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Thanksgiving Sunday  
Hybrid Morning Worship  
November 21, 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, November 21, 2021

<b>Preaching Today</b>	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
<b>Assisting in Worship</b>	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
	Karen McArthur, <i>Minister of Stewardship and Finance</i>
	Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
	Ebony West, <i>Ministerial Intern</i>
	Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i>
	Lindsay Miller, <i>liturgist</i>
	Claire Hunt, <i>Stewardship testimony</i>
	Meredith Quinn, <i>Stewardship Committee &amp; Moderator pro tempore</i>
	Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Chris Reynolds, <i>First Church member</i>

### Today's Programs and Events

10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	Children's Worship with Sarah, Library
12:00 p.m.	Stewardship Chowder Luncheon, church lawn
12:30 p.m.	Fall Congregational Meeting, MJH and <a href="#">via Zoom</a>
2:00 p.m.	Advent candle sets and wreath rings available for pickup, church lawn
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for 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)

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

*Masks will be lowered by worship leaders when speaking at their discretion.*

### VOLUNTARY

Now Thank We All Our God

J. S. Bach

### \*HYMN 526

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  
*For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.*

### \*GREETING

Lindsay Miller

L: Siblings in the Spirit, wherever you are, hear God's call to come together!

**C: Come together in this community of hope and healing.**

L: Come together in this wide-open space of grace.

**C: Come together in the presence of God.**

L: Come together, and return to the source of grace, courage, and peace.

**C: Come together, and share your hearts, your hope, and your gifts.**

**All: Come together, and let us worship God!**

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Lindsay Miller and Dan Smith

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:

**C: God of Justice, when we settle for the way things are,  
instead of the way you would have them be, forgive us.**

**When we are immobilized by fear or limited in vision,  
increase our trust in you.**

**When we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,  
show us what your love requires.**

**When we walk ahead or behind, instead of with our neighbor,  
open our eyes to their humanity.**

**When we tire of the struggle, and tomorrow feels overwhelming,  
restore our hope and renew our courage.**

**In the name of Jesus, our brother, we pray. Amen.**

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

*Staying in place and observing social distance, share this good news wherever you are! Send it back to us! Share it with a neighbor! Send it to the world! Young children are now invited to join Sarah for Children's Worship in the Library.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ebony West

### READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

### SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Jaz Buchanan

L: May 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.**

### STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Claire Hunt

### INVITATION TO GIVE AND PLEDGE

Karen McArthur

*At this time, we will receive both our weekly offering and our 2022 pledges. You are invited to come forward and place them in one of the baskets on the table, and then return to your seat.*



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

Deo Dicamus Gratias

Gottfried August Homilius

\*DOXOLOGY

*For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.*

**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 FOR OUR GIFTS AND 2022 PLEDGES

Meredith Quinn

GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 27

Now We Thank All Our God

*For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.*

\*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Fantasy on "Nun Danket"

Sigfrid Karg-Elert



SCAN ME

**Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?** Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the **Members & Friends** page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.

You can scan these codes to connect with First Church via social media:



Come, Ye Thankful People, Come 526

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;  
 2. All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,  
 3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

all is safe-ly gath-ered in, ere the win-ter storms be-gin;  
 all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,  
 and for these our souls shall raise grate-ful vows and sol-lemn praise.

God, our Mak-er, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;  
 all that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,  
 Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.  
 all that lib-eral au-tumn pours from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,  
 come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

CLOSING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

27

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,  
 2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3. All praise and thanks to God al - might - y now be giv - en;

who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es,  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 to God, the three - in - one, who reigns in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
 and keep us in all grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.  
 MUSIC: Melody, Johann Crüger, 1647

NUN DANKET  
 67.67.66.66

Lutheran Martin Rinkart wrote this text during the Thirty Years' War when his home town, the walled city of Eilenburg, Saxony, became at times a refuge, at times a place of famine and pestilence. During one year Rinkart buried over four thousand people.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Dave Dyer’s brother Daniel Dyer, who had a stroke this past week in Hudson, Ohio, and who is also struggling with cancer.
- We pray for Kirsten Manville’s father Keith, who is recovering at a rehabilitation center after being hospitalized with a bacterial infection. We also pray for Kirsten and her husband Tim Foley as they mourn the loss of Tim’s mother Agnes Foley, who died unexpectedly this week.
- We pray for Ally Palmer, who is recovering at home after emergency gall bladder surgery.
- We pray for Ida Peterson (age 2) and her moms Kelsey and Tori, as Ida recovers from a third cardiac surgery.
- We pray for Patty Van Ness as she grieves the loss of her mother Marjorie, who died recently. We pray also for Patty’s father Charles, who is receiving hospice care.
- We pray for Abby Shuman and her family as they mourn the loss of Abby’s mother Jeri, who died recently of heart failure and who was buried on Long Island this past week.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; 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 impacted by the rapidly deteriorating crisis at “Mass and Cass” in Boston, especially for those whose makeshift tents and homes have been uprooted by the City of Boston. We pray for creative and compassionate solutions that honor the dignity of all.
- On this day after Transgender Day of Remembrance 2021, we mourn the lives lost to violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people. According to Human Rights Campaign, the US has already broken its record for transgender homicides in one year with 45 so far in 2021, most of them Black and Latinx.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19 diagnoses and the lower levels of vaccination in parts of the US and around the world. We give thanks that children 5-11 can now be vaccinated, and we pray for all who are awaiting vaccines, globally and locally. 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 celebrate with those experiencing long-awaited reunions as international borders begin to open.
- When we feel helpless and overwhelmed by the climate crisis, may God’s abiding presence ground us in love and hope. We pray for the divine wisdom, strength and courage needed to ensure that local, national, and global reparation efforts distribute power equitably and protect the most vulnerable.
- 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.

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

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

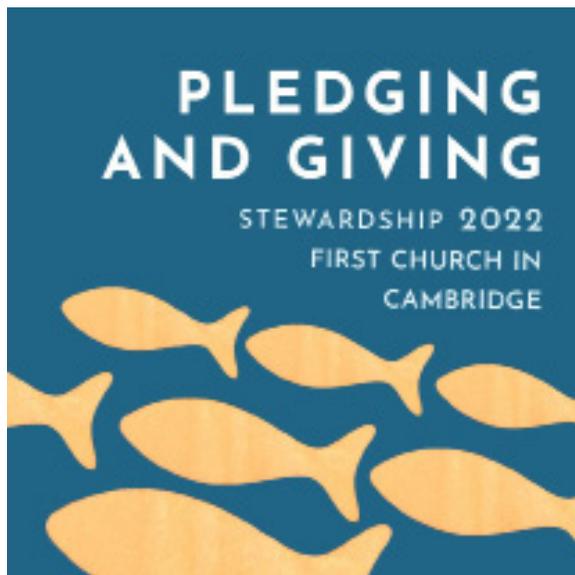
### Today is Stewardship Sunday ABUNDANT THANKS

*When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.*

—Luke 5:6

As we think together about the year ahead and how we will pool our resources to support our mutual ministry and mission for 2022, we are again thinking boldly — with faith, trust, and gratitude — beyond what is sufficient to what will prepare our congregation to thrive as we continue our work in anti-racism and environmental stewardship.

This morning, we are receiving and dedicating our financial pledges and our pledges of time and talent, whether made online, by mail, or in person this morning. We give thanks for your participation and your gifts!



### Stewardship Chowder Luncheon

**Today, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m., church lawn**

As we celebrate our Stewardship Campaign and our net full of fish, join us for a cup of hot chowder and goldfish crackers on the church lawn before our Fall Congregational Meeting. There will also be a non-fish and non-dairy alternative for those so inclined.

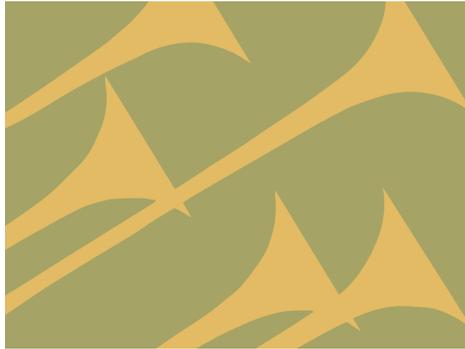


### Fall Congregational Meeting

**Today at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall and [via Zoom](#)**

In addition to voting on next year's budget, the Fall Congregational Meeting will be a time for the congregation to hear an update on our Land Acknowledgment process, as well as a presentation on our communications improvements. Whether online or in person, please join us to stay "in the loop" on our communal life at First Church! (*See the Call to Meeting with the agenda on the following page.*)

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 385th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday the 21st of November, 2021, in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom, for the following purposes:

1. to introduce a First Church Land Acknowledgment,
2. to review and vote on the proposed 2022 annual budget of the Congregation as recommended by Executive Council, and
3. to receive an update about recent communications efforts and improvements at First Church.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council,  
Chris Reynolds, Clerk



### **Advent Candle Sets and Wreath Rings Available for Pickup Today, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., church lawn**

Advent begins next Sunday, so it's time to dig out your candle ring and prepare to make your Advent Wreath! We will have candle sets (4 taper candles; three purple, one pink) for you, as well as extra candle rings if you are new to this tradition. Be sure to zoom in to our Advent Gathering and Crafting time after worship next Sunday, November 28.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Women's Community Book Club

**Tuesday, November 23, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom**

We will be discussing our reading of *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation* by Anna Malaika Tubbs. As always, please bring your ideas, questions, and insights as this promises to be a wonderful discussion... [Read more](#)



### WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and  
spiritual practice in community



### First Church Walk

**Sunday, November 28, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.**

### Fresh Pond Reservation

Join First Church member Susan Ohman for an easy walk at Fresh Pond Reservation. Walk 1-2 miles through Lusitania Meadows, the Butterfly Meadow, and along the main path by Fresh Pond to Maher Park and Blacks Nook... [Read more](#)

### Young Adults: Open Book Mic

**Tuesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m.**

### Ebony's house

A time for Story Share! Bring a book you love and read a passage aloud to us. We'll talk about what it means to you. Contact [Ministerial Intern Ebony West](#) for the address.



### Church School Teacher Meeting

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

Good news, First Church! We are preparing to offer in-person Church School Classes for all children from preschool to 7th grade beginning on **Sunday, January 9**. Our twice-monthly classes will include Godly Play (preschool-4th grade), Middle Book & Bible Study (5th graders), and Bible 101 (6/7th graders). If you would like to learn about volunteering as a Church School

Teacher, please join our evening meeting via Zoom on December 8. Our children's formation programming can't run without volunteer help from the congregation; please consider if teaching might be your way of giving your time and talents to the First Church community. Contact [Sarah Higginbotham](#) to receive the Zoom invitation or to ask any questions you may have.

## HOW WE ARE GATHERING IN DECEMBER AND EARLY JANUARY

### Winter Is Coming!

#### A Covid-19 Update for First Church Gatherings

Covid trends are improving, but with winter coming, public health officials are cautioning us to maintain Covid safety protocols now, more than ever. As one expert put it, “just when you think you can let up, that’s the most important time to stay vigilant.”

Unfortunately, door and window ventilation and heating don’t mix and will create strain for our planet and budget. With this in mind, we will be modifying our Sunday schedule a bit for December and early January, at least... [Read more about what is changing, what is staying the same, and “What about Christmas?”](#)



#### Advent 2021: *Already Here, Not Yet There*

This classic Advent theme seems to fit this year more than most! Indeed, we are stepping into a new season — not only Advent, but also in our mid-pandemic world. We are gathering for hybrid worship. We are already doing more with family and friends than we were a year ago. And yet, nothing feels quite the same as before. We are not yet back to how our lives used to feel. We are able to sing, but with masks. We have returned to school or work in person, but are struggling to find our way. We are worshipping together, but some of us are tuning in from home. We are already here, and not yet there!

In Advent, too, we celebrate that Christ is already here walking alongside us in our journey, and yet, we are waiting for that child who will change everything in the coming weeks. God’s kingdom is already here, and yet, we await the justice, reconciliation and healing that is to come.

[Join us this Advent](#) in exploring this feeling of being in between, of feeling as if we have arrived somewhere, but are still waiting for something more: of being *already here, but not yet there*.

#### Advent Gathering and Crafting, November 28 at 12:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

On the first Sunday of Advent, [gather on Zoom](#) after worship to hear more about our Advent theme - ***Already Here, Not Yet There***. We’ll reflect on how we are stepping into a new season — not only Advent, but also in our mid-pandemic world. And in the spirit of our traditional Advent Workshop, we’ll have a breakout room for crafting! Find your Advent candle ring and pick up some candles and wreath-making supplies at First Church on Sunday, November 21, after the Fall Congregational Meeting (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.) or on Sunday morning, November 28, before we gather on Zoom. We’ll make our wreaths together and share ideas for simple Advent crafts to complete at home.



## ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



### Advent Season Giving and Alternative Christmas Fair

The Missions & Social Justice Committee has had another eventful year of supporting the work of non-profit organizations, both near and far. As we approach the Advent season, we share with you a list of organizations with which First Church partners closely and who are seeking donations.

Additionally, we are sharing a list of organizations from which you may purchase unique gifts. Vendors from these shops have filled Margaret Jewett Hall for our annual Alternative Christmas Fair in years past. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are sharing this list as a “virtual event” this year... [Read more](#)

### Space to Listen:

#### Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke with Brent Coffin Sunday, December 5, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Who’s controlling the narrative today? Is it the Right or the Left? FOX or MSNBC? Or is it actually no one? Amidst all the clamor and competition, where do we find the space to listen deeply to our own narratives of where we are now, how we got here, and where we are hoping to go next? The Gospel of Luke is just one of countless narratives. Yet for us, it is the primary text of the new Christian liturgical year beginning this Advent. Brent Coffin will offer some initial reflections on the Gospel of Luke as narrative space for discerning how God is calling us in our own unfolding narratives... [Read more](#)



### Women’s Community Advent Prayer Retreat

#### Saturday, December 11, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., [via Zoom](#)

The women of First Church will gather together on Zoom for a time of worship, spiritual practice, reflection, and fellowship to observe Advent. Everyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to join! Come as you are to take time out of our busy weeks for rest, spiritual practice and reflection about being a person of faith in this uncertain time.

To let us know if you plan on coming, please sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/nzPoGUSHw4GEA4KJ6>



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, November 22

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

## Tuesday, November 23

- 6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Club, via Zoom

## Wednesday, November 24

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

## Thursday, November 25 - Church Building & Office Closed for Thanksgiving

## Friday, November 26 - Church Building & Office Closed

- 9:00 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall and the church lawn

## Sunday, November 28 - First Sunday of Advent

- 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
- 11:20 a.m. Children's Worship with Sarah, Library
- 12:30 p.m. Advent Gathering and Crafting, via Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. First Church Walk, Fresh Pond Reservation
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song in the Sanctuary and via livestream

*See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.  
Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.*

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