



November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

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.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, Zechariah was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the angel, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John."

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

"The Word of God"

Rosephanye Powell

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

As we worship virtually and in person, we invite you to give in a variety of ways. Place your offering in the plate, send your check to the office, or [give online](#) via PayPal or Vanco. Consider signing up for auto-giving.

*DOXOLOGY

How Great Thou Art

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace,
Praise God for gifts of joy and love,
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth with us—Emmanuel. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER
& PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

*CLOSING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

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BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

POSTLUDE

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* Indicates "Please Rise in Body or in Spirit"

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1-12; Exod. 19-20:17

Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710
 Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.
 St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Refrain

Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
 our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
 Love stir with-in the womb of night,
 and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
 (*Refrain*)
- 7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
 all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
 Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
 fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
 (*Refrain*)

PRAYER

470 There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Refrain Dm *All* Gm C F

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for

Bb Gm7 A A7

you to re - veal your - self to us.

Dm Gm C F

There is a long-ing in our hearts for love we

Bb Gm7 A7 Dm (hold last time) *Fine*

on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All Dm Gm C7 F Bb Gm

1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord save us,	take pit - y,	Light in our

A A7 Dm Gm7 C7 F

hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
dark - ness.	We call you;	we wait:

Bb Gm7 A Dm *to Refrain*

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

Welcome to First Congregational UCC in Washington DC!

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 an online Visitor's Card and check out our newsletters at our website, www.firstuccdc.org. We welcome you warmly!

Families with Children

Children, complete with their wiggles and noises, are welcome in worship! At First Church, we provide Sunday school during the academic school year for preschool - 6th Grade and nursery care for infants and toddlers in our Christian Education (CE) suite on the second floor. If you would like to be added to our listserv for First Church families, please contact Rev. Sam at mcferran.sam@gmail.com. We are so grateful to welcome your children into our life together at First Church!

Assisted Listening Devices

We offer assisted listening devices with either headphones or loops to connect directly to hearing aids. Please see an usher if you would like to use an assisted listening device.

Coffee Hour Following Worship

All are invited to join us for coffee, light refreshments, and fellowship in the lobby immediately following worship.

Upcoming Coffee Hosts:

December 7: Mike Zawada, Michael Enseki-Frank, Thaddaeus Elliott

December 14: Fredda Sparks, Kelsey Grant, Sarah McKinnis

Invitation Cards

Stop by the Usher's Table to pick up one or more of the invitation cards. We invite members to use them to invite someone in your circle to come to First Church with you.

Thank You to Today's Worship Participants & Volunteers

Worship Leaders: Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss & Rev. Sam McFerran

Readers: David Greer, Polly Gordon, Lauren McFerran

Musicians: Ulung Tanoto, First Church Choir

Sanctuary Set-up: Jamey Moore

Ushers: Kristen & Whit Wheeler

Coffee Hour Hosts: Anisa Heming, Ed Chaffee, Nora Marsh

Zoom Moderator: Erin Williams

A/V Technician: Dwight Davis

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Kemmesha Thompson

Happening at First Church

Advent Nurture Series: The Hopes & Fears of All the Years

*And in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the year are met in thee tonight.*

Join Rev. Barbara Gerlach on November 30, December 14, and December 21 for an Advent nurture series featuring the personal sharing of members of our congregation as we reflect on the theme "The Hopes & Fears of All the Years," from, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." This series will take place following worship in the Community Hall and on Zoom. We will reflect on our hopes and fears, how hope meets fear and lifts, shifts, and opens a way. The leading characters in the stories of Advent and Christmas--Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, the shepherds, and the magi—all experienced fear. But their fear did not stop them from responding to the voice, vision, dream, or challenge before them. In saying "yes" to God, they found the courage and encouragement, comfort and joy, the strength and resolve to follow their call. By sharing our stories, we cultivate the courage to also say "yes" to God in fearful time, moving from fear to resilient hope. This Advent, we open ourselves to the "good news" which is louder than our fear. We hope you'll join us.

- Sharing on 11/30: Jim Riker, Roz Grisby, Trevor Bakker, Dian Permana
- Sharing on 12/14: Angie Ofori Atta, Kenneth Ofori Atta, Anne Mascolino, Omari Hardy
- Sharing on 12/21: Jody Kenney, Mike Kenny, Diana Gomez de Molina, Matt Dodge

Christmas Pageant: December 7

First Church rejoices to celebrate Christ's birth with our wonderful pageant on Sunday, December 7th. The theme will be "From Wilderness to Home," and it will feature Christmas carols and other wonderful music. Please invite extended family and friends to join us in person or by Zoom for this special Sunday, led by Rev. Sam McFerran. Following worship, join us for a Christmas Cookie Showcase upstairs in the Community Hall.

Daily Devotional: What do you Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent

You're invited to pick up a daily devotional booklet provided by A Sanctified Art, beckoning you deeper into the theme for Advent: "What do you Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent." The devotional includes reflections, visual art, journal prompts, music, scripture readings and poetry; it is designed for adults and older youth. Enjoy this guide to the holy season as an invitation to deepen your spiritual practice of observing Advent. Devotional booklets are available at the usher's station on Sunday mornings.

For more information on the life and ministry
of First Church, scan the QR code to view
our most recent weekly newsletter.



Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family of Abby Goodman-Johnson following the passing of her Great Aunts, Delores and Dot.

Prayers of healing for Gail Voss, Rev. Amanda's mother, as she undergoes surgery for trigeminal neuralgia.

Prayers of comfort and healing for Cristina Reyes, the mother of our sexton Ines Marquez, following a skin cancer diagnosis.

Prayers of comfort for the Dodge Family following the death of Matt's stepfather, Jay Miller.

Prayers of comfort for Garnell Yarbrough, following the death of his mother.

Prayers of comfort for Alyx Cheng and her family, following the death of her father, Alan, and of gratitude that he helped save the lives of three people through organ donation.

Prayers of comfort for Diana Gomez de Molina following the death of her wife, Mari Castellanos, beloved member of First Church.

Prayers of compassion and care for all federal workers facing chaos, cruelty, and uncertainty.

Prayers of courage and strength for our democracy.

Prayers of support for Dale Ostrander, living with memory loss.

Prayers that God's strength and wisdom surround the

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, the UCC's General Minister and President.

Prayers for a lasting cease-fire in Gaza and the release of hostages and prisoners.

Prayers of peace and liberation for Sudan, Ukraine, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.

Prayers of mercy for families struggling to eat and make ends meet.

Prayers for Peoples Congregational UCC, our sibling congregation.

Prayers of strength for Rev. Laura Simmons and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, serving as chaplains.

Welcome to First Congregational UCC. We were founded in 1865 by abolitionists as one of 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), Multiracial/Multicultural Church (2003), and an Anti-Racist Church (2021). 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.



Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran
Director of Music Ministry – Ulung Tanoto
Building Manager – Byron Adams
Sexton – Ines Marquez
Administrative Assistant – Whitney McColley
Member in Discernment – Lynaya Morris

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