



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

www.fcindy.org
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

@FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to your spiritual home! We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAI+ community since 1994.

We welcome first time guests and include **all ages** in our worship service. We believe we are called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. We are a place to **belong**, a place to **heal** and a place to **love**. **At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.**

Pastoral Care: Pastor Sarah may be reached at
(386)478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

We celebrate our church staff:

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle
Office Administrator, Shannon Abbott
Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker
Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall

We celebrate our church leadership:

Alice Rutherford, Moderator
Larry Eckel, Vice Moderator
Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Clerk
Jim Lootens, Treasurer
Cheryl Dillenback, Financial Secretary

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

The Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, Preacher

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Information Helpline provides information and referral services. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) and www.nami.org.

The Trevor Project hotline offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

OCTOBER 4, 2020

11:00 A.M.



World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2020

Shared Worship Service
with the

Potomac Association
Central Atlantic Conference
United Church of Christ



This World Communion Sunday virtual worship service is a collaborative effort of congregations in the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ. On this day of ecumenical solidarity and celebration, we honor our covenant connection to one another and to all who come to Christ's table. We trust and pray that God is at work among us even in this pandemic season.

PRELUDE

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

by Harold Friedell

Westmoreland Chancel Choir

Rachel Barham, *soprano*

Westmoreland Congregational UCC

WELCOME

Rev. Freeman Palmer

Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference

INVOCATION

Rev. Brandon Harris

Senior Minister, Peoples Congregational UCC

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Designated Senior Minister, First Congregational UCC

OPENING HYMN

"Gather Us In"

Potomac Association Virtual Choir

Compiled by Naomi Velluttini, Bill Robinson,

and Teri Doxsee from Hope UCC

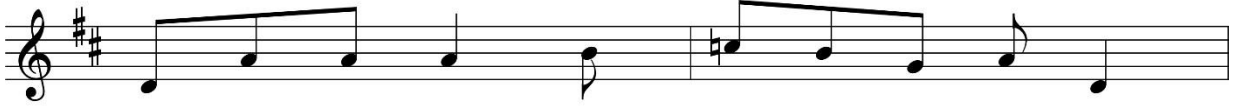
singing verses 1, 2, 4



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
We are the old— who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
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, now is the day.



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



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Minister Bobby Faison
Moderator, Potomac Association and
Minister of Faith Formation and Mission, Emmaus UCC

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Alexis Kassim
Pastor, Little River UCC

SHARING OUR GIFTS

<https://www.ucc.org/nin>

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Musical selection from Beloved Community Church

DOXOLOGY

Harold Walbert, organist
Ralph Jennings, tenor vocalist
Cleveland Park Congregational UCC

SCRIPTURE READING

Marcie Agee
St. Johns UCC

Ephesians 4:1-16 *(New Revised Standard Version)*

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full

stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PREACHER

Bishop Dwayne Royster
Pastor, Faith UCC

SONG OF PREPARATION Musical selection from Empowerment Liberation Cathedral

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries
and Operations and Co-Executive for Global Ministries

CELEBRATING WORLD COMMUNION

This liturgy, like this table, is shared by many people and many congregations. On World Communion Sunday, we especially acknowledge our beautiful diversity as part of God's creation and our unity in the Body of Christ. Let us draw near to one another as we come to Christ's Table.

Peoples Congregational UCC

Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity.
Christ has gathered his people around the
earth to come together at this table.
Across political lines and economic
lines, in places of powerfully
protected affluence, and among the
poorest of the poor, Together we
share a meal.

Bethel UCC

A meal of sourdough, rye, tortillas, crackers, wafers, white or wheat bread. A feast
enjoying different juices or wines shared in simple cups, pottery chalices, or wine

glasses. And yet through God's power this diverse meal unites us as one people – people remembering and celebrating the One who showed us peace is possible. In solidarity with Christ at this table, the evil structures of this world are transformed.

Faith UCC

And so, come: you from the East
and you from the West, from the
North and from the South.
You, from the urban center of our nation's capital
and from the rural farmland of Maryland;
from the beltway suburbs and from the shores of the Potomac River; from
the hills of wine country and from the streets of Richmond.

Little River UCC

Come.
Come with your doubts, come with your hopes,
come with your prayers, come with your
inadequacies and with your strengths.
Come, for this is a table where all are welcome and all are celebrated.

St. John's UCC

Holy God, One of many names and
faces, we thank you for the light and
the darkness, for the division of the
waters and dry land.

Cleveland Park Congregational UCC

We thank you for creating us in your image, to live
connected with love, to see you in others to stretch
from this table in this room across land and sea.

The Community Church of Washington, DC UCC

Moses revealed your vision in commandments
and your people nurtured them in exile.
Your prophets unleashed cries for justice
And still the earth rains, blows, burns, and cries for peace.

UCC of Seneca Valley

Through long generations we have ebbed and
flowed with suffering and sorrow, healing and
renewal. We ask for your forgiveness and grace
again and again. In the most beautiful and most
oppressive of times, You still called us beloved.

First Congregational UCC

You are full of wonder and awe, O God.
Your ways are just and prophetic.
With all of creation in all times and
places, with your people around
your planet we praise you in one
voice.

Westmoreland Congregational UCC

Praying the words Jesus taught
us, we say now:
*(Please pray, using whatever language or tradition is meaningful to you or use the
following.)*

**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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hope UCC

Today we celebrate the gift of this
table. We gather today,
knowing that the table draws us closer to God,
and closer to one another.
We gather to commune as beloved friends;
Holding close to the story of Jesus.

Beloved Community Church

Jesus came as human and divine.
To heal and encourage;
To protect and
nurture; To
cultivate and
guide.
Jesus gathered with friends and
crowds; On mountain tops and in
murky waters; On boats and at tables.
Jesus came so we may know God.

Emmaus UCC

In his final week, Jesus said goodbye to his disciples and friends. He gathered them in a room for a final meal. In honor of him, we gather virtually now. In remembrance of him, we gather in covenant with communities across the globe. And for the love of him, we gather in spirit with all the saints.

Many Voices of the Potomac Association

We remember that Jesus took bread and he broke it.
After giving thanks, he said, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(You may hold up your bread for blessing)

In the same way, he took the cup and said, “This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me”

(You may hold up your cup for blessing)

Wellspring UCC

Holy God, Creator of milk and honey, of wheat and grapes, over time this table has been a symbol of restoration and community, a call to remembrance. Bless this time in celebration. Draw us into thanksgiving for the gift of receiving your holy welcome and the powerful memory of the justice work of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christ Congregational UCC

Your communion elements are now blessed and your place at Christ’s table is set. You may now take communion yourself or share with those around you with words like, “The bread of life,” or “The body of Christ,” and “The cup of blessing,” or “the blood of Christ.” Let us join together in this holy meal in covenant and in community with Christians from every time and place.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

(Serve Communion elements to yourself or to those in the room with you)

Communion Music

"Let My People Go"

arr. by Allison Shelby
performed by Maggie Christoffersen
and Allison Shelby
Emmaus UCC

Empowerment Liberation Cathedral

As one body, we lament with those who lament.
We hope with those who hope.
We live with suffering. We live with beauty.
Let us go from this table as a renewed
community, doing the radical work of Jesus

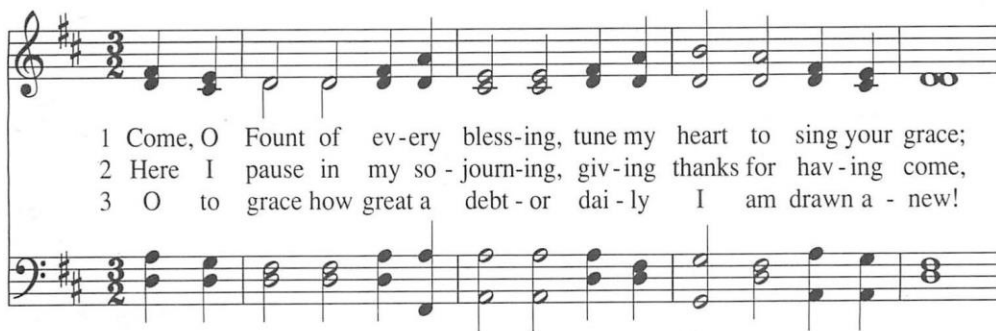
that calls us to live justice-making lives of
faith.

We give thanks! Amen!

CLOSING HYMN

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

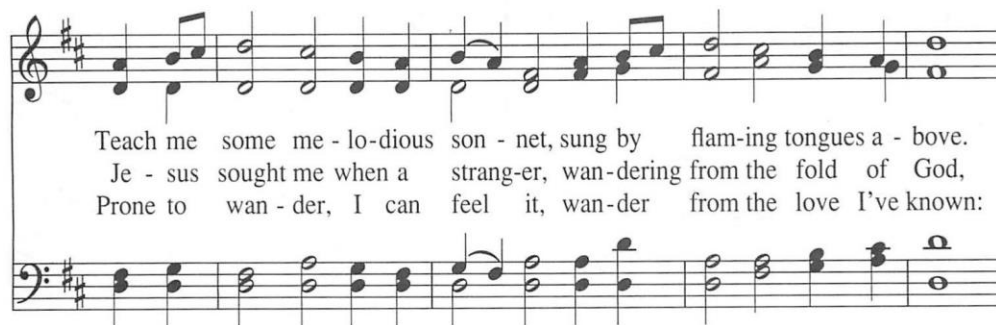
Alec Davis, organist
Westmoreland Congregational UCC



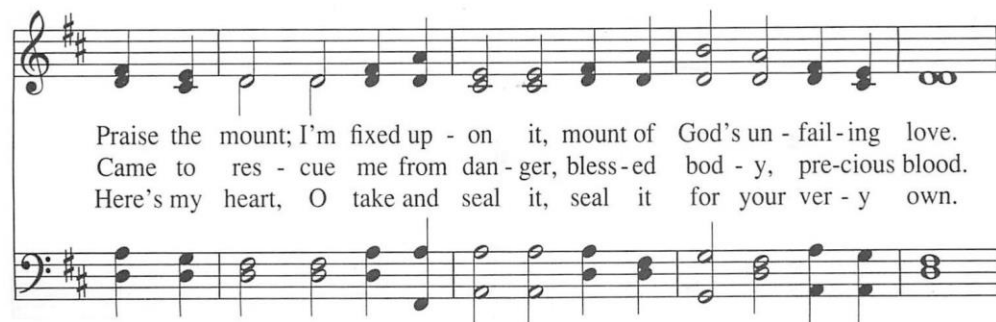
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Holly Jackson
Pastor, UCC of Seneca Valley

POSTLUDE

“Speak to My Heart”

by Donnie McClurkin
Peoples Congregational UCC

* * * * *

THIS SHARED WORSHIP SERVICE IS AN EXPERIENCE OF:

Potomac Association UCC | www.potomacucc.org

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Cleveland Park Congregational UCC | cpcchurch.org **The Community Church of Washington, DC UCC** | www.ccwdc.org

Empowerment Liberation Cathedral | www.empowermentliberationcathedral.org

Faith UCC | faithuniteddc.com

First Congregational UCC | www.firstuccdc.org **Peoples Congregational UCC** | peopleschurchucc.org

MARYLAND

Beloved Community Church | Accokeek | www.belovedcommunitychurchmd.org

Christ Congregational Church UCC | Silver Spring | www.cccsilverspring.org

UCC of Seneca Valley | Germantown | www.uccsenecavalley.org

Westmoreland Congregational UCC | Bethesda | www.westmorelanducc.org

VIRGINIA

Bethel UCC | Arlington | bethelucc-va.org

Emmaus UCC | Vienna | emmausucc.org

Hope UCC | Alexandria | hopeucc.org

Little River UCC | Annandale | www.lrucc.org

St. John's UCC | Richmond | www.stjohnsrichmond.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The churches of the Potomac Association UCC gratefully acknowledge the following authors and composers whose materials are employed in worship: ***Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*** Words: Percy Dearmer © 1925, Oxford University Press; Music: Harold Friedell, adapt. Jet Turner CC 1957 (Renewed) The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Administered by Alfred Music. ***Gather Us In*** Words & Music: Marty Haugen © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc. ***Let My People Go*** American spiritual arranged by Allison Shelby. ***Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*** Words: Robert Robinson; Music: NETTLETON. ***Speak to My Heart*** Words & Music: Donnie McClurkin © 1996 Don-Mac Music & Savgos Music, Inc. (both admin. by Peermusic III, Ltd.) For all songs: All rights reserved. Used under OneLicense.net #A707443 and CCLI #20026412