



**October 4, 2026**  
World 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 *Let Us Break Bread Together* arr. James Michael Stevens

WELCOME Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

\*OPENING HYMN "I Come With Joy" page 6

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & SILENT PRAYER Miyako Dodge  
**O God, you command us to love our neighbors, yet we often chose safety over the disruptive love that Jesus revealed. We have built walls between nations and watched our neighbors be deported. We long for peace, but find our nation in another endless war. Forgive us. Gather us from every corner of the earth and bless us with your joy, that we might truly be your Beloved Community. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Miyako Dodge  
Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our hearts feel barren, God's love is a deep wellspring. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

BREAD TO REMEMBER THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA Rev. Barbara Gerlach  
*Liturgy written by the Rev. Barbara Gerlach*

*As each bread bearer places their bread on the worship table,  
the congregation will sing the refrain "One Bread, One Body."*

**One bread, one body, one God of all,  
One cup of blessing, which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one 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.

*Sung Refrain*

**One bread, one body, one God of all,  
One cup of blessing, which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one God.**

READING FROM THE GOSPELS  
*Matthew 21:42-46*

Nora Marsh

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'" "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and Pharisees heard the parables of Jesus, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded Jesus as a prophet.

BREAD TO REMEMBER THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

Casey Capsambelis

*Sung Refrain*

**One bread, one body, one God of all,  
One cup of blessing, which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one God.**

READING FROM THE EPISTLES  
*Philippians 3:4b-14*

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law; a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as worthless, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Christ, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of the resurrection and the sharing of Christ's sufferings by taking the same form that Christ took in death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Siblings, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## BREAD TO REMEMBER THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

Diane Brenneman

*Sung Refrain*

**One bread, one body, one God of all,  
One cup of blessing, which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one God.**

## 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.

## BREAD TO REMEMBER THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

Abby Goodman-Johnson

*Sung Refrain*

**One bread, one body, one God of all,  
One cup of blessing, which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
We are one body in this one God.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Sam McFerran

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss &amp; 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  
Prayer After Communion

"Eat This Bread"

Opt. A "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and  
Opt. B Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to Christ and

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;  
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;

drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."  
drink this cup; trust in Christ and you will not thirst.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

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BENEDICTION

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

POSTLUDE

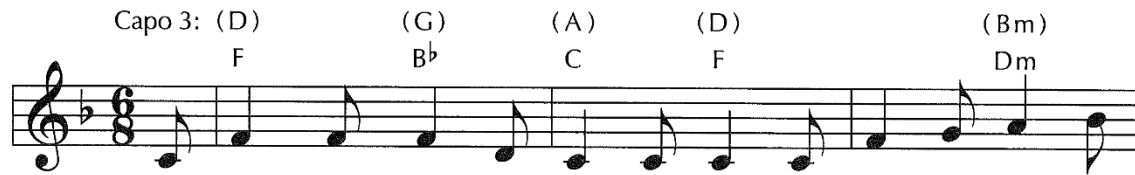
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\* Indicates "Please Rise in Body or in Spirit"

*Please join us for coffee hour following worship to taste  
the variety of breads from around the globe.*

# I Come with Joy

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1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

## Break Now the Bread of Life

*Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44**Mary A. Lathbury, 1877; alt.*

1 Break now the bread of life, Sav - ior, to me, as you once  
2 Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me, as you once

broke the loaves be - side the sea; Be - yond the sa - cred page  
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee; Then shall all bond-age cease,

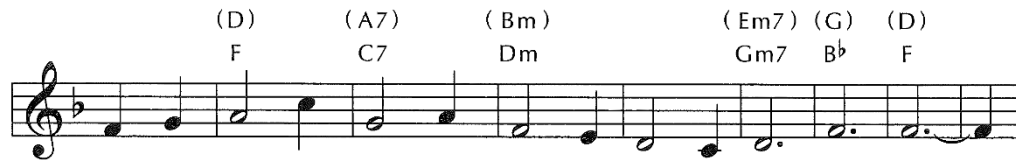
I seek you, Lord; my spir-it yearns for you, O Liv - ing Word.  
all shack-les fall, and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

## 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

## The Summons



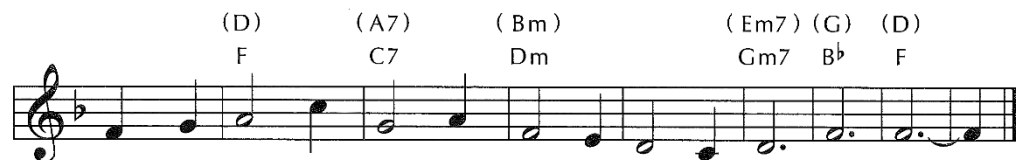
- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

## 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:

October 11: Nora Marsh, Polly Gordon, Judith Gray  
October 18: TBD  
October 25: TBD

### **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

Music: Dennis Turner

Speakers & Liturgists: Rev. Barbara Gerlach, Miyako Dodge, Nana Ofori-Atta, Nora Marsh, Casey Capsambelis, Rev. Jason Carson Wilson, Abby Goodman-Johnson,

Sanctuary Setup: Ann Bushmiller

Coffee Hour Hosts: Andrew Hamilton & Dwan Reece

Ushers: Mary Pence

Zoom Moderator: Erin Williams

A/V Technician: Gil Elie

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Moe Shorter

## Happening at First Church

### **Today Following Worship: Feast of Global Breads**

On World Communion Sunday, our communion feast will feature breads representing five nations around the world as we remember and lift up their people. Join us following worship for a feast of global breads as we enjoy communion breads with cheese, fruits, butter, oil, and hummus. If there is a place around the world that is meaningful to you, please bring bread to share to represent that region. Please note our feast of global breads will take the place of an October potluck, but we encourage you to bring bread to share if you would like.



### **All-Church, Intergenerational Fall Retreat**

Join us for fun, community, and spiritual renewal.  
October 16–18, 2026  
West River Retreat Center, West River, Maryland

Please plan to join us for our Fall Congregational Retreat to enjoy the outdoors, strengthen relationships, and dig into what it means to build our church on the solid rock of covenant (Matthew 7:24-27). We will have opportunities to enjoy a ropes course, hiking trails, games, music, canoeing, and a campfire. The retreat will include an outdoor worship service on Sunday morning. We welcome newcomers, families with children of all ages, longtime members, and everyone in between. [Registration is now open!](#)



### **Write postcards for the Midterm Get-Out-the-Vote effort**

The Justice and Witness Action Network-VA of the Central Atlantic Conference is participating with the Center for Common Ground in a nonpartisan postcard-writing campaign to increase Black voter turnout in Virginia's midterm elections. You do not need to be a resident of Virginia to help us get out the vote! Get your postcards, stamps, voter addresses and scripts in the narthex on Sunday mornings; our goal is to send 1,000 postcards total.

### **Election Protection & the Election Aftermath: October 11**

Join Thaddaeus Elliott and Sandy Sorensen for the final discussion in our Faith & Democracy series as we focus on election protection in an election strained by measures to restrict and discourage voting. How can we support fair, free, and peaceful elections as we work to empower voter participation? How do we report problems at a polling place? What advice can we offer if anyone is turned away from the polls? We will also discuss what to expect in the weeks and months following the election, as we explore how First Church can be a supportive, engaged community grounded in our shared values. This will be a hybrid program in the Community Hall and on Zoom. Join us!

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 love for the family of Eric, Anna, Riley, and Archer Kiss following Eric's hospitalization due to pancreatic cancer.

Prayers of healing for Susan Hendler, Rev. Amanda's mother-in-law, following a fall and broken hip.

Prayers of comfort for the Pence-Bucks family, following the death of Travis Johnson, Natalie's birth father. May he rest in peace.

Prayers of strength for Daniel Zawada, father of Mike, who was hospitalized following a fall and major head injury.

Prayers of gratitude for the life of the Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund, torch-blazing feminist scholar, author of a ground-breaking book on the Hidden Histories of the UCC, and former member of First Church.

Prayers of comfort for the Prentice family following the death of Scott's brother, Kirk.

Prayers of mercy for the people of Colombia following the devastating earthquakes.

Prayers for peace in Iran and for all those impacted by the war.

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 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  
Interim Director of Music – Dennis Turner  
Building Manager – Byron Adams  
Sexton – Ines Marquez  
Administrative Assistant – Whitney McColley  
Member in Discernment – Lynaya Morris

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