



SUMMER WORSHIP
July 18, 2021

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**
Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
385 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 1

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Preaching Today Duncan Hollomon and Marianne Jensen, *Contemplative Practices Group*
Leading Worship Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

Today's Programs and Events

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
11:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

Give to First Church

You can give online at www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give or by texting “\$___” to: 1-844-996-0982.

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

*Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.*

*Have an edit or update for our website?
Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form.*

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Ciacona in E minor

Dieterich Buxtehude

*HYMN 86

The Lone, Wild Bird

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Marianne Jensen

- L: Come home to the presence of God in this time,
C: as we pause to drink in the comfort of community.
- L: Come home to the center of your spirit,
C: resting in the stillness of prayer.
- L: Come home to the hope of expectation,
C: and prepare our hearts for holy surprises.
- L: Come home to connection and resilience,
C: for we are the body of Christ.
- L: Come home to this space of belonging and becoming,
C: for God's presence is here in this sacred time and space.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Prayer of St. Patrick
First Church Choir, 2018

Mark Schweizer

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sarah Higginbotham

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Together, let us confess to God what is weighing on our hearts:
**All: Before you, O God, and before one another,
we confess the harm we have brought on our lives,
the lives of others, and the life of the world.
Forgive us, O God.
Renew us, and enable us to grow in love.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Dan Smith

READING Psalm 62: 5-8

READING 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

REFLECTION Marianne Jensen and Duncan Hollomon

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: Our Creator, 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 224

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

(see page 5)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Thuma Mina
First Church Choir, 2019 and 2021

South African traditional song

VOLUNTARY

Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist

Dieterich Buxtehude

OPENING HYMN

The Lone, Wild Bird

1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is still with you, nor
 2. The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea's dark deep and
 3. Each se - cret thought is known to you, the path I walk my
 4. In se - cret depths you knit my frame, be - fore my birth you
 5. O search me, God, my heart re - veal, re - new my life, my

leaves your sight. And I am yours! I rest in
 far - off land. And I am yours! I rest in
 whole life through, my deeds, my hopes, my
 spoke my name; with - in my soul, as close as
 spir - it heal; for I am yours, I rest in

you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
 you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
 fears, my deep - est joys, my si - lent tears.
 breath, so near to me, in life, in death.
 you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.

WORDS: Sts. 1, 2, Henry Richard McFadyen, 1925, alt.; sts. 3 - 5, Marty Haugen, 1991
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. David N. Johnson, 1968

PROSPECT
 LM

American Presbyterian minister McFadyen wrote stanzas one and two while a field worker for the Presbytery of Nashville. UCC poet and composer Haugen has added three additional stanzas. The entire text is based on Psalm 139.

Words, sts. 1, 2 © 1927 *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, admin. Ignatius Press
 sts. 3-5 © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*,
 by permission of Augsburg Fortress

CLOSING HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, our true Light?
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

warm it with hope, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear:
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,
 I see thy cross, my bea - con in the night;
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove.

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Anne McClintock, who has been hospitalized with a bone infection.
- We pray for for Mary Ellen Geer, Philip LaFollette, and their family, who are mourning the loss of Mary Ellen’s mother, Barbara Geer. She passed away peacefully on June 28 at the age of 96.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn’s mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New’s sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee’s daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann’s sisters.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode’s mother Donna Goode.
- We pray for the people of Haiti after the shocking assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. We pray for healing for his wife Martine Moïse, who was injured in the attack.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.
- We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines, globally and locally, especially families with young children—may there be a swift, hassle-free, and equitable distribution for all. We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19 and for the “long-haulers.”
- We pray for all impacted by yet another heatwave on the West Coast and for all who are acutely experiencing the effects of climate change, especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction. We pray for those demonstrating against the Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota, which threatens indigenous tribal lands and promotes climate change. We pray for renewed commitment on the part of all levels of every government, corporations, and each of us to make necessary changes to sustain our planet for this and future generations.

Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Summer Opportunities for Connection and Learning

Summer is upon us, and what a different summer it will be from the last one! We hope and pray you find extra time...

- for gathering with friends and family, in-person and in places near or far-away;
- to be outside, and mask-free, whether in a city park, on a mountaintop, at a campground, or at the beach;
- to keep reading up and/or acting up in ways that make God's love and justice real;
- in quiet reflection about what a wild year-plus it has been;
- to give thanks to God!



Here's some of what we have in store for this summer at First Church. Please join us for any or all of it!

- 10:00 a.m. [Live-Streamed Worship](#) in July and August*
- [Popsicle Hour](#) on the Lawn and time for prayer in our sanctuary, every Sunday after church (weather permitting)
- Summer Antiracist Learning and Advocacy
 - Find a lengthy resource list on our [Racial Justice page](#) (*scroll down to "Our Current Work" and click on "Summer Learning On Your Own"*)
 - Hybrid [Check-ins](#) on Sundays, August 1 & 29 at 11:45 a.m.
- *Sarah's Long Walk* [Summer Book Group](#) --Wednesdays, July 7 - August 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- Summer Walks -- [Saturday, July 17](#); [Saturday, August 7](#); [Sunday, August 15](#)
- ["A Call to Return" Part 2](#) with Carlyle Stewart (starting in August, dates TBD)
- Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Summer Delegates Assembly (Thursday, August 12)
- [Contemplative Practices Group](#) (Every Monday at 4:00 p.m.)
- [Thursday Bible Study](#) (Every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.)

*Please [sign up here](#) if you'd like to be a part of helping us pivot to our in-person and live-streamed reopening service on Regathering Sunday, September 12!

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Pastoral Care Cards at Popsicle Hour

11:30 a.m. on Summer Sundays

Our Pastoral Care Teams have the summer off, but each Sunday in July and August, there will be an opportunity for anyone at First Church to write cards. Come to Popsicle Hour and write cards to your fellow members who need care or have joyous news. Or take note of the prayer concerns in each week's bulletin and write cards at home. If there are urgent needs for care, all Pastoral Care Team members will be contacted by the church office. Grateful blessings to our faithful team members. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Susie Neubauer at susieneubauer@gmail.com.



Young Adults Walk

Today, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Meet at First Church

Young Adults are taking the "Gentle Blasphemy" conversation series outside! Meet up at the church today at 2:00 p.m. for an in-town walk to Christina's Ice Cream in Inman Square. Questions? Email: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org

Summer Learning On Your Own — Antiracist Resources

Check out our [Racial Justice](#) page on our website to find a lengthy resource list to guide you. Scroll down to "Our Current Work" and click on "Summer Learning On Your Own."



Summer Book Group: *Sarah's Long Walk*

Wednesdays, July 7 - August 18

7:00 - 8:15 p.m., via Zoom

The Christian Formation Committee invites you to a summer book group. Join Hilary Hopkins in reading and discussing, in leisurely fashion, *Sarah's Long Walk: The Free Blacks of Boston and How Their Struggle for Equality Changed America* by father and son Stephen and Paul Kendrick. We will read several chapters a week and then meet for an hour or so to discuss what we learned and our reactions, thus working our way through this fine book in six meetings. To register for the group or for more information, please contact Hilary Hopkins at: hopkinsjh@verizon.net [Read more](#)

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



Looking Ahead...

Summer Learning and Advocacy Check-In Sunday, August 1, 11:45 a.m.

Hybrid: in-person in MJH and via Zoom

This fall, our Beloved Community, Christian Formation, and Missions & Social Justice groups are teaming up to offer a range of opportunities to learn more about the living legacy of settler colonialism. In June, we offered some options for learning on our own and in

conversation with members of local indigenous tribes. Please join us for our first hybrid session at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 1, either in-person in Margaret Jewett Hall or via Zoom. This will be a time of sharing what we have learned so far and looking ahead to fall opportunities.

A Call to Return, Part 2, August and September, dates TBD

In the Fall of 2020, our Community Minister for Racial Justice Carlyle Stewart hosted a series entitled “Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice.” In those sessions, participants learned about the intersection between Christian theology and racial theories that have been very harmful throughout history. They learned that the call to “return” to the God of justice involves confronting not only the racism that has been perpetuated and, in some cases, condoned by the American Christian church, but also their own personal ideas, prejudices, and biases about race and white privilege. In this “Call to Return Part 2” series, First Church will have the opportunity to recreate a holy space to learn about relationship building, mutual commitments, and relationships. **Sign up by July 26 to participate...** [Read more](#)



Find What You Need on the Members & Friends Page of Our Website

- Looking for an old bulletin or the Parish List?
- Wondering who is currently serving on the Executive Council?
- Wanting to sign up for *First Glimpse* or the First Church List?
- Hoping to review the minutes from our last Congregational Meeting?

Go to firstchurchcambridge.org/members to find it all, and more! Our "Members and Friends" page is a little like "one-stop shopping" on our website: see the latest news items, find quick links to all our communications, or dive into the church's by-laws—it's all there for you.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, July 19

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Wednesday, July 21

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. *Sarah's Long Walk* Book Group, via Zoom

Thursday, July 22

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom

Friday, July 23

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, July 24

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, July 25

- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship, Carlyle Stewart preaching, via livestream
- 11:30 p.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn

See our [Events Calendar](#) for
Zoom links and details.

Committee meeting links
are provided to committee
members via email.

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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