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**SUMMER WORSHIP**  
with Holy Communion  
**September 5, 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, September 5, 2021

**Preaching Today** Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*  
**Assisting in Worship** Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*  
Peter Sykes, *Director of Music*  
Adam Weiss, *Deacon*  
Kevin Newell, *tech support*  
**Bulletin Cover Image** Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

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### Today's Programs and Events

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)  
12:15 p.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](http://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](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

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*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

*For those participating at home, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion. All are welcome at the Table!*

### VOLUNTARY

Praeambulum

Louis Vierne

### \*HYMN 302

I Come with Joy

(see page 4)

### \*GREETING

Adam Weiss

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

Adam Weiss and Lexi Boudreaux

## 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

Matthew 6:24-34

HOMILY

Jaz Buchanan

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

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**

## SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

**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.**

**\*SHARING BREAD AND CUP**

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are invited to partake of this feast. Please take now and eat, or if you are in the sanctuary, please come forward and receive the elements at the two stations and then proceed back to your seats.*

**COMMUNION MOTET**

Bread Of The World  
*First Church Choir, 2019*

John Abdenour

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks!

**C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion –  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,  
forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day,  
and risen life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH**

**\*HYMN 360**

I Love to Tell the Story

*(see page 5)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina  
*First Church Choir, 2021*

**VOLUNTARY**

Elevation

Dom Paul Benoit

# OPENING HYMN

## I Come with Joy

*Unison*

1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,  
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as  
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -  
4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but  
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
all are fed, the new com - mun - i - ty of love in  
vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1977, 1993  
MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987

DOVE OF PEACE  
CM

# CLOSING HYMN

## I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*  
I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We give thanks for the life of Rev. Leonard Clough, who served twice as Associate Minister of First Church in Cambridge in the 1940's and 50's, and who died last Wednesday at the age of 101. We pray for his son Rev. Tom Clough and his daughter-in-law, Rev. Ann Plumley, and for all of Leonard's loved one as they grieve his loss.
- We pray for the loved ones of First Church friend, piano player, and longtime Jazz 5:30 attendee David Angney, who died on August 18 at the age of 79.
- We celebrate the birth of Laurie Burt's new granddaughter Olivia (Liv) Burt Engelkowski, who was born on August 19. Baby Liv, big sister Mara, and parents Alexa and Keith are all healthy and happy!
- We pray in gratitude and celebration for the birth of Silvana and Gloria Culpepper, twin daughters of Sophia Guglietti and Mellisha Culpepper, sisters to Frankie and Angelo, and granddaughters to Gaylen Morgan.
- 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 all students, teachers, administrators, and school staff who are returning to school amidst rising Covid case rates and ongoing divisive politics around masking and vaccinations. We also pray for all healthcare workers who are worn down and stretched thin by the ongoing demands of the pandemic.
- We pray for all who have been impacted by Hurricane Ida; may they receive support in assessing damage and rebuilding from the wreckage. We pray for those who grieve the loss of life during this disaster.
- We pray for the people of Afghanistan in the wake of the U.S. military pull-out and the rapid and tragic collapse of the Afghani government at the hands of the Taliban, and for a swift and humane evacuation and resettling process for all who are fleeing. We pray especially for women, children and all who are facing increased violence, terror, discrimination and the constriction of human rights. We also pray for all who have served in the counter-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan, who are watching events unfold with particular grief and dismay.
- We pray for all impacted by the recent earthquake in Haiti, including for all victims and loved ones, for first responders and medical care staff, and for all participating in the relief effort.
- 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 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—

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

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 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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Popsicle Hour Continues Into September!

**12:15 p.m. on September Sundays**

We are continuing our outdoor fellowship time after 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in September. Come to Popsicle Hour to connect with First Church friends, old and new.



## COMING UP THIS WEEK

**Ecclesiastical Council for FCC Member Domenik Ackermann  
Wednesday, September 8, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., via Zoom**

Come celebrate Dom's gifts for ministry! Learn more about Dom's EC and [register here](#).



### City Mission Local Green Book Tour

**Saturday, September 11**

**10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Meet at Union Church, 485 Columbus Ave., at 9:40 a.m.**

City Mission invites you to join the [Green Book Tour of Boston](#).

Learn more and [register here](#).



## FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



### ***Come, All You Thirsty:***

#### **Regathering Sunday, September 12**

Next Sunday, we will host a Regathering Sunday like no other! It will be fully hybrid. It will be deeply worshipful. It will be a chance to come together—in-person if you choose, or online if that's better for you, for whatever reason. It will be a regathering of our Covid-weary, connection-parched souls, near and far—

a time to celebrate the Spirit and this community which sustains us. It will be a chance to come to that "strong, renewing river" of our life together in God, to come "here where the Word runs cool and deep, calm and clear, sweet and wild."

You may not know yet whether "here" will be at 11 Garden Street or at home on a screen. That's okay; there's still time to decide. With the Delta surge, we are all still wondering what comes next. Our plans are (as per Covid-usual) "subject to change." Yet it's a good time to recall that "here" is where God is, which is wherever you are, and "here" is wherever we can meet God together... [Read more](#)

### **Plans for Regathering, Hybrid Style September Sundays, beginning at 9:45 a.m.**

We are eager to welcome everyone back to worship at First Church starting next Sunday on [Regathering Sunday, September 12](#). Given on-going concerns about the Delta variant, we've revised earlier plans and will now be offering a range of options, indoor and outdoor, in-person and online... [Read more](#)



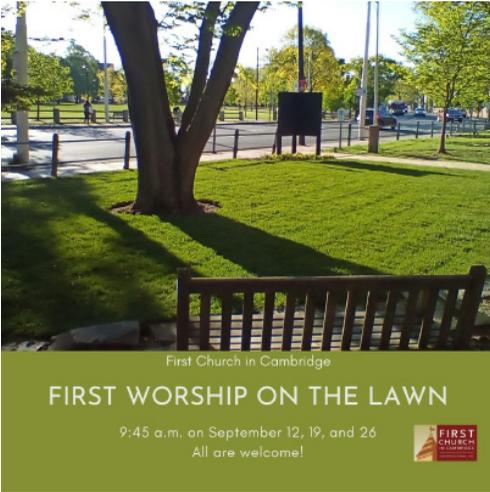
**FIRST CHURCH**  
in Cambridge

*Come, All You Thirsty:*  
Regathering 2021  
**SEPTEMBER  
SUNDAYS**

- 9:45 First Worship on the Lawn
- 10:15 Informal Outdoor Activities
- 10:45 Sanctuary Doors Open
- 11:00 Hybrid Worship in Sanctuary and livestreamed online
- 12:15 Popsicle Hour on the Lawn

[firstchurchcambridge.org](#)

## FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



### First Worship on the Lawn

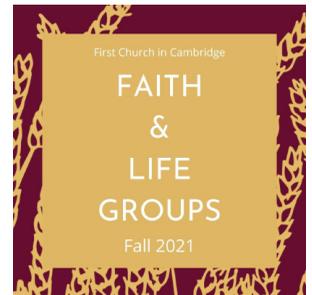
**September 12, 19, and 26 at 9:45 a.m.**

Sarah and Jaz will lead this 30-minute casual, family-friendly, movement-oriented, joy-filled service for all, and especially for those who aren't yet ready to worship inside. Join us for songs of praise, wondering questions, sharing time, and prayer time. Look for us under the blue tent by the Yellowwood tree!

### Call for Fall Faith & Life Group Leaders by September 22

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in-person this Fall? [Contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux](#) to discuss your idea for a Fall Faith & Life Group. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, and they involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to [Lexi](#)!

*Deadline for proposals extended to Wednesday, September 22.*



### A Call to Return: Part 2

**Six Wednesday evenings, beginning September 22**

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

Building on last year's "Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice," Community Minister Carlyle Stewart will lead a second series this fall, in which First Church will have the opportunity to recreate a holy space to learn about relationship building, mutual commitments, and relationships. [Email Carlyle](#) to participate... [Read more](#)



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, September 6 - Church building & office closed for Labor Day Holiday

4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom

## Tuesday, September 7

4:00 p.m. First Church Caregivers' Call, via Zoom

## Wednesday, September 8

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

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

7:00 p.m. Ecclesiastical Council for Dom Ackermann, via Zoom

## Thursday, September 9

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

## Friday, September 10

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH and church lawn

## Saturday, September 11

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

## Sunday, September 12 - Regathering Sunday

9:45 a.m. First Worship on the Lawn

10:15 a.m. Informal Outdoor Activities

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

10:45 a.m. Sanctuary doors open

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in the Sanctuary and via livestream

12:15 p.m. Popsicle Hour on the 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

11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org) • [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)