



A Reconciling Congregation

Metropolitan Memorial Campus

3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20016

January 28, 2018, at 11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Mind the Gap

Our Vision:

**Extending radical hospitality,
transforming lives, and pursuing justice.**

Praising Learning Serving Caring Sharing

The 1852 General conference established the National Methodist Church with the original sanctuary built near Capitol Hill and relocated in 1932. Each state, the President, the Vice-President, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. have designated pews. All United Methodists are welcome as Honorary Members of this Church.

www.nationalchurch.org

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2018 at 11:00 AM

✠ Standing as you are able | **UMH**: United Methodist Hymnal | **FWS**: Faith We Sing

Prelude: *Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above*

J.S. Bach

We Gather to Praise God

Words of Welcome & Centering Prayer **Rev. Janet Craswell**

✠ **Processional Hymn:** *Lift High the Cross*

UMH 159

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

✠ **Call to Worship**

Carol Bartlett

O God, we trust in Your power to create, to sustain, to enable.

But we could not trust if we did not know that You are always near.

Be with us, Lord, as we are gathered here to worship You.

**Help us not to check our minds or our hearts at the door,
but enable us to bring all that we are to You,
so that we might experience Your touch upon all aspects of
our life.**

Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word.

Instill in us, again:

**Your hope in place of our despair,
Your peace where our hatred threatens,
Your joy amidst our depression,
Your love overwhelming our apathy.**

May Your Holy Spirit surround and dwell in this congregation now, and forevermore.

We pray this because of, and in the name of, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**Time with Young Christians
& Commissioning of Stephen Ministers**

Rev. Janet Craswell and Rev. Drema McAllister- Wilson

To be Commissioned: **Anne Mathews-Younes** and **Robert Hartmann**

O Healing God, these are the “After People.”

**We pray for these Stephen Ministers who are there
“after” the phone call we hoped we’d never get:
after the divorce papers are served,
after the funeral when everyone has left
and emotions come crashing in,
after a difficult medical diagnosis.**

**We give thanks for these “after” people.
We pray for their ministries that they may trust one another and you
as they listen and provide caring support.
Guide their vision for caregiving ministry as they make decisions,
enabling this congregation to bring your love and grace to persons
in need of your healing friendship.**

In the name of Jesus, healer and friend, Amen.

Anthem: *Holy, Loving Father* Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*. . . deep Thy wondrous mercy unto Thy children’s children,
who in Thee seek wisdom doing Thy will.*

Hearing God’s Word

Carol Griffith

Hebrew Scripture: GENESIS 28: 10-19

PSALM 103: 1-18

UMH 824

New Testament: PHILIPPIANS 4: 6-8

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Mind the Gap

Rev. Michael Chamberlain

We Respond to God’s Great Love

State Recognition

Carol Bartlett

As we come together in worship at the National United Methodist Church, we are mindful that we are part of a larger church family and community across our region and the nation. Therefore, let us join together in prayer as we lift up the state of Florida.

Almighty God, we hold before you on this day the people of the State of Florida, their leaders in government and community life, and our brothers and sisters in the Church who dwell therein. Guide, strengthen, and protect them we pray, through Christ, our Lord.

Prayers of the People

Liturgist: Lord, in your mercy . . .

Congregation: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Dedication of Presence and Invitation to Offering

Please register your attendance and pass the black book to the side aisle.

Offertory: You Raise Me Up
Cara Gonzalez, soprano

B. Graham and R. Lovland

*When I am down and oh, my soul is weary,
when troubles come and my heart burdened be,
then I am still and wait here in the silence
until you come and sit awhile with me.
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains.
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders.
You raise me up to more than I can be.*

✠ **Dedication of Gifts: Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow** UMH 94

Confession & Words of Assurance

Confession

Rev. Michael Chamberlain

**In your mercy,
forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Silence.

Words of Assurance

By the blood of Christ we are set free,
that is, our sins are forgiven.
How great is the grace of God,
which he gave to us in such large measure.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Service of Holy Communion: (UMH Page 12)

Rev. Michael Chamberlain

Sharing the Meal

*This is Christ's Table. All are invited to come and share in this holy meal.
When you receive the bread, please hold it and dip it in the cup.
A gluten-free alternative is available as well.
If you are unable to come forward,
let an usher know and you will be served in your pew.*

Music During Communion

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder
Nearer, My God, to Thee
All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord

UMH 418
UMH 528
UMH 554

Prayer of Response

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World

Announcements

Rev. Janet Craswell

✠ **Closing Hymn:** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

UMH 160

✠ **Sending Forth**

Rev. Michael Chamberlain

Postlude: *Canzona*

J.S. Bach

Music is provided by the **Chancel Choir**;
Bruce Caviness, Chancel Choir director and organist.