



August 7, 2022
Communion Sunday
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 "Amazing Grace" Virginia Harmony 1831
arr. John Carter

WELCOME

Rev. Sam McFerran

*OPENING HYMN "Morning Has Broken" (see page 6)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Nora Marsh

O God, we live and move and have our being in you. Yet always we see sin's shadow and feel death's scrape: around us in the earth, sea and sky; beside us in the broken, hungry and poor; in the betrayal of one another and deep within, a striving against your Spirit. Trinity of love, forgive us that we may forgive one another. Heal us that we may be people of healing. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Nora Marsh

Hear the good news in Christ Jesus: We are forgiven. God invites us to start anew. Thanks be to God!

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.

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 30, excerpted Susan Anderson
Adapted from Nan Merrill

ONE: I will praise you, O my Beloved,
MANY: **for you have raised me up, and have not let my fears overwhelm me.**
ONE: O Compassionate One, I cried for help,
MANY: **and you comforted me.**
ONE: You released my soul from despair,
MANY: **and restored me to life from among those who live in fear.**
ONE: Sing praises to the Beloved, O you saints,
MANY: **and give thanks to Love's holy name.**
ONE: In the evening we may weep,
MANY: **yet joy comes with the morning.**
ONE: I cried to you for help; to you I pleaded for forgiveness.
MANY: **You turned my mourning into dancing. You set me free and clothed me with gladness.**
ONE: Now my soul may praise you and not be silent.
MANY: **O my Beloved, I will be grateful to you forever and ever. Amen.**

CENTERING MUSIC "Poor, Wayfaring Stranger" Ensemble
Andrew Hamilton, Katie Koza, and Nora Marsh

SCRIPTURE READING Katie Koza
Luke 23:32-43

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Abba, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanging there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

SERMON "A Paradise in Hell" Rev. Kaeley McEvoy

SPECIAL MUSIC I'll Fly Away (see page 7)
Ensemble and congregation

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, which includes options to give through PayPal or Vanco. Consider signing up for auto-giving to sustain our ministries.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Sam McFerran

INVITATION TO COMMUNION Rev. Sam McFerran & Rev. Kaeley McEvoy

COMMUNION PRAYER

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP "By Way of Sorrow" Ensemble

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

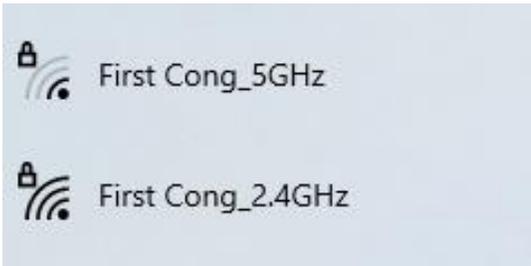
*CLOSING HYMN	“Will the Circle Be Unbroken”	(see page 8-9)
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Sam McFerran
BENEDICTION		Rev. Kaeley McEvoy
POSTLUDE	“I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” Walker’s Southern Harmony 1835 setting John Carter	

Music reprinted with permission by One License A-720443.

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](http://www.firstuccdc.org) 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”

	<p>First Church Wi-Fi password:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">first1865</p> <p>To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.</p>
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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 considering donating to Pathways to Housing DC to directly aid the most vulnerable of our citizens.



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!

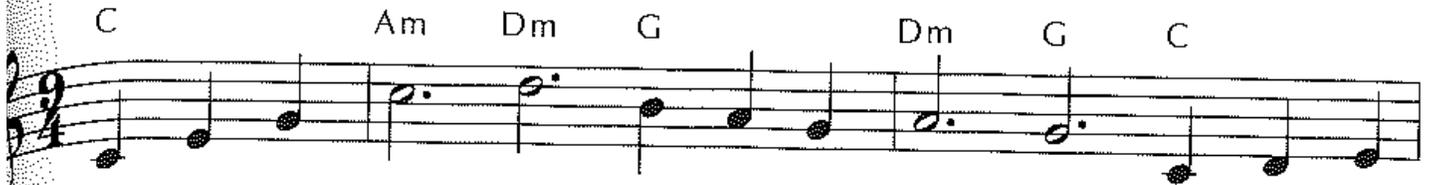


New Church Directory Now Available

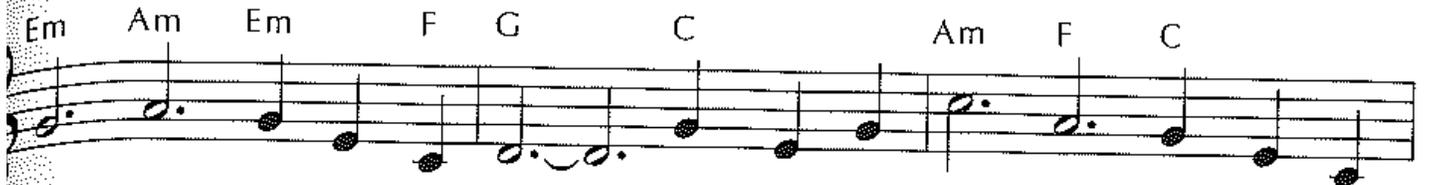
Thanks to the hard work of Trista, our Administrative Assistant, the 2022 church directory is now available in print. You can pick up a copy any Sunday when you attend worship. As a reminder, the online directory is also always available with the most updated information. [Click here](#) to access our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

Morning Has Broken

664



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)

595

Albert E. Brumley, 1932

Ps. 55:6

G G7 C G

1 Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er, I'll fly a-way;
 2 When the shad-ows of this life have gone, fly a-way, fly a-way;
 3 Just a few more wea-ry days and then,

G D7 G C G

to a home on God's ce - les-tial shore, I'll fly a-way.
 Like a bird from pris - on bars has flown, fly a-way, fly a-way.
 To a land where joys shall nev - er end,

Refrain G G7 C G C G

I'll fly a-way, O glo-ry, I'll fly a-way;
 fly a-way, fly a-way, in the morn-ing;

D7 G C G

When I die, hal-le - lu - jah, by and by, I'll fly a-way.
 fly a-way, fly a-way.

598 WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

*...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.
Ephesians 2:19*



1. There are loved ones in the glo - ry
 2. In the joy - ous days of child - hood,
 3. You re - mem - ber songs of heav - en
 4. You can pic - ture hap - py gath - 'rings
 5. One by one their seats were emp - ty,

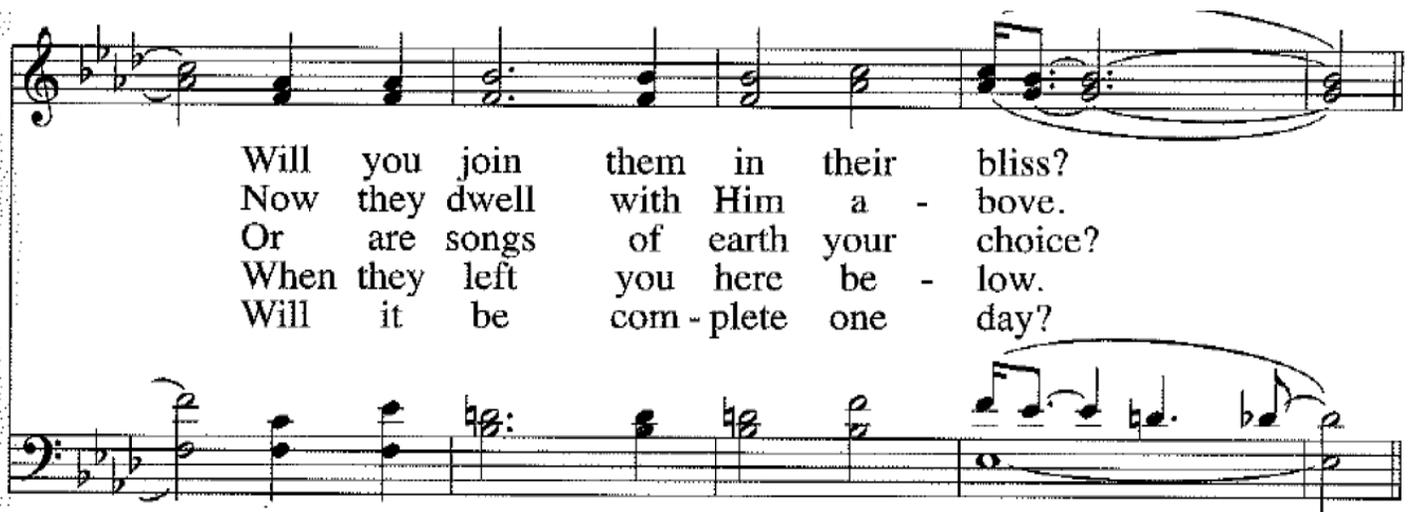


Whose dear forms you of - ten miss,
 Oft they told of won - drous love,
 Which you sang with child - ish voice,
 Round the fire - side long a - go,
 One by one they went a - way,



When you close your earth - ly sto - ry
 Point - ed to the dy - ing Sav - ior,
 Do you love the hymns they taught you,
 And you think of tear - ful part - ings,
 Now the fam - 'ly is part - ed,

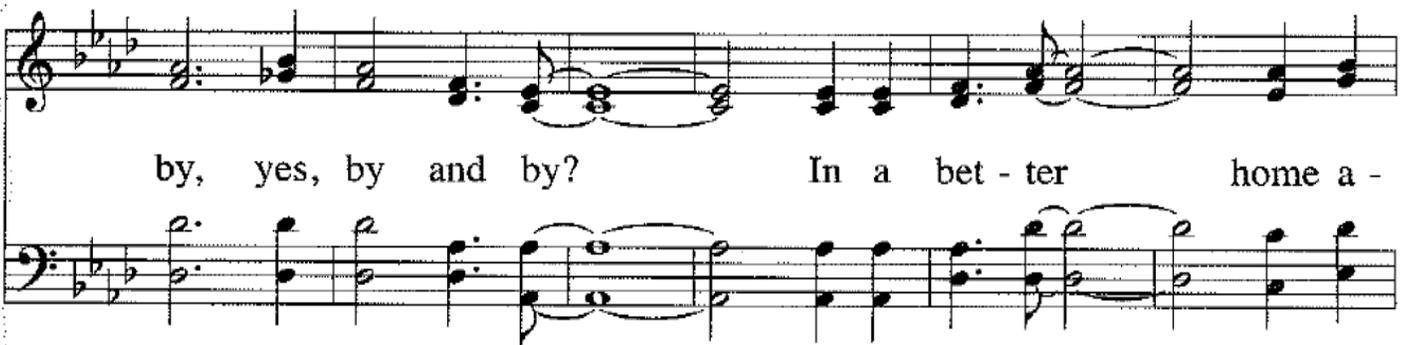




Will you join them in their bliss?
 Now they dwell with Him above.
 Or are songs of earth your choice?
 When they left you here below.
 Will it be complete one day?



Will the circle be unbroken by and



by, yes, by and by? In a better home a -



wait - ing in the sky, in the sky?

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

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
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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