



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

Sunday, January 4, 2026 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
Communion Sunday
Second Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
The Liturgical Color is White

Centering Thought

“Do not ask what the world needs; ask what makes you come alive and go and do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

— Howard Thurman

Prelude

****Opening Hymn** No. 207 AAHH William J. Kirkpatrick
Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

****Call to Worship** Minister Geneva Hudson

Leader: On this first Sunday of 2026, as we gather for Communion, we come together in the spirit of dreams—dreams that inspire, guide, and reveal God's presence among us.

People: We gather with open hearts, ready to receive the wisdom of our dreams and the stories that shape us.

Leader: As the Magi journeyed to find the Christ child, following a star and trusting their dreams, may we seek the Light that calls us forward, even amidst life's distractions.

People: We come with our stories, our distractions, and our aspirations, longing to encounter the Holy and be renewed.

Leader: Psalm 84 reminds us that in God's presence, we find strength and joy. Let us lift our voices and our hearts in worship, seeking connection and Communion with God and one another.

All: May our gathering be a sacred space where dreams lead us closer to the heart of Jesus. Amen.

****Invocation**

Minister Geneva Hudson

Gracious and Loving God, as we gather on this beautiful day, the first Sunday of 2026, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to come together in this sacred space. We acknowledge the dreams that stir within our hearts, the hopes that guide our paths, and the distractions that often pull us away from Your presence. We thank You for the wisdom of the Magi who followed the star, seeking truth and purpose. Like them, may we tune our hearts to Your guiding light, trusting that Your dreams for us are greater than we can imagine. Open our eyes to see the beauty in the intricate details of our lives and help us discern what truly matters. As we share in this Communion meal, may we be reminded of Your infinite grace and love, nourishing us for the journey ahead. Help us to cast aside distractions and embrace the point of our gathering—Your presence among us. Bless our time together, that we may worship in spirit and truth, encouraging one another to live boldly into our dreams. In Your holy name, we pray. 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 84

Deacon Malcolm Carpenter

Matthew 2

Deacon Kenneth Parker

****Covenant**

Minister Geneva Hudson

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. 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

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Song of Preparation

Jackie Gouche Farris

My Help (Cometh from the Lord)

Robert Veiga, Soloist

Sermon

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

“Dreams and Distractions”

Invitation to the *Holy Communion*

Leader: Friends, we come together at this table, where our Lord invites all to experience the grace, love, and connection that come from sharing in this sacred meal. As we gather, let us open our hearts to the presence of Christ among us.

People: We come with gratitude for the gifts of bread and cup, symbols of Christ's body and blood, offered for us.

Leader: On the night that He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it. He gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

People: We remember His sacrifice and witness His love.

Leader: In the same way, after supper, He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

People: We come to this table, united by our faith, celebrating the new life we have in Him.

Leader: For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again. Let us pray together: 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.

Musical Selection

Thomas J. Portner

*Let Us Be Bread****The Sharing of the Bread******The Sharing of the Wine****Prayer**Invitation to the Table**Distribution of the Elements**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Savior's Prayer***Offertory**

Minister Geneva Hudson

Musical Selection

No. 256 AAHH Andrae Crouch

*The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power***Offertory Prayer**

Minister Geneva Hudson

****Doxology**

Thomas Ken

We give Thee but Thine Own
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen

Closing Hymn

No. 474 AAHH Doris M. Akers

*Lead Me, Guide Me*****Benediction**

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Postlude*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir

Minister Diedre D. Gray, Assistant Director of Worship and Peoples Praise

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett, Ministerial Team

Rev. George Walker, Ministerial Team

*AAHH- African American Heritage Hymnal

** All who are able, please stand

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Peoples Preaching and Worship Leader Schedule January 2026

Sunday, January 4 (Second Sunday after Christmas) *
“*Dreams and Distractions*” Psalm 84; Matthew 2

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds**, Preaching
- **Minister Geneva Hudson**, Worship Leader

Sunday, January 11 (Baptism of Christ) *
“*The Only Way is Through*” {Psalm 29; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds**, Preaching
- **Rev. George Walker**, Worship Leader

Sunday, January 18 (Second Sunday after the Epiphany)
“*Protecting Freedom, Fighting for Justice, and Safeguarding Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence is a Possible Mission*”

- **Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Worship Board of Social Christian Action**, Leading Worship

Sunday, January 25 (Third Sunday after the Epiphany) *
“*Through the Winter*” Psalm 27:1, 5-13; Matthew 4:12-23

- **Rev. Bragg-Reynolds**, Preaching
- **Minister Francis Smith**, Worship Leader



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