



SUMMER WORSHIP
August 15, 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, August 15, 2021

Preaching Today Joanne Paul, *First Church Member*
Leading Worship Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Brent Coffin, *liturgist*
Peter Sykes, *Director of Music*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*
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

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN (insert)

Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

*GREETING

Brent Coffin

- 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

My Eyes For Beauty Pine (2017)

Herbert Howells

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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

READING

Psalm of Thanksgiving

- L: I thank you and appreciate you, Holy One, for rescuing me from uncertainty.
- C: **I prayed to you, "Help me, dear God, I'm a bit frightened and I have not been in this place before."**
- L: You came to me in my aloneness, You shielded me from panic and sadness, You turned my lament into hope.
- C: **I felt You by my side in the form of a Sister Traveler. You sat with me, remained silent when I did not need words.**
- L: You knew just what I needed, keeping me open to a diagnosis and acceptance.
- C: **There are places within me where I still feel empty, where I will never be complete. But my incompleteness does not incapacitate me.**
- L: You, God are with me on my journey, your presence within me steadies me.
- C: **I smile and rejoice over the gift of wholeness.**
- L: You are indeed to be counted on - now, and in all the remaining days of my life.

READING

Job 2:11-13

REFLECTION

Joanne Paul

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE 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 (insert)**

I Was Sick, I Was Sad (You Visited Me)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina
FCC Choir 2021

VOLUNTARY

Pastorale

Josef Rheinberger

OPENING HYMN

Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

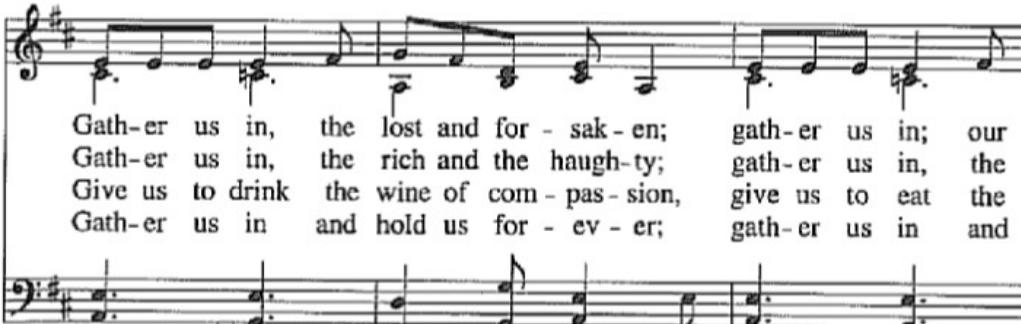
Unison

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, now the dark night has
2. We are the young-our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in your wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

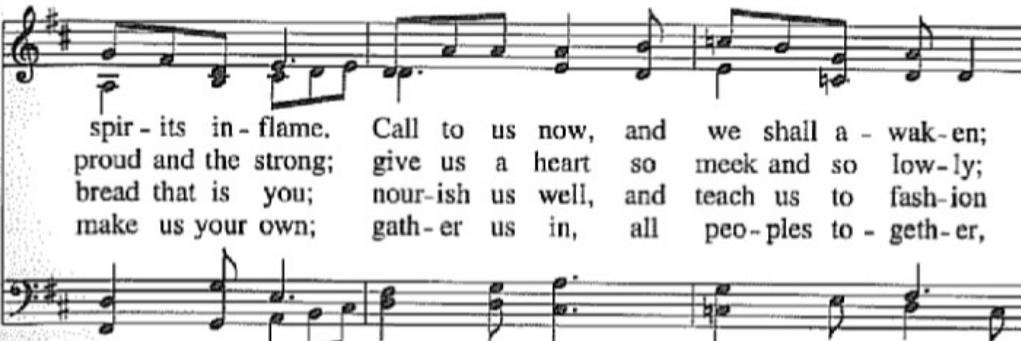
van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

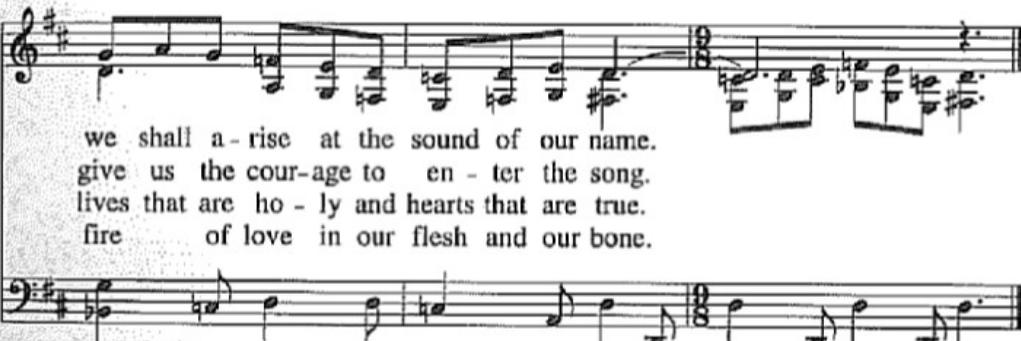
OPENING HYMN (con't)



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and



spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CLOSING HYMN

I Was Sick, I Was Sad (You Visited Me)



I was sick, I was sad, and you vi - si - ted me, on my hos - pi - tal bed and you
I was lost and a - lone, and you vi - si - ted me, I was cold to the bone and you
I was locked in my cell, and you vi - si - ted me, in the dark of my shell, and you
In a word, in a smile, when you vi - si - ted me, set to lis - ten a - while, when you



vi - si - ted me, and by just be - ing there, giv - ing
vi - si - ted me, and by just be - ing there, giv - ing
vi - si - ted me, and by just be - ing there, giv - ing
vi - si - ted me, you brought love through the door, you brought



hope, show - ing care you brought kind - ness, God's lov - ing kind - ness.
hope, show - ing care, you brought kind - ness, God's lov - ing kind - ness.
hope, show - ing care, you brought kind - ness, God's lov - ing kind - ness.
friend - ship and more— you brought kind - ness, God's lov - ing kind - ness.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray
MUSIC: Colin Gibson

VISITING
12.12.12.9.

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COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda Ziebell, who is recovering at home after a recent hospitalization.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux and her family. Lexi's step-grandfather Stanley M. Slawsby died recently.
- We pray for the family of former First Church member Helen Grogan, who died peacefully on Cape Cod at the age of 94. Helen was married to former First Church Senior Minister Wells Grogan.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; Dave Kidder's sister Lucinda Kidder; 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 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 state and federal legislators, who are locked in partisan battles over issues of voting rights and discrimination based on gender identity. May our democratic system of government withstand efforts to dismantle the rights of its people to live freely and equally together, while allowing every voice of every color to be heard at the ballot box.
- We pray for all who are affected by the recent surge of COVID-19 diagnoses due to the Delta variant and the lower levels of vaccination in parts of the US and around the world. 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 wildfires on the West Coast, as well as those experiencing severe flooding elsewhere. We pray 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.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Recent Technical Difficulties Unfortunately, after 70 Sundays(!) of a working livestream, those trying to connect to our service on Sundays July 18 and August 1 received a message saying that our broadcast was offline. We've been working with Comcast and can now confirm that these glitches were due to widely reported local Comcast outages for the first week and to a "fried" Comcast router the second week. The tech even wondered if our building had been hit by lightning! Hopefully such is the likelihood of our having these issues anytime soon! A small group of in-person worshippers were able to join us for worship on August 1, and we were able to stream and record the service to [Facebook](#). You may also find the video on our [YouTube channel](#). We thank you for your patience and we fully expect to be back on track for the coming weeks. Also, a heads up that we are continuing to experiment with different ways of staging our chancel with an eye to serving both at-home and in-person congregants. Please share any feedback you may have with a member of our worship staff as we make our way to Regathering Sunday on September 12.

Our Current Thinking on Our Reopening Plan

We at First Church have been tracking the news of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus, and likely you have been, too. The headlines describing upticks in cases around the country, and even here in Massachusetts, reflect the sober reality that we are not yet free of this pandemic... [Read more](#)



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.



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."



FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



A Summer Walk with First Church Friends

Today, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Meet Hilary Hopkins at Mount Auburn Cemetery (in front of the chapel at the main entrance) for a leisurely stroll (mostly flat!) of about an hour or so around the grounds; no agenda except our lovely selves. Probably a water bottle would be a good idea.

You can park on any road that does NOT have green lines on it. Welcome one and all!

Summer Book Group: *Sarah's Long Walk*

Final Meeting, Wednesday, August 18

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

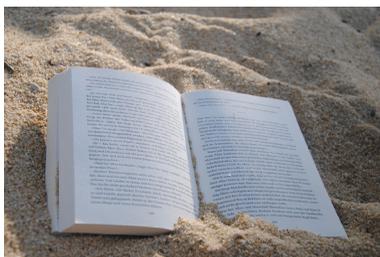
The Christian Formation Committee invites you to a summer book group. Join Hilary Hopkins in reading and discussing, in leisurely fashion, *Sarah's Long Walk: The Free Blacks of Boston and How Their Struggle for Equality Changed America* by father and son Stephen and Paul Kendrick. We will read several chapters a week and then meet for an hour or so to discuss what we learned and our reactions, [Read more](#)



Young Adults Sunset Stroll

Wednesday, August 18 at 7 p.m.

The Young Adults will do a sunset stroll in Somerville, up to Prospect Park, a favorite view of the city! We'll meet at Gracie's Ice Cream at 7 p.m. All who're out of high school, and looking for social connection with other young adults are welcome!



Looking Ahead...

Summer Learning and Advocacy Check-In

Sunday, August 29, 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 second hybrid session at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 29, 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.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, August 16

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

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

Wednesday, August 18

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. *Sarah's Long Walk* Book Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults' Sunset Stroll, meet in Union Square

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Thursday, August 19

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

Friday, August 20

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

Saturday, August 21

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

Sunday, August 22

- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship, Dan Smith preaching, via livestream
- 11:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn
- 4:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives Facilitator Orientation, Harter Room

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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