



Peoples Congregational United of Christ
4704 13th Street NW
Washington, DC 20011

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

“This is the day that the Lord has made:
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
Psalm 18:24

Love God and Love Neighbor

ENTER TO WORSHIP...

The Order of the Word
Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 10:00 am
The Liturgical Color is White

Centering Thought

“Lord, our country is divided, our families are fractured, our relationships need mending. Convert our fear into love. . . . As your people, we will share the pain and then share also in the joy—until the day in which we gather around your throne next to all the people we never thought should be there.”

—Nadia Bolz-Weber

Prelude

Opening Hymn

No. 293 AAHH Edward Peronet

All Hail the Power of Jesus’

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

****Call to Worship**

Minister Francis Smith

Minister: God is loving and full of kindness.

People: God is at home in us.

Minister: God is welcoming and full of beauty.

People: God is at home in us.

Minister: God is forgiving and full of justice.

People: God is at home in us.

Minister: God is with us: we are God’s people.

People: God is at home in us. Let us worship!

****Invocation**

Minister Francis Smith

Minister: God of wisdom and mercy, You have created a world of beauty, a world where each person has an honored place in Your love.

People: But we do not always honor ourselves or one another as Your beloved people.

Minister: O God, for all the times when we have known of the suffering of others but turned away from it. . . . In Your mercy,

People: forgive us.

Minister: O God, for all the times when some of us have seen pain and blamed it on those who suffer. . . . In Your mercy,

People: forgive us.

Minister: O God, for all the times when some of us have not seen Your image in our own faces In Your mercy,

People: forgive us.

Minister: O God, for any time in which we have heard cries of pain and not believed them. . . .

In Your mercy,

People: forgive us.

Minister: O God, for all the times when we alone, or as a church, have not sought to bring about
Your justice. . . . In Your mercy,

People: forgive us.

Minister: Loving God, You alone know how these burdens weigh on our souls.

**People: Forgive us, free us, and show us the paths of love You would have us choose.
Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: Friends, believe this good news:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

****Affirmation**

Deacon Carrie Tyus

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, and in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 148

Deacon Malcolm Carpenter

Revelation 21:1-6

Deacon Kenneth Parker

Acts 11:1-18

Covenant

Minister Francis Smith

We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of God, made known or to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all humankind, exalting the worship of the one true God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of the beloved community. Depending as did our fathers and mothers upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the City of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

****Gloria Patri**

Saint Hilary of Poitiers

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, Amen*

Children's Sermon

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Raise the Roof

Deborah Spriggs

Song of Preparation

Margaret Douroux

Give Me a Clean Heart

Davey Yarborough

Sermon

“Who/What Hindered You?”

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Musical Selection

We Fall Down

Donnie McClurkin

The Holy Communion

The *Sharing* of the Bread

The Sharing of the Wine

Musical Selection

Glenn Burleigh

Do This in Remembrance of Me

Offertory

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Musical Selection

Dawn Rogers and Eric Wyse

Wonderful, Merciful, Savior
Rebert Veiga and Kimberly Barnette

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

****Doxology**

Ludwig van Beethoven

All Things Come of Thee
All things come of Thee, O Lord
And of Thine own have we given Thee, Amen

Closing Hymn

Judson W. Van DeVenter

I Surrender All
Davey Yarborough

****Benediction**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Postlude

Jesus, There is Something about that Name

...DEPART TO SERVE

Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir
Minister Diedre D. Gray, Assistant Director of Worship and Peoples Praise

*AAHH- African American Heritage Hymnal

** All who are able, please stand