

Today's service is live-streamed. Those seated in rear remain off-camera

NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Metropolitan Memorial Campus 3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW | Washington, DC

February 4 at 9:00 AM

The Threads in My Hand – by Howard Thurman



Only one end of the threads, I hold in my hand.
The threads go many ways, linking my life with other lives.
One thread comes from a life that is sick; it is taut with anguish
and always there is the lurking fear that the life will snap. I hold it
tenderly. I must not let it go...

One thread comes from a high-flying kite;
it quivers with the mighty current of fierce and holy dreaming
invading the common day with far-off places and visions bright...

One thread comes from the failing hands of an old, old friend.
Hardly aware am I of the moment when the tight line slackened
and there was nothing at all — nothing...

One thread is but a tangled mass that won't come right;
Mistakes, false starts; lost battles, angry words – a tangled mass;
I have tried so hard, but it won't come right...

One thread is a strange thread – it is my steadying thread;
When I am lost, I pull it hard and find my way.
When I am saddened, I tighten my grip and gladness glides along its
quivering path;

When the waste places of my spirit appear in arid confusion,
the thread becomes a channel of newness of life.
One thread is a strange thread – it is my steadying thread.

God's hand holds the other end...

Making the Love of God Obvious!

Our Commitment

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.



An Invitation

As faith awakens in you and you seek to deepen your discipleship of Jesus Christ, we invite you to become a member of National United Methodist Church. Indicate your interest in membership on the welcome cards today and our Minister of Discipleship will extend an invitation to upcoming orientations and then an introduction to the faith community.

www.nationalchurch.org | (202) 363-4900 | communications@nationalchurch.org

Wi-Fi Password: Welcome!

* Standing as you are able | **UMH:** United Methodist Hymnal | **TFWS:** The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Space Dementia – Muse

Ian Cochran, Piano
Noah Cochran, Drums

*Children are invited to gather at the back to receive bells to ring.
At the sound of the chime, please be seated while the children walk forward.*

WELCOME

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

***SONG of PRAISE**

It Is Well with My Soul

UMH 377

CALL to OFFERING

We support the life of this church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Ushers will receive our welcome cards, prayer requests, and financial gifts at this time. Online gifts may be shared using this QR code.



ANTHEM

Peace in the Valley
Arr. Larry Shackley

DaySpring Choir

***DEDICATING our GIFTS TO MINISTRY**

TFWS 2036

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His son.
And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks..**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Overflowing with Your Goodness
arranged by Joanne LeDoux and Milton LeDoux

Children's Choir

BAPTISM

Carsen Curtis Bernstorf
son of Kathryn Eliza and Stephan Bernstorf
born April 1, 2023

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

*Young people are encouraged to gather close to the chancel to witness the baptism,
exiting to Children's Choir afterward.*

SONG of RESPONSE *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* UMH 611
verses 1 and 4

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:21-31 Luke Willis

MESSAGE for TODAY *Fierce and Holy Dreaming* Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

COMMUNION UMH pp. 9-10 Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

Spirit of the Living God UMH 393
Bless Thou the Gifts UMH 587

***CLOSING SONG** *There Is A Balm in Gilead* UMH 375

BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in D Major* - William Selby Todd Beckham, Organ



Charge Conference - Monday, February 5, 2024
ONLINE, 7 pm

NUMC Members will gather online to offer final review, adoption, and dedication of our budget and leadership. All members have voice, however vote is extended only to those who were approved January 30, 2024 as Church Council Members.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82788439511>

Meeting ID: 827 8843 9511

There is still time to make your financial pledge to National UMC.
Use the QR code to get started.

Please remain in prayer for the stewardship of our ministry resources
of time, talent, and treasure this week.





Winter Study—*Incompatible: How the Church Cast Out LGBTQ Christians and Where We Go Next*, by Charlie Baber

Wednesdays, 7-8 PM

In the lead-up to General Conference 2024, NUMC will be exploring the origins of the current struggle over LGBTQ inclusion in the United Methodist Church. You are invited to a three-week study of *Incompatible*, a very United Methodist graphic novel (comic book, but serious history) that examines the history of Christian belief and practices around human sexuality.

Facilitated by Rev. Janet Craswell and Angela Pupino



2/7: An Open Table

(Moving Towards a Methodist Theology of the Whole Body of Christ)

**On Zoom at ID: 839 5022 4224,
Passcode: 1inChrist.**



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024, from 6-7:30 pm

NUMC will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at the Vestry in the Metropolitan Memorial Campus. We are inviting people of all ages to help with preparing, cooking, serving, and enjoying this meal! Sign up to help at National United Methodist Church: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Volunteer Signup 2024 using the QR code.



Everyone is invited to come for pancakes. Invite your friends and neighbors too!