

# *Graduate* *Sunday* *we honor you*



## **Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ**

4704 13th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20011

**Sunday, June 22, 2025**

10:00 a.m.

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds  
Interim Minister

"This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Love God and Love Neighbor

The Order of the Word  
**Student Recognition Sunday**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
Sunday, June 22, 2025  
The Liturgical Color is Green

**Center Thought**

“Don't follow the path. Go where there is no path and begin the trail. When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength, and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!”

– Ruby Bridges

**Prelude**

Maurice Ravel

*Le Jardin féérique from Ma Mere L'oye*  
Sarah Ramson, piano

**Processional**

Edward Elgar

*Pomp and Circumstance Op. 39 No. 1*

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

No. 385 AAHH William B. Bradbury

*The Solid Rock*

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Madeline Romine

Leader: Welcome, beloved community! Today, we gather to celebrate not just our life achievements but also the journey that has brought us to this moment. We come with hearts full of gratitude and excitement for the future.

**People: We come as one to lift our voices in praise, to honor our graduates, and to embrace the blessings of this new chapter.**

Leader: The Lord has been with us every step of the way, guiding us through trials and triumphs. As we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Peoples's students, let us remember that our purpose is rooted in God's love.

**People: We are called to rise, to dream, and to pursue the paths laid before us, knowing that we are never alone.**

Leader: Let us enter into this time of worship with open hearts and minds, ready to be inspired and to celebrate the gifts of our lives.

**All: With joy and anticipation, we worship together! Amen!**

**\*\*Invocation and Savior's Prayer**

Lana Washington

Gracious and eternal God, we gather here today with hearts full of gratitude and joy as we celebrate the remarkable journey of the graduating class of 2025. As a graduated student, I can attest that each of us has faced challenges, embraced opportunities, and grown into the individuals we are today. As our hard work and dedication are honored, let us also recognize the guiding light of Your presence that has accompanied us along our paths.

May each student feel empowered by Your promise: "I have called you by name, you are mine." Let this moment be a reminder that each of us has a unique purpose in life, and no dream is too great when grounded in faith and courage.

Lord, instill in us the courage to chase our aspirations, knowing that You provide strength in our times of doubt. As we step into new beginnings, may we carry with us the wisdom and love that have been nurtured in this community.

Surround each of us with Your peace, and may we be empowered by the spirit of resilience, compassion, and creativity. Teach us all to cherish the bonds we have built and to support one another in the adventures ahead.

As we celebrate together with family and friends, we invite Your sweet presence to fill this place with joy and thanksgiving. In the spirit of unity, we pray together, as Your Son taught us: Our Father 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Scripture Readings**

Jeremiah 29:11-14  
Philippians 1:1-11

Aidan Foster  
Malcolm Wyatt

**Nature of the Occasion**

Nadine Duplessy Kearns

**Acknowledgment of Church School  
Instructors and Participants**

Cynthia Prather

**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*

**Acknowledgment of Peoples Church Graduates**

Tuere Marshall

**Introduction of the Speaker** Rachael Romine and Jacques Kearns

**Song of Preparation** CeCe Winans

*Alabaster Box*  
Kelci Barnette, soloist

**Student Recognition Address** Kimberle Tyus-Anderson and Julien Kearns

**Invitation to Discipleship** Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Prayers of the People** Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Offertory** Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Musical Selection** Randall Goodgame

*Fruit of the Spirit*  
Peoples Church School Choir

**Offertory Prayer** Diane Miller

**\*\*Doxology** Thomas Ken

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above Ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**Presentation of Scholarships** Maureen Sullivan  
Karlene Baddy  
Krysten Thomas

**Balcony Circle Gift** Robina Barlow

**Closing Remarks** Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Closing Hymn** No. 474 AAHH Doris M. Akers

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

**Benediction** Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Postlude** Cyril "CP" Enyi, trumpet

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

...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