



**February 1, 2026**  
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

*During the prelude, we invite you to quiet your heart,  
meditating on God's presence as we prepare for worship.*

PRELUDE

*Be Still, My Soul*

arr. Daniel Light

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

\*OPENING HYMN

"I Will Trust in the Lord"

pages 5 & 6

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peter Tracey, Moderator

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Byrne

**God of peace and justice, we confess that, at times, we fail to hear your Word in the voices of those who cry out around the world. Incline our ears to hear those on the streets of Minneapolis and the tundra of Greenland. From the rubble of Gaza to the streets of our city, may we hear in their suffering your very own. Make us instruments of your peace, brimming with the vision of a world made one. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved Community, hear the good news: God has loved us from before time, and nothing can separate us from the love of God made known in Christ Jesus. We are forgiven, thanks be to God!

\* PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Please greet those around you with words such as "The peace of God be with you." For those joining us online, please unmute to pass the peace. Let us bless one another with deep peace across time and space.

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

*Micah 6:1-4, 6-8*

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against the people and will contend with Israel.

O, my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? God has told you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Andrew Hamilton

*Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, the disciples came to him. And Jesus began to speak and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

\*SONG OF PREPARATION

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

page 7

SERMON

Dr. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Beautiful Things"

Gungor

*Witness & Wonder*: Casey Capsambelis, guitar and vocals; Abigail Cipparone, vocals; Michael Hopkins, percussion; Reshmina William, piano and vocals

OFFERING

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss &  
Rev. Sam McFerran

*At First Church, all are welcome to God's table to celebrate the sacrament of communion, including children. We receive communion in the round, gluten free bread is available and all the cups are filled with grape juice. For those joining us online, please set your table with a form of bread and cup, which we will bless and break together. Taste and see that God is good!*

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

Communion Music

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

page 8

Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Be Now My Vision"  
Witness & Wonder

page 9

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

POSTLUDE

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Music reprinted with permission by One License A-720443.

\* Indicates "Please Rise in Body or in Spirit"

**About the Hymnal Designations**

In honor of Black History Month, First Church will use both the African American Heritage Hymnal (AAHH) and the New Century Hymnal (NCH) in the month of February. Both hymnals are available when you enter the sanctuary and hymnal abbreviations in the worship folder indicate where to find each hymn.

The African American Heritage Hymnal is the result of years of work by a committee of more than 30 musicians and pastors, all leaders in African American worship and gospel music. This compendium represents the common repertoire of African American churches across the United States. For the first time in an African American hymnal, traditional hymns and songs are notated to reflect performance practices found in the oral tradition of the black church in America.

## 391 I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD

*In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I am not afraid; what can flesh do to me?*

*Psalm 56:4*

1. I will trust in the Lord, I will  
 2. I'm gon - na treat ev - 'ry - bod - y right, I'm gon - na  
 3. I'm gon - na stay on the bat - tle - field, I'm gon - na  
 4. I'm gon - na stay on 7 bend - ed knee, I'm gon - na

trust in the Lord, I will  
 treat ev - 'ry - bod - y right, I'm gon - na  
 stay on the bat - tle - field, I'm gon - na  
 stay on bend - ed knee, I'm gon - na

trust in the Lord till I die.  
 treat ev - 'ry - bod - y right till I die.  
 stay on the bat - tle - field till I die.  
 stay on 7 bend - ed knee till I die.

I will trust in the Lord, I will  
 I'm gon-na treat ev-'ry-bod-y right, I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na stay on the bat-tle-field, I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na stay on 7 bend-ed knee, I'm gon-na

trust in the Lord, I will  
 treat ev-'ry-bod-y right, I'm gon-na  
 stay on the bat-tle-field, I'm gon-na  
 stay on 7 bend-ed knee, I'm gon-na

trust in the Lord till I die.  
 treat ev-'ry-bod-y right till I die.  
 stay on the bat-tle-field till I die.  
 stay on bend-ed knee till I die.

*Alternate lyrics:*

Father, I stretch my hands to Thee;  
 No other help I know.  
 If Thou withdraw Thyself from me,  
 O whether shall I go?

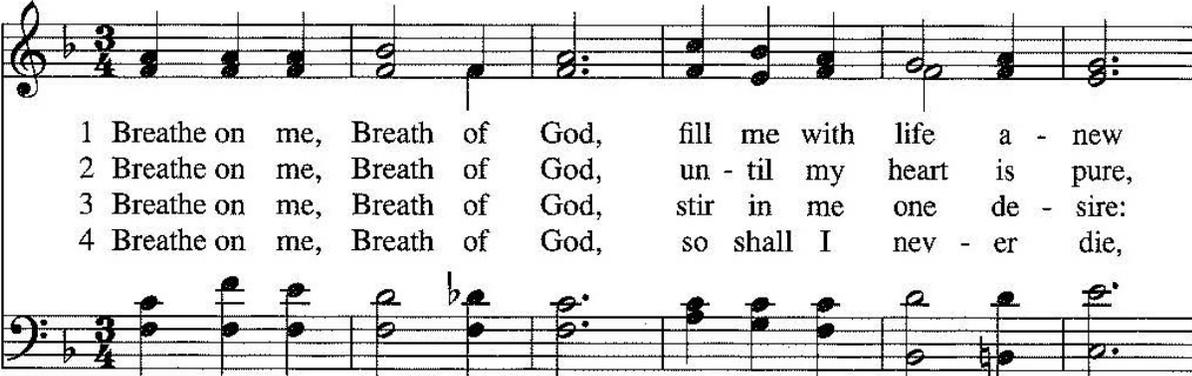
Text: Negro spiritual

Tune: TRUST IN THE LORD, Irregular; Negro spiritual; arr. by Jeffrey Radford and Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

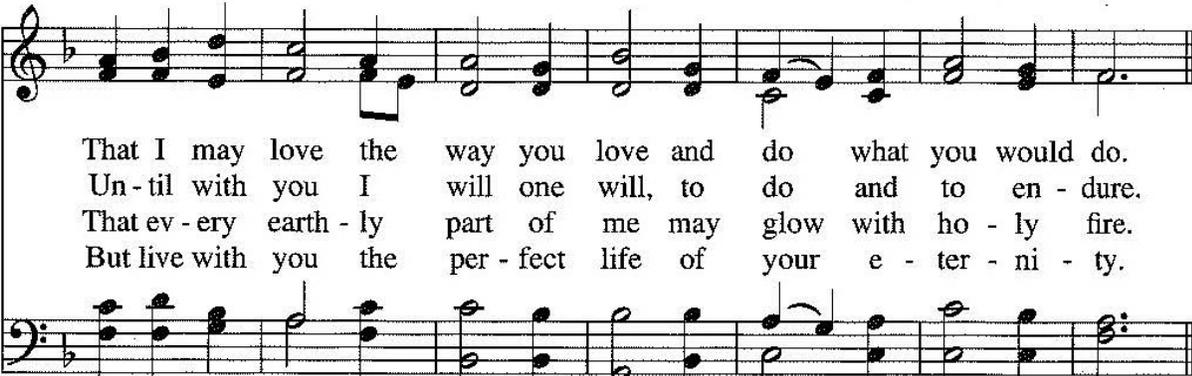
# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

292

*Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.*



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.  
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.  
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.  
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

*Between parish assignments in London, Edwin Hatch taught classics at Trinity College, Quebec, and lectured at Oxford. This hymn appeared in a leaflet, "Between Doubt and Prayer" (1878). Other hymns were published posthumously in Towards Fields of Light, London (1890).*

Tune: TRENTHAM S.M.  
Robert Jackson, 1894

# Sweet Hour of Prayer

*William Walford, 1845; alt.*

1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,  
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.  
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!  
 to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,  
 With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my Sav - ior's face,  
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,

and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!  
 And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!  
 I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

CONSECRATION

451

Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

# Welcome to First Congregational UCC in Washington DC!

## **Connect with us!**

If you are worshipping 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](http://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](mailto: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 Hour Hosts:

February 8: Ethan Miller, Susan Anderson

February 15: TBD

February 22: Marian Drake & Mark Jensen, Karen & Peter Byrne

## **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

Musicians: Dennis Turner. Witness & Wonder

Call to Worship: Peter Tracey

Readers: Rev. Jason Carson Wilson, Andrew Hamilton

Sanctuary Set-up: Chris Byrne, Ann Bushmiller

Coffee Hour Hosts: Goodfellow-Mills Family

Zoom Moderator: Barry Mills

A/V Technician: Dwight Davis

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Mykel Thompson

## Happening at First Church

### **Today Following Worship: Soup Fundraising Lunch**

The Care of Parish and Christian Ed Commissions will be partnering together to provide soup, bread and homemade cookies during coffee hour. There will be vegan and gluten free options. This is a fundraising activity for our Youth, so come prepared with some small bills to place in the collection vase.

### **Lenten Antiracism Training: Sign Up Today**

In keeping with our covenant to live into God's calling to be an antiracist church, we will offer a six-week antiracism training during Lent in 2026. As we seek to build a critical mass of members accompanying one another on the lifelong journey of antiracism, we especially invite new members and anyone active in church life, especially if you anticipate serving in a leadership capacity. The training will focus on content from the UCC's Sacred Conversations to End Racism. We will offer an online training co-facilitated by Dr. Vivian Jackson of Peoples Congregational UCC and the Rev. Dr. Marty Kuchma, Senior Minister of St. Paul's UCC in MD. The class will cost \$25 (scholarships available), and spaces will be limited. The link to sign up is in the weekly newsletter. Questions? Connect with Rev. Amanda. We give thanks for this opportunity to connect more meaningfully with God and one another as we face and dismantle racism in our hearts and in the world.

### **Spring Nurture Series: Faith Communities' Role in Nonviolent Resistance**

Please join us for our **Spring Nurture Series** led by Jim Riker and Sandy Sorensen that will explore the visionary roles that faith communities play in leading to successful nonviolent movements and "people power" initiatives for resistance and positive social change.

- What are the "six superpowers that faith communities bring to nonviolent struggle" (Stepan 2025), and how can citizen activism advance positive social change on key civic issues?
- How have faith communities historically engaged in visionary moral action made a significant impact?
- What are the lessons from faith communities in action for contemporary civic activism today?

This film and discussion series will draw directly on the perspectives of leading faith communities and civil society activists through documentary films and formal presentations of successful "people power" initiatives for social change at the local, national, and global levels. The series will focus on the visionary pioneers of key people power movements, the role of faith communities in the Civil Rights and anti-War movements in the United States, the moral witness of faith leaders and the rise of people power movements in the Arab World, Estonia, Liberia and beyond, and the role of faith communities and citizen activism in advancing democracy and constructive social change in the United States and around the world!

**VENUE & TIME:** First Congregational United Church of Christ, Washington, D.C., Community Hall, February 8 and 22, March 15 and 22, 12:00 pm-1:30 pm.

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 for justice, healing, and peace for the people of Minneapolis and for our friends and former members there: Rev. Susie Hayward, Welling Hall, Rev. David Lindsey, and Susan Peacock.

Prayers of strength for David Hendler, Rev. Amanda's father-in-law, as he recovers from a fall and faces treatment for cancer.

Prayers of wisdom for all of the public servants being sworn in across the nation this month, that they would lead with compassion.

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 peace and rebuilding in Gaza.

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](mailto:churchoffice@FirstUCCDC.org) or 202.628.4317.



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

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