

**March 3, 2024**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**“Beautiful Law”**  
**Psalm 19**

Today in the United Church of Christ, we celebrate both Amistad Sunday and the first day of UCC Women’s Week. As we honor the heroes of the Amistad, we remember the captured people of African descent who spoke up and fought for freedom for themselves and those who would follow. During UCC Women’s Week, we give thanks for the women who, long before most congregations would ordain women into ministry, offered lifetimes of service, wisdom, justice work and leadership to local congregations and the wider church.

The Oxford Dictionary defines intersectionality as the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

On this day, a day to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of women and people of African descent, take a moment to celebrate the 2023 election of Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman woman of African descent to be elected to the UCC’s highest office, the office of General Minister and President.

“Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination. ‘Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together,’ she said after the vote. ‘It won’t be the last first.’”\*

Jesus calls us to explore intersectionality, those boundary places where social categories like race, class and gender meet and merge. Rev. Dr. Thompson has bumped into those places all of her life. Now, her leadership will provide new ways for the United Church of Christ to understand our place in the intersections of intersectionality.

\*<https://www.ucc.org/karen-georgia-thompson-becomes-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-in-historic-vote/>