

Ask an usher for large-print bulletins and/or hearing phones.

- CD recordings of today's worship service are available following worship.
- Families and children are invited to sit together in the first two rows on the left hand side of the church facing the lectern.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDE	<i>Toccata in d minor</i> Dudley Oakes	Johannes Pachelbel
WELCOME		Bonnie Hardy <i>(please note that there are no announcements on Communion Sundays)</i>
CALL TO WORSHIP		Richard Griffis
*OPENING HYMN	<i>This is My Song</i>	NCH, #591
PRAYER OF INVOCATION	<i>(time of silence)</i>	Richard Griffis
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)		Richard Griffis
Gracious God, we confess what seems always to be with us: broken things within us that seem never to mend - empty places within us that seem always to ache - things like buds within us that seem never to flower. God of love and grace, lead us to do those good and true things that are not compromised by anything within us. As much as can be, mend us, fill us, make us bloom. For all these things we give you thanks and praise.		
WORDS OF ASSURANCE		Richard Griffis
SUNG RESPONSE	<i>Spirit of the Living God</i>	NCH, #283
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.		

SOLO

Love Bade Me Welcome
Polly Gordon

Ralph Vaughn Williams

SHARING OUR FAITH

Bonnie Hardy

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 107: 1-9, 43

Richard Griffis

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
for God's steadfast love endures for ever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those God redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and God delivered them from their distress;
God led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.
Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love,
for God's wonderful works to humankind.
For God satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry God fills with good things.
Let those who are wise give heed to these things,
and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

*SERMON HYMN

Take My Life

NCH, #448

SERMON

Twice Exceptional
Colossians 3: 1-17

Nancy Withbroe

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.
Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the

wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Creator through him.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

***CHURCH AT PRAYER** **Richard Griffis, Bonnie Hardy, & Bill Middleton,**
(Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and Lord's Prayer)

One: *(after each petition say, "God in your mercy....")*

Congregational Response: Creator hear our prayer

Our God, who is in heaven, may even your name be holy. We pray that earth may become as perfect as heaven, and that we may do your will. We ask you today only for what we need, not what we want, and that you forgive us in the same way we forgive each other. Free us from temptations and rescue us from evil, for your way is best, and your power is the greatest, and nothing is better than being with you always. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: We come to this table

Not because we must, but because we may;

Not because we are strong, but because we are weak;

Not because we have any claim on God's blessing,

But because we stand in constant need of God's mercy.

We come not to express an opinion or a doctrine,

But to seek a Presence and to pray for a Spirit.

Leader: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life; you who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst."

Cong: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Leader: This table is for all persons who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

***COMMUNION HYMN** *Let Us Break Bread Together*
(please see insert)

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Leader: God be with you.

Cong: And also with you.

All: Wondrous God, who has led us to the golden season of summer and brought us safely together to call upon your name, to hear your words, and to offer up our concerns for the whole human family, be pleased to hear and accept our prayers, faltering and fragile though they be; and by the power of your gracious Spirit turn our thoughts as one people to the deep places of your mystery, which is the wellspring of the love which abides, and the peace which passes understanding; and keep before us the love poured out of Jesus Christ, who brings us to this table to eat the bread of joy and drink from the cup of new life. With one voice we proclaim our need singing.....

SUNG RESPONSE

Tune 275

Come Holy Comforter, your sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.

Your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,
never from us depart, Spirit of power!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, Jesus 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."

Leader: Come, Holy spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this Fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our

eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst and in each other. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

Leader: Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Leader: Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

***SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

Leader: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ broken for you.

Leader: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant poured out for you.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table through the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Called as Partners
(please see insert)

NCH, #495

***BENEDICTION**

Nancy Withbroe

POSTLUDE

Riguadon
Dudley Oakes

Andre Campra

Preacher: Nancy Withbroe is a life-long member of the UCC and 13-year member of First Church who lives in Takoma Park with her husband, Paul Smolinsky, their teenage sons, Peter and Ben, and their rambunctious adopted dog, Sam. She escapes this energetic, male-dominated household by working as a fundraiser for Share Our Strength, a national anti-hunger advocacy group. Nancy has had the privilege of working with many nonprofits that enable people with disabilities to thrive, including L'Arche of Greater Washington, D.C., of which she and Paul are supporters.

Worship Leader: Richard Griffis and his wife Anne, has been a member of FCC since 2003, having moved from Connecticut. He is a retired minister in the UCC. He is an active participant in the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area and the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.

Communion celebrant: Bill Middleton is a Navy Chaplain and ordained with the Presbyterian Church (USA). He holds two Master's Degrees from the University of Chicago, one in social work and the other a Master's in Divinity. Bill is currently enrolled in D. Min course work at Pittsburgh Seminary.

Chaplain Middleton has served the armed forces for thirty years, along with counseling and leading worship, During two recent deployments, Bill organized humanitarian service projects throughout several countries in the Middle East. Concluding his assignment with the Naval District Washington and tour to Iraq, Bill now serves as the Marine Corp Chaplain at CBIRF (Chemical/Biological Incidence Response Force) in Maryland.

Bill was born and raised in Ohio and currently lives in Alexandria, VA with his partner Bonnie Hardy.

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*

NCH = New Century Hymnal.



THIS WEEK

Today

2:00 pm Fellowship Hour

Wednesday, August 4

4:30 pm Volunteers at Thrive DC

6:00 pm Worship Commission

Sunday, August 8

12:00 pm Bible Workbench

1:00 pm Worship Service

2:00 pm Fellowship Hour. Coffee Hour Hosts: Jessica and Scott Prentice, Ruth Shinn, Randy Jones, Priscilla Waters

Birthdays:

August 1 Joseph Darling-LaGamma, Louise Green

August 3 Hart Nelsen

August 4 Gail Spane

August 5 Patti Dinkelmeyer

Ministers:

Peter Dennebaum

Barbra "Bonnie" Hardy

Interim Music Director:

Dudley Oakes

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First Congregational United Church of Christ

**A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,
Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation
Intentionally Inclusive...Expect the Unexpected**



"Twice Exceptional"

August 1, 2010 – Eighteenth Sunday