



***Embrace Our Comfort . . . Elevate Our Spirit!***

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

**Sunday, August 31, 2025 at 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

**ENTER TO WORSHIP...**

The Order of the Word  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, August 31, 2025  
The Liturgical color is Green

**Centering Thought**

“The will of God is not something you add to your life. It’s a course you choose. You either align yourself with the Son of God ...or you capitulate to the principle which governs the rest of the world.”

— Elizabeth Elliot

**Prelude**

arr. Robert L. Jefferson

*Shall We Gather by the River*

**Opening Hymn**

No. 147 AAHH Francis of Assisi/William H. Draper

*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
*verse 1& 2 all, verse 3 women, verse 4 men, verse 5 all*

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Leader: Lift every voice and sing.

**People: Till earth and heaven ring. Ring with the harmonies of Liberty.**

Leader: Let our rejoicing rise.

**People: High as the listening skies. Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

Leader: Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light.

**People: Keep us forever in the path, we pray.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

**People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*\* Invocation and Savior’s Prayer**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Creator and Creating God, in this hour of worship, we come before You amid challenging times. Sometimes it seems that many have strayed from the path that our Savior set before us. Often, it seems that the Gospel of Christ Jesus no longer lights our way. Let not our desire to conform overshadow Micah’s admonition to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Share with us Your Spirit to lead us to the truth, the freedom it engenders, and the courage to act according to Your will. Open our spirits that the words of our Lord**

and Savior resound within us, as we pray, 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### Scripture Readings

Proverbs 25:6-7  
Luke 14:1,7-14

Deacon Goulda Downer  
Deacon Laura Minor

### \*\*Gloria Patria

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

### Song of Preparation

William Murphy

*Everlasting God*

### Sermon

Minister Francis Smith

**“What do you do to fit in?”**

### Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

### Prayers of the People

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

### Musical Selection

*Hallelujah, He's a Prayer Answering God*

### Offertory

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

### Musical Selection

arr. Robert Jefferson/Diedre Gray

*It Is Well with My Soul*

**Offertory Prayer**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**\*\* 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

**\*\*Closing Hymn**

No. 419 AAHH Johnson Oatman, Jr/Charles H. Gabriel

*Higher Ground*

**Benediction**

Minister Francis Smith

**Postlude**

Diedre Gray

*May the Grace of God be With You*

**...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

Minister Geneva Hudson, Minister of Congregational Care  
Minister Francis Smith, Minister of Community Engagement

\*AAHH - African American Heritage Hymnal

\*\*All who are able, please stand

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