



*"The Resurrection" by Janet McKenzie*

**April 5, 2026**  
Easter 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

PRELUDE

*Were You There*  
Marian Drake, soloist

Traditional

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss & Rev. Sam McFerran

In the beginning was the Word. In the Word was life and the life was the light of all. The light shines in the shadow, and the shadow has not overcome it. Today we proclaim that the powers of dominion and death do not have the last word. May the light of Christ greet us this Easter morning.

One: Christ is risen!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed!**

Two: Christ is risen!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?  
Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?  
O sometimes I feel like shouting glory, glory, glory  
Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?*  
Marian Drake, soloist

\*OPENING HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"  
*With joy, we transform the sanctuary, unadorned and solemn,  
into the bright and hope-filled house of God's love  
as the children flower our cross.*

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WELCOME

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

UNISON PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Ethan Miller

*Adapted from A Sanctified Art*

**God of Alleluias and empty tombs, we praise you for the mystery of resurrection made known at Easter. In a world brimming with heartache, violence and oppression, our souls have longed for this day. A day to sing the song of new life. Help us cling to Easter's good news. Remind us how to run toward the dawn. In the chaos of our broken world, love is on the loose. Thank you that nothing can separate us from this glorious truth. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC WITH OUR CHILDREN

"Here I Am Lord"

Traditional

\* 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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

*Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*

Mark Miller

SCRIPTURE READING

CJ Thayer

*Matthew 28:1-10*

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning with clothing white as snow. For fear of this one the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. Jesus is not here, but has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where Jesus lay. Then go quickly and tell the disciples, 'Jesus has been raised from the dead, and indeed is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Jesus.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came and took hold of Jesus' feet, and worshiped Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my followers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON

"Living Witnesses"

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Majesty & Glory of Your Name

Tom Fettke

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. 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

"In Christ Alone"

pages 6 & 7

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Christ Is Alive"

page 8

BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

POSTLUDE

*Ain't That Good News*

Traditional

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

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

*Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57**Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.*

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

# In Christ Alone

Words and Music by  
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Maestoso (♩ = 80)

A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G Fm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my  
 2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less  
 3. There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the world by sha - dow  
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death - this is the pow'r of Christ in

4 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G

song; This cor - ner - stone, this so - lid ground, firm through the  
 babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the  
 slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the  
 me. From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com -

7 A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G Fm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of  
 ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Je - sus  
 grave He rose a - gain! And as He stands in vic - to -  
 mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of

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In Christ Alone (Hymnal: Key of E<sup>b</sup>)

10 B<sup>b</sup>sus B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> Cm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>sus B<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - for -  
died, the love of God was glo - ri - fied; for ev - ery  
ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am  
man, can e - ver pluck me from His hand; Till He re -

13 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/G Fm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> 1.2.3.

ter, my all in all- here in the love of Christ I stand.  
sin on Him was laid- here in the death of Christ I live.  
His and He is mine- healed by the pre-cious blood of Christ.  
turns or calls me home- here in the pow'r of Christ I'll

17 B<sup>b</sup>m<sup>7</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm<sup>7</sup> A<sup>b</sup>add<sup>9</sup> 4. E<sup>b</sup>

2. In Christ a- stand.  
3. There in the  
4. No guilt in

In Christ Alone (Hymnal: Key of E<sup>b</sup>)

# Christ Is Alive!

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1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

## 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 5: Easter Pancake Breakfast

April 12: Ethan Miller, Kim Darling, Lucille Dickinson

April 19: Susan Saudek, Kristy Goodfellow-Mills

### **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, First Church Choir, Marian Drake, Casey Capsambelis,  
Katie Koza, Reshmina William

Gabrieli Brass Quintet: Isaac Roberts & Louis Olds, trumpet; Jeff Tucker, horn;  
Robin Olson, trombone; Neal Denny, bass trombone

Readers: Ethan Miller, CJ Thayer

Liturgical Actors: Trevor Bakker, Chris Byrne, Patrick Darling-LaGamma, Lucille Dickinson, Polly Gordon,  
Greta McCaffrey, Evie Raver

Communion servers: Rev. Karen Byrne, Rev. Laura Simmons, Sandy Sorensen, Rev. Jason Carson Wilson  
Sanctuary Set-up: Chris Byrne, Kim Darling

Ushers: Fredda Sparks, Whit Wheeler, Patrick Darling-LaGamma, Susan Saudek

Zoom Moderator: Erin Williams

A/V Technician: Dwight Davis

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Moe Shorter

## Happening at First Church

### **Today Following Worship: Easter Pancake Breakfast**

Plan to join us for the annual -always wonderful - Easter Pancake Breakfast immediately following the Easter Sunday Service in the Community Hall, hosted by our Care of Parish Commission. Gluten-free (and gluten-full!) and vegan pancakes will be available, and there will be more than enough for everyone. An egg hunt for our children in the sanctuary will follow.



### **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.



## Easter Flower Dedications

Susan & Scott Bradley	In honor of my sister Bev Brown and her husband Mark Fehling
The Bushmiller-Cacozza Family	In honor of our sustaining community
Lucille Dickinson	In celebration of the life of my longtime friend Gail Spane
The Dodge Family	In celebration of the lives of "Grandpa Jay" Miller, "Grandma Miko" Tanaka, & Christopher Dodge
Marian Drake	In celebration of the life of Janie Drake
Michael Enseki-Frank	In celebration of the lives of Kakuichi Enseki, Sachie Enseki, and Rosemary Boles
Barbara Gerlach Jessica & Scott, Peter & Sara, Antonio, Sofia, Xavier, Lucas & Maia	In celebration of the life of John H. Mack "Papa John"
Kristy Goodfellow Mills	In honor of Karl Goodfellow and Nancy Donlon
Polly B. Gordon	In celebration of the lives of my family members who are at peace
Roz Grigsby & Jim Riker	In celebration of the lives of Robert & Harriette Grigsby
Mary Hayes	In celebration of the life of Barbara Preston Hayes
The Hendler-Voss Family	In celebration of the lives of Robert James Voss and Inez Graham
Mike & Jody Kenney	In honor of Refugees and Migrants
Sela Lewis	In celebration of the life of Sarah B. Lewis
Meg Maguire & Dale Ostrander	In honor of the young people in our congregation who bring so many gifts to our church life.
Anne and Tom Mascolino	In celebration of the lives of Angela & Salvy Mascolino and Lois & Edward Bliss
Kaeley McEvoy	In celebration of the lives of Harry & Julie Paulsen
Angie Ofori-Atta	In honor of Ken Ofori-Atta
Carol, Eric, Kevin and Carl Olson	In celebration of the lives of Ted & Byrdie Spellman, and David Spellman
The Olson Family	In celebration of the lives of Ingrid, Sally, and the Rev. Oscar Olson
Scott Prentice	In celebration of the lives of Andree Prentice & John Mack
John, Cathy, Julia, and Lily Smeltzer	In celebration of the life of the Rev. John P. Smeltzer

## 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

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