



*"Anointed" by Lauren Wright Pittman*

**March 1, 2026**  
Second Sunday in Lent

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

*Elevation*

Dom Paul Benoit

WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

\*OPENING HYMN

"Gather Us In"

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LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

Reflection

Silent Meditation

A Candle is Extinguished

Alisa Tanaka-Dodge & Tadashi Dodge

LENTEN SONG OF RESPONSE

"Stay With Me"

Stay with me; re - main here with me; watch and  
pray. Watch and pray.

\* 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.

FIRST READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Abby Goodman-Johnson

*Luke 7:36-40*

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when Jesus went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owned five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, the moneylender canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them do you suppose will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus replied, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, Jesus said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those at the table began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

SECOND READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Louisa Jensen

*Matthew 25:35-40*

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." The righteous will answer, "Lord, when was it we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the ruler will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did it to me."

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Go Down Moses*  
Omari Hardy, baritone

H. T. Burleigh

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Sam McFerran

INVITATION TO COMMUNION  
& UNISON PRAYER

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  
Prayer

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)  
F C Dm F7/C Bb

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the  
ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's  
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)  
C F C F Gm

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
F/A Bb F/C C7 F Bb F

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Just As I Am"

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BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

POSTLUDE

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Vicki Hancock Wright

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

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

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1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

# Just as I Am

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Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a  
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,  
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -  
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -  
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise  
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

*This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.*

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.  
William B. Bradbury, 1849

## 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](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:

March 8: Sophie Jones, Polly Gordon, Nora Marsh

March 15: Jaimie Orr, Jody & Mike Kenney

### **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, Omari Hardy

Readers: Alisa Tanaka-Dodge, Tadashi Dodge, Abby Goodman-Johnson, Louisa Jensen

Sanctuary Set-up: Ann Bushmiller, Kim Darling

Coffee Hour Hosts: Ann & Tony Saudek, Elise & Evan Villemez

Zoom Moderator: Barry Mills

A/V Technician: Dwight Davis

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Mykel Thompson

## Happening at First Church

### **Today Following Worship: Community Potluck**

Bring a favorite dish to share on Sunday, March 1 for our monthly community potluck. There isn't a theme this month so have fun. We are thrilled at the turnout we've had recently at First Church so instead of serving 6, Care of Parish suggests thinking about a dish that can serve 8.

### **Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in Good News this Lent**

Our worship theme in Lent this year will ground us in something good. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all. This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is *good news*. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world. We hope this series will provide fertile ground, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

### **March 8: Nurture with Tommy's Pantry**

Following worship on Sunday, March 8, we will welcome Adrienne Tilton, the Vice President of Tommy's Pantry for a conversation in the Community Hall. Tommy's Pantry has been a long term service partner of First Church. Volunteers of all ages from First Church have helped serve and package goods over the last five years. Tommy's Pantry serves individuals in the greater Silver Spring area who are facing food insecurity by providing them with fresh and packaged food, as well as toiletries. A majority of their beneficiaries are immigrants. Please come join us to hear Adrienne provide an update on Tommy's Pantry during this important time of caring for and protecting our neighbor. Whether you are a volunteer or a congregant who has not been able to volunteer but is eager to learn more, we hope you can attend this important nurture. Tommy's Pantry will be the beneficiary of March's Second Sunday offering. The nurture will also be available via zoom. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Sam at [mcferran.sam@gmail.com](mailto:mcferran.sam@gmail.com) or 202-294-5437.

### **Sanctuary As A Faith Practice: March 11**

Join Congregation Action Network, our Sanctuary Committee, and local communities of faith for a workshop featuring the Rev. Dr. Alexia Salvatierra, one of the founders of the new sanctuary movement and Academic Dean at Fuller Seminary. We will dive into the the historic Sanctuary Movement and the lived experience of congregational solidarity during moments of state escalation, including the occupation of Los Angeles. Drawing from decades of organizing, theological reflection, and frontline leadership, Rev. Dr. Alexia Salvatierra will guide participants in discerning how faith communities can move beyond symbolic witness into durable solidarity. This event will take place in our sanctuary from 1:30 - 3:30pm on Wednesday, March 11th. To learn more, reach out to Susan Saudek or Jody Kenney. We thank the Sanctuary Committee for helping to host this meaningful workshop.

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 peace and comfort for Betsy Sonnemann, mother of Gail and UCC educator and camp leader, as she enters into Hospice care.

Prayers of healing and comfort for Steve Guy, father of First Church staff member Whitney McColley, as he recovers from multiple heart procedures.

Prayers of blessing and gratitude for Lindsay Swisher as she relocates to Detroit for a new job.

Prayers of support for Bob, the father of Rev. Laura Simmons, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

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, 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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