from countries like Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba. They arrive here with nothing. The DMV community has shown up to receive every single bus to

support our new neighbors. This grassroots effort by community organizations, mutual aid groups, and individuals is a huge undertaking and an expensive one, involving meals, intake assessments, showers, and hygiene opportunities, help with lodging or a ticket to their final destination for a hearing. On October 2nd after worship, we will gather in the community hall for an update from the Sanctuary Committee before we assemble hygiene kits for migrants arriving in DC. Children and youth are especially welcome to join us. From September 4 - 25 you can drop off items in a labeled box in the Narthex. Your donation should be new and unopened individual sample-sized products like you would find in a hotel. To learn more about what's happening in our city around migrant busing, [click here](#). Stay tuned for an email on how you can donate via Amazon and Sign-Up Genius. Thank you for your generous support!



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 and 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.

We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear

*Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993*

1 We have gath - ered, Je - sus dear, we have come to
 2 All our in - tel - lec - tual dreams come to noth - ing,
 3 Born of God, true light of light, Ho - ly Spir - it,

watch and lis - ten. Fix our minds, our sens - es clear,
 fade at day - break. All our hope - ful plots and schemes,
 pure, un - fail - ing: All our fac - ul - ties ex - cite,

to re - ceive your heav - en - ly les - son. Please im - prove our
 start in pre - tense, end in heart - ache. Thought - ful speech, and
 ears and heart and mouth un - seal - ing: Then, through Je - sus'

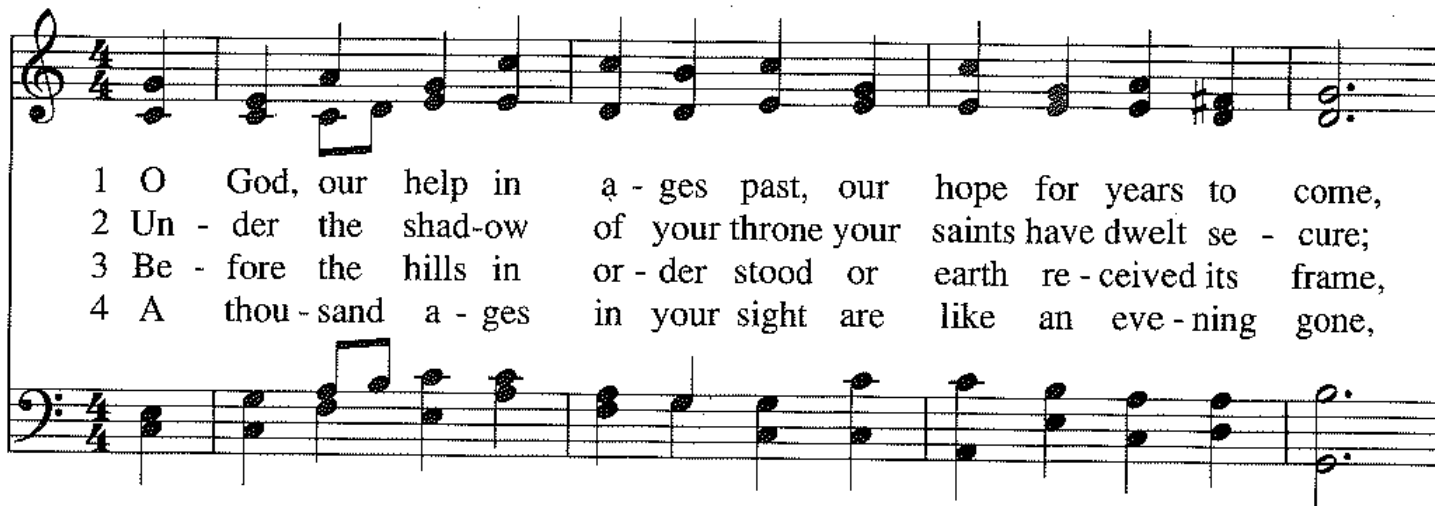
con - cen - tra - tion: draw us in - to con - tem - pla - tion.
 ac - tive jus - tice, you ac - com - plish these with - in us.
 me - di - a - tion, God will hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

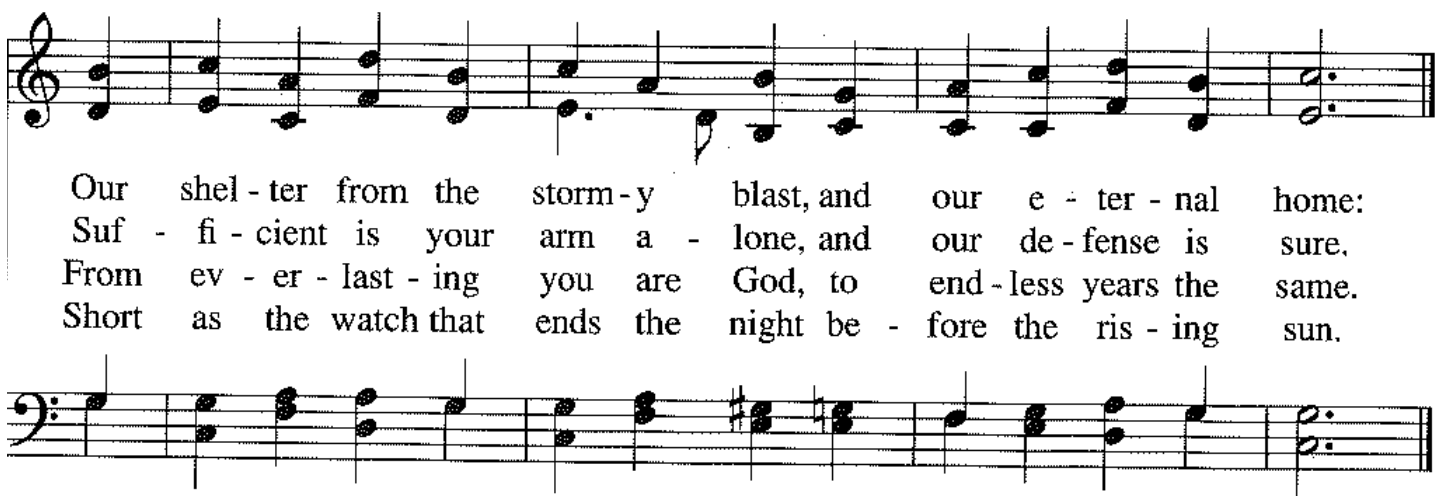
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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

Prayer List

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

Prayers of healing and peace for Bonnie Rickert, Courtney McCaffrey's mother, as she has been hospitalized with gastrointestinal illness.

Prayers of healing for James Ross.

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ebony Fitzgerald, partner to Trista's daughter, as she prepares to undergo chemotherapy.

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.



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 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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