

'The Labor Movement' by Fredrick Douglass (Source: Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio)

September 4, 2022

Labor Justice 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	"Adoration"	Mark Hayes
WELCOME		Rev. Sam McFerran
*OPENING HYMN	"Come! Live in the Light!"	(see page 8)
CALL TO WORSHIP		Lauren McFerran
STATEMENT FOR WORKER JUSTICE		Rev. Sam McFerran

Adopted from Worker Justice Wisconsin

As people of faith, we uphold the sacred and intrinsic dignity of every person. We believe work should be a vehicle for discovering a sense of purpose and fulfillment, but that too often it is a means for abuse. We recognize that in today's climate, individual workers are at the mercy of more powerful employers, and we commit to joining forces with workers when they demand fair and just working conditions. **Drawing on our sacred traditions, we stand together with other communities of faith to advocate for:**

- **A just/living wage and healthcare benefits for all**
- **Paid sick and family leave**
- **Workplaces free from all forms of discrimination and harassment**
- **Opportunities for collective organizing without fear of retaliation**
- **A healthy work/life balance for all people regardless of race, gender, sexuality, national origin, immigration status, ability, or creed.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF GOD	Rev. Sam Mc Ferran
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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	Andrew Hamilton
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Matthew 20:1-6

"The realm of heaven is like a landowner who went out in the morning to hire laborers for a vineyard. Agreeing with the laborers for the customary denarius a day, the landowner sent them into the vineyard. The landowner went out about nine o'clock and saw others standing in the marketplace, idle. And the landowner said to them, 'You all also go into the vineyard, and I will give you what is right.' Then they departed. Again, the landowner went out and did the same about the sixth hour, noon, and about the ninth hour, about three. Then, about the eleventh hour, five, the landowner went out, found others standing around and said to them, 'Why are you all standing here idle all day?' They said, 'Because no one has hired us.' The landowner said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' Now when it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to the manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last group then the first group.' When those hired at the eleventh hour, five, came, each received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the same denarius. Receiving it, they grumbled against the landowner. They said, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But the owner of the vineyard replied to one of them, 'Friend, I have done

you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go; I choose to give to this last what I gave to you. Do I not have the right to do what I choose with what is mine? Or are your eyes envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Rev. Sam McFerran

SERMON

Dr. Joseph McCartin, Georgetown University

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Ode to Hope"

Ronnie A. Yoder

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

(a Labor Day Communion Liturgy by Michelle Torrigan)

One: Creator of the harvest- We lift our voices in praise!

Many: Creator of the table – In you we find our peace.

One: In gratitude we gather to share this meal.

Many: With thanksgiving, we gather to share our love for neighbor.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN

"Take My Gifts"

(see page 9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Sam McFerran

BENEDICTION

Dr. Joseph McCartin

POSTLUDE

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Gilbert Martin

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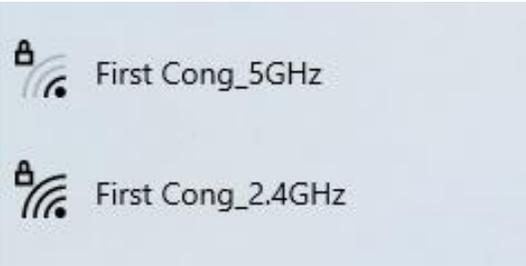
Connect with us!

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"

Participating in Worship

Dennis Turner, Musician
Ron Yoder,
Dr. Joseph McCartin

	First Church Wi-Fi password: first1865 To avoid echo/feedback, please mute your device when taking part in group discussions.
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Worship Notes on Ode to Hope

(Words, Ronnie A. Yoder)(9/21/01)(Tune: The Ashgrove)

"When I first sang this solo at First Church in 2009 I reflected on the lack of a national commitment to a philosophical response to the philosophy of hate and fundamentalism that produced 9/11: Where are the calls for all religions to recognize love as a philosophical center? Where are the scholarships to promote the study of such a unifying philosophical principle? Where are the national leaders calling for reformation of the human heart and faith? In 2009 I mused that we had installed a new president with a commitment to inclusiveness and good will, and we had enabled a new scholarship at Virginia Theological Seminary in 2007 to promote the study of love as an appropriate philosophical center of Christian theology and practice, and a unifying theme for all religions. That scholarship is now available worldwide through the Anglican Communion, and more than eighty papers have been submitted by students from four continents. Efforts continue to extend that scholarship through the University of Virginia Department of Religion, the largest such department in the United States. Meanwhile, the political situation in the country has evolved, and the need for hope and a philosophy of love has only grown. Our actions may seem puny in the face of our challenges; but do not despair. Life goes on; hope lives on. Puny efforts by many drops of

rain make a flood. Worship a God of Love that love may be manifest in your lives and in God's world."

Ronnie A. Yoder September 4, 2022



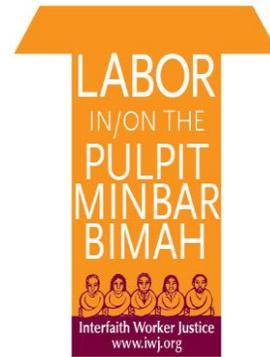
Note Regarding Translation

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.



Faith and Justice: Labor in the Pulpit September 4th, 2022

Dr. Joseph McCartin
Georgetown University &
Kalmanowitz Initiative for the Working Poor



For our seventh year, First Church will be honoring Labor Day through a service dedicated to pursuing justice for the working poor.

Earlier this year, the Poor People's Campaign highlighted that 140 million Americans are living in poverty, where they are struggling to support themselves and their families. Despite a booming stock market and low unemployment, working families continue to face significant challenges. Wages remain stagnant, even in the face of high inflation for household goods. Due to low wages, many are taking on additional jobs to help make ends meet. Too few employers provide their employees with quality jobs that include healthcare, leave, and retirement benefits to help employees and their families flourish. In the face of these challenges, workers across the country are waking up and demanding more from their employers. More cities and states are passing paid sick leave laws and other protections for working families. Many from the faith community are raising their voices to demand just policies to support workers' rights and help end poverty.

First Church is thrilled to join this chorus by hosting Labor in the Pulpit, an initiative sponsored by Interfaith Worker Justice, where we direct our attention and use our power to make a difference in the lives of the working poor.

This year, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Joseph McCartin to serve as our guest preacher. Dr. McCartin is both a professor at Georgetown and the Executive Director of the Kalmanowitz initiative for Labor and the Working Poor. Dr. McCartin is an expert on U.S. labor, social, and political history. His scholarship focuses on the intersection of labor organization, politics, and public policy. He is the author of more than 130 articles, chapters, and reviews in the fields of labor history and labor studies. Most recently, he is co-author with Melvyn

Dubofsky of [Labor in America](#). His current research explores the twin crises of declining labor organization and diminishing democracy, tracing both the decline collective bargaining in the United States and current efforts to reimagine and revive it. He also is exploring the impact Covid-19 has had on the US labor market, Us economy, global cities and labor policy.

He is the founding Executive Director of Georgetown's [Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor](#) (KI), which he has led since 2009. The KI is a leading labor research, education, training, and innovation center that draws on Georgetown's distinctive identity—including its Catholic and Jesuit traditions and prominence as an arena of policy debate in the nation's capital—to develop creative strategies that will improve workers' lives and strengthen their voices at work. McCartin is a member of the board of the [Catholic Labor Network](#), the steering committee of the [Interreligious Network for Worker Solidarity](#), a contributing editor to [Labor: Studies in Working-Class History](#), and member of the International Advisory Board/Conseil Consultatif international, [Labour/Le Travail](#).

Previous Speakers at First Church's Labor Day Justice

2021 - West McNeil, Executive Director of Labor and Religion (NY) and chapter leader for the Poor People's Campaign

2020 – Jasmine Martier, Volunteer Director of Simply Smiles (Cheyenne River Reservation)

2019 – Terry Flood, Executive Director of Jubilee Jobs (DC)

2018 – Allison Dunn-Almaguer, Organizer for the Washington Interfaith Network

2017 – Lauren McFerran, Member of the National Labor Relations Board

2016 – Andrew Hamilton, Director and Health Analyst for SEIU

We look forward to welcoming Dr. McCartin and we hope you can join us!

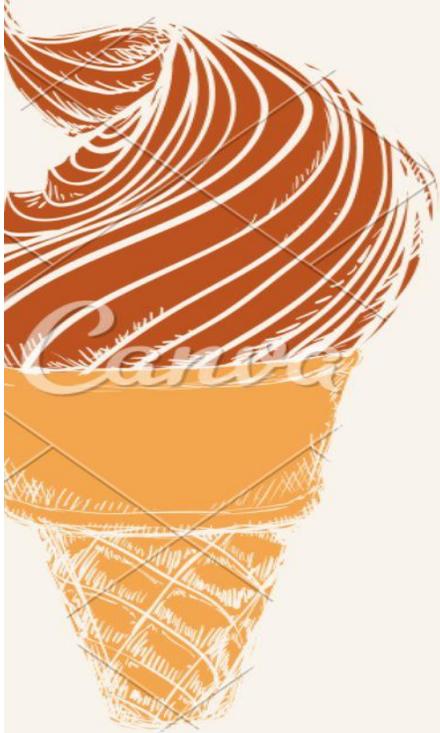
Please email Rev. Sam McFerran for any questions at mcferran.sam@gmail.com.



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.

JOIN CARE OF PARISH
FOR A FIRST CHURCH



Homecoming Sunday Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 11
Following church in place of
Coffee Hour

Location: Franklin Park at
13th and I St
less than half a mile walk
from the church

Prayer List

Prayers of healing for Joshua Hinzman, son of Carol Malone, as he recovers from a heart attack.

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.

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Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

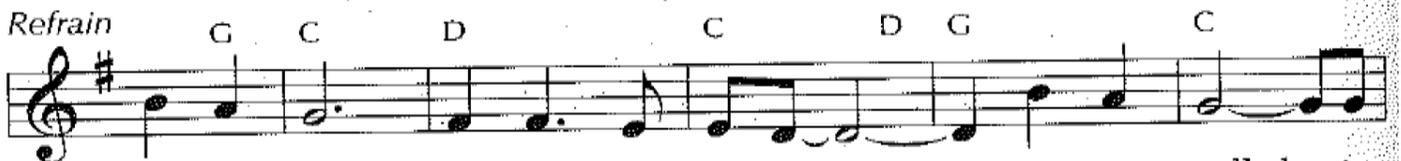


to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Take My Gifts

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Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir-it sowed,
3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com-pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

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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