



*"Christ shows himself to Thomas" by LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte  
(Vanderbilt Library)*

**April 12, 2026**  
First Sunday of Eastertide

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

PRELUDE	<i>This Joyful Eastertide</i>	David Cherwien
WELCOME		Rev. Sam McFerran
*OPENING HYMN	"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"	pages 5 & 6
CALL TO WORSHIP		Kevin Anderson
"THE GLAD SURPRISE" BY REV. HOWARD THURMAN <i>Adapted by Rev. Sam McFerran</i>		Laura Darling-LaGamma & Ryan McFerran
* PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD		Rev. Sam McFerran
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.		
SCRIPTURE READING		Nora Marsh
<i>Psalm 16</i> Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."		
As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.		
Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.		
The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.		

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

#### READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Nick McConnell

*John 20:19-29*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After saying this, Jesus showed them his hands and side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As my Abba has sent me, so I send you." When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nail in Jesus' hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

#### SERMON

Rev. Sam McFerran

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

page 7

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.

MOMENT FOR JUSTICE  
Interfaith Power & Light, DMV

Andrea Orozco

\*DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns Erfreuen

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Praise God above, you heavenly host!  
Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER  
& PRAYER OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Rev. Sam McFerran

**In you, God all-mighty, we have our bliss.  
In you, Christ, we have our saving.  
You are our mother, brother, and savior.  
In you, Holy Spirit, is marvelous grace.  
You are our maker, lover, and keeper.  
Teach us to believe that by your grace, all shall be well,  
And all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

page 8

BENEDICTION

Rev. Sam McFerran

POSTLUDE

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

John Leavitt

---

Music reprinted with permission by One License A-720443.

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

ASCENSION

257

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

*Eph. 1:15-23; Heb. 9:11-14*

*William C. Dix, 1867; alt.*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Gra - cious Je - sus! Yours the  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, you on  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, noth - ing

scep - ter, yours the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! Yours the  
 left in sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! You are  
 earth our food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the  
 can dis - rupt your reign; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of

tri - umph, yours the vic - to - ry a - lone!  
 near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
 sin - ful flee to you from day to day.  
 Mar - y, heaven and earth are your do - main.

Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on  
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived you  
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,  
 Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered,

thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus, out of  
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -  
 earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, and the songs that  
 tend - ing those we count the least, serv - ing both as

ev - ery na - tion you've re - deemed us by your blood.  
 get your prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more."  
 sound in heav - en will re - peat your gra - cious plea.  
 Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

## Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

*Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.*

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
 2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
 3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
 when my life is al - most gone,  
 and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
 Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:  
 At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

*Refrain*

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

ADORATION

# 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;  
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.  
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

TEXT: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.  
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.

HYMN TO JOY  
 8.7.8.7.D

# 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:

April 19: Susan Saudek, Kristy Goodfellow-Mills  
April 26: Tom & Courtney McCaffrey, Anisa Heming  
May 3: Michael Enseki-Frank

## **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. Sam McFerran

Musicians: Karen Bartman

Readers: Kevin Anderson, Laura Darling-LaGamma, Ryan McFerran, Nora Marsh, Nick McConnell

Ushers: Mary Pence

Coffee Hour Hosts: Ethan Miller, Kim Darling, Lucille Dickinson

Zoom Moderator: Erin Williams

A/V Technician: Dwight Davis

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Kemmesha Thomas

## Happening at First Church

### **April Second Sunday Offering: Interfaith Power & Light (DMV)**

In April we invite you to give generously to our local environmental interfaith collaborative. Interfaith Power and Light (DMV) works with hundreds of local congregations of all faiths to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change. This year they have mobilized advocacy around data centers, affordable solar, electrification, and shifts to clean energy, as they seek to hold big polluters accountable. They guide communities of faith to imagine a future without combustible fuel and in alignment with energy justice. We hope you will support this important partner organization.



### **Prayer & Spiritual Practices for These Times: April 19**



Why do we pray? How do we pray? What is the efficacy of prayer? These questions have been asked by the faithful over generations, as we seek to better understand the mystery of prayer. Join Rev. Amanda for a conversation on the purpose of prayer and models of contemplative prayer, including spiritual practices like meditation, scripture reading, and beyond. To withstand the challenges of our times, developing and sustaining spiritual practices can result in greater peace and resilience. Join us after worship in the Community Hall and on Zoom for this meaningful

conversation.

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 peace and safety for all those impacted by the war in Iran, especially low-income workers in expat communities throughout the Gulf States and our Muslim siblings who may fear gathering to break their fasts during Ramadan.

Prayers of joy for Dwight Isaiah Davis following his acceptance to Candler School of Theology with a full scholarship.

Prayers of comfort for Gail Sonnemann and her family, following the death of her beloved mother, Betsy.

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 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

945 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001  
Phone: 202.628.4317 • Fax: 202.347.4911  
[www.firstuccdc.org](http://www.firstuccdc.org)

Follow us online:   