



Hybrid Summer Worship
July 17, 2022

**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
386 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 2

July 17, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*

Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*

Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*

Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Hilary Hopkins, *liturgist*

Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Hybrid Summer Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshments on Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 11:15 a.m. Art Installation at Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, leave from church lawn

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: 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

Psalm 36

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

*HYMN 302

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

*GREETING

Hilary Hopkins

- L: Beloved, wherever you are on your journey of life and faith,
C: gather in this sacred time and space.
L: Come, just as you are, beautifully and wonderfully made.
C: Gather in our Creator's steadfast love that endures forever.
L: Come, all who seek rest and Sabbath,
C: gather in Christ who will give you renewal.
L: Come, all who yearn for justice, hope and peace.
C: Gather in the presence of the Spirit who guides us now.
L: Come, let us give thanks and worship God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

O Love, Who Formedst Me to Wear

W. H. Monk

*O Love, who formedst me to wear the image of Thy Godhead here,
Who soughtest me with tender care through all my wanderings wild and drear,
O Love, I give myself to Thee, Thine ever, only Thine to be.*

*O Love, who ere life's earliest dawn on my Thy choice hast gently laid;
O Love, who here as us was born, and wholly like to us wast made:
O Love, I give myself to Thee, Thine ever, only Thine to be.*

*O Love, who once in time wast slain, pierced through and through with bitter woe,
O Love, who wrestling thus didst gain that we eternal joy might know;
O Love, I give myself to Thee, Thine ever, only Thine to be.*

*O Love, who once shalt bid me rise from out this dying life of ours,
O Love, who once o'er yonder skies shalt set me in the fadeless bowers;
O Love, I give myself to Thee, Thine ever, only Thine to be.*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Together, let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:

**All: Before you, O God, and before one another,
we confess the times when our words and actions
separated us from your greatest commandment
to love you, our neighbor, and ourselves.**

**God, tend to all the places within us that need healing and peace,
and fill us with your hope, strength, and wisdom.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 403

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

READING

Luke 10:25-37

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Jaz Buchanan

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God 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



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

Glory to God

Peruvian traditional

Glory to God, Alleluia!

*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 494

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Psalm 36

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



OPENING HYMN

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

302



1. Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to
 2. Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 3. Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you hea - vy
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty.
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care.



ORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990
 USIC: William P. Rowan, 1992, adapt.

AUSTIN
 87.87

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

403



1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

CLOSING HYMN

494 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Unison

1. I sing a song of the saints of God pa-tient and
 2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love
 3. They lived not on-ly in a- ges past, there are hun-dreds of

brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and
 made them strong; and they fol-lowed the right, for Je- sus'
 thou- sands still; the world is bright with the joy- ous

died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
 sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a
 saints who love to do Je- sus' will. You can meet them in

doc- tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep- herd-ess
 sol- dier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church or in trains, or in

CLOSING HYMN, cont'd.

on the green: they were all of them saints of
fierce wild beast: and there's not an - y rea - son,
shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just

God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.
folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for a Shelter guest who was recently diagnosed with gastric cancer and will be starting chemotherapy.
- We pray for First Church Sexton Kimel Williams, who is taking a medical leave of absence for an injured back.
- We pray for Perry Neubauer, who is recovering from recent heart valve replacement surgery and is awaiting kidney stone surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all who are facing severe, dangerous heat in the midwest and southwest and for all who are impacted by unprecedented flooding and wildfires.
- We pray for all those grieving the loss of over 50 people in an apparent human smuggling operation found recently in San Antonio, Texas, and we pray for healing for those who have survived. We pray that lawmakers might see past their partisan differences to address the basic human rights of migrants seeking a new home.
- We pray for the people of southeast Afghanistan, who experienced a 5.9 magnitude earthquake that killed over 1,000 people and injured many more.
- We pray for all those impacted by the July 4 mass shooting in Highland Park, and we lift up all those terrorized by shootings that are occurring much too frequently in our nation. We lift up those who are feeling lost and worried to live in their skin, to go to their grocery stores, their schools, their workplaces, and their houses of worship after witnessing these events. We pray for an end to this violence and the fear it instills.
- We pray for the family and friends mourning the death of Jayland Walker, who was shot by police in Akron, Ohio. We pray for the city of Akron and for our nation, as we struggle to confront policing bias that results in the senseless deaths of too many Black and brown people.
- In the wake of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, we pray for those facing the loss of vital reproductive rights, and all those who care about them. We also pray for compassion, wisdom, grace, and courage, as the public discourse around abortion may cause each of us to wrestle with our own thoughts and feelings surrounding the complexities of this issue.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and for people in war-torn areas around the world. We pray for all troops and civilians, and for bordering countries receiving refugees.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19—those experiencing symptoms, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those awaiting vaccines and boosters. We pray with and for anxious hearts, especially for educators, healthcare personnel, and other essential workers.
- We pray for all transgender and gender non-conforming people who are experiencing hostility, discrimination, and violence across the country, in connection with the increased number of legislative actions that negatively impact their civil rights.
- We pray for resilience in our work for the environment following the recent Supreme Court ruling on *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* that limits EPA's ability to restrict greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. God, redirect our hearts towards your unending hope. Endow us with the strength and courage needed for the climate and environmental justice work that lies ahead.
- 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.



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 to the left 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:



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Refreshments on the Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour Today at 11:00 a.m.

Join us after church today for coffee, lemonade, and refreshments on the front lawn! For those joining online, Zoom Coffee Hour will launch at the end of worship.



Forgotten Souls of Tory Row: Remembering the Enslaved People of Brattle Street **Art Installation at Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, Today at 11:15 a.m., 159 Brattle St., Cambridge**

First Church member and History Cambridge Executive Director Marieke van Damme will lead a 15-minute walk from the church lawn to History Cambridge's headquarters at 159

Brattle Street to view the temporary outdoor art installation *Forgotten Souls of Tory Row: Remembering the Enslaved People of Brattle Street*. Marieke will offer a short overview of the project (outdoors) and also show folks around the first floor of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House. Light refreshments will be served. First Church member Paula Paris was a consultant on the project. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Marieke: mvandamme@historycambridge.org.



Pastoral Care Cards this Summer

During the summer months, we invite you to support our Pastoral Care ministry by writing a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer list. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or "get well soon" wishes. Look for the "card table" at Coffee Hour each Sunday, where you'll find the weekly list of pastoral care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, and a Church Directory with addresses. We have also included stamps and return address labels.

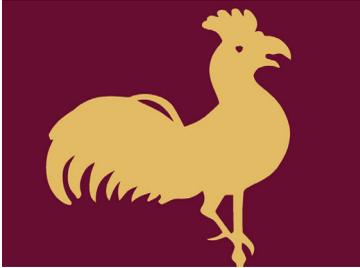
Please affix to the completed cards and place them in one of the mailboxes on Garden St. as you leave (corner of Garden and Mason or corner of Garden and Berkeley). If you'd like to write cards from home, use the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the "Quick Links" on the [Members & Friends page](#) of our website. Many thanks in advance for sharing in this important ministry of outreach and care.

Would you like to join one of our Pastoral Care Teams to write cards, visit members, or deliver meals September through June? Contact Care Team Coordinator Susie Neubauer to learn more: susieneubauer@gmail.com.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Leadership Retreat Summary & Opportunities to Offer Input

In early June, 35 members of our Executive Council, Board of Deacons, and Staff met for an after-church leadership retreat. We tried to take stock of where we've been since Covid and where we are now. We invited leaders to share both celebrations and questions around several key areas of our life together. Imagine Margaret Jewett Hall set up around 5 newsprint stations with lots of colorful scribbles under these topics:



- Hybrid Worship and Community
- Our Financial Life
- Our Staffing Model
- Becoming an Antiracist Church
- Everything Else!

And now, we'd love to hear from you!

For a **summary of our celebrations and questions**, please [click here](#).

For a chance to **add your own celebrations and questions**, please [click here](#).

If you are interested in joining a **summer gathering where we can share in conversation about all of the above**, please [sign up here](#).

After a time of being apart for so long, the retreat and these ongoing exercises are helping us to orient and share a common sense of where we are! Stay tuned for more opportunities this fall, as we continue to celebrate and deepen our discernment about where God is leading us next.



Summer Hours

Through the months of July and August, **Hybrid Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.**, with pick-up choir meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Over the summer, church school-aged children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. The Nursery continues to be staffed by our regular caregivers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

During the summer, the church building closes at 2:00 p.m. from Thursday through Sunday. The building is open for regular hours Monday through Wednesday. A Sexton is in the building when it is open.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

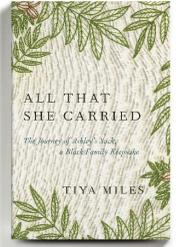
Summer Book Reading Groups

Looking to dive into a book this summer with members of First Church? We have two book groups running this summer, one in July and one in August:

All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake by Tiya Miles

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., June 30 – July 28

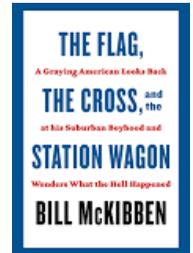
Please email Hilary Hopkins (hopkinsjh@verizon.net) to RSVP and receive Zoom info.



The Flag, the Cross and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at His Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened by Bill McKibben

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m., August 2 - 16

Please email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org) to RSVP and receive Zoom info.



Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Monday, July 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Vera's in Union Square

Join other First Church 20- and 30-somethings for some casual fellowship.

We get together a few times monthly for walks, drinks, and conversation.

Given the nature of being in a university town, FCC attracts a mix of

students who're checking out church for the first time in a while, folks who've just moved to town looking for friends: the conversation and company is always changing. All are welcome, especially those new to First Church or exploring a new faith path. Reach out to Phil at: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org to get on the mailing list. Text Phil you're coming: 585-610-7919. See you soon!

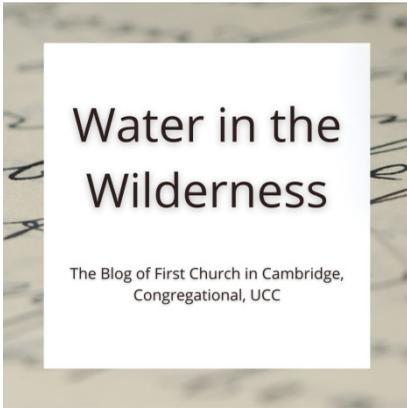
Neighborhood Prayer Walks

This Saturday, July 23, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Deacons invite you to a walk around our neighborhood of Cambridge to explore the area surrounding our church. Gather for a brief Deacon-led prayer before we take an easy stroll through different parts of Cambridge ending in lunch or coffee at a locally owned Cambridge business. This Saturday, join us outside the Central Square T stop, where we will be exploring this bustling part of Cambridge and heading to Cicada for lunch (Patio seating available). Cicada is a woman-owned Vietnamese coffee house specializing in Vietnamese coffee and cuisine. For more information check out their instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cicadacoffeebar/> Contact [Beth Spaulding](#) or [Lexi Boudreaux](#) if you have any questions or want to let us know that you already are planning on coming!



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Catch Up on our First Church Blog

The First Church Blog ***Water in the Wilderness*** has two recent posts for you to explore. Stewardship Chair **Joanne Paul** reflects on why the Stewardship Committee is involved with Covenant Dinners, while First Church member **Kindle Williams** writes about her experience of reparations as a spiritual practice.

Find [***Water in the Wilderness***](#) under “Learn and Grow” on our website, where you can see posts going back to the blog’s inception in March 2020.

Frobenius Restoration Underway

The first phase of our Frobenius organ restoration is already well underway! A small motor has been sent to Germany for repair. Pipes are being removed and cleaned, one pipe and one section at a time. This allows us to use the organ, albeit at limited capacity, even as the work is underway. You can see here what a difference the polishing makes; the left side is “before,” and the right, “after.”

We have good news, too, about our fundraising efforts to date.

We are over halfway to our total goal of \$160,000! Thank you to First Church and to the wider community for “piping up” to support our “wondrous machine” and the beauty it creates.

Come fall, stay tuned for an announcement of our next concert and more opportunities to celebrate, learn about and support our beloved Frobenius at 50! If you have not had a chance to participate or sponsor-a-pipe, please visit [here](#)!



Support the Fair Share Amendment

Do you know about the Fair Share Amendment, which will appear on the Massachusetts ballot this November? Fair Share is a proposed amendment to tax 4% of the portion of a person’s annual income over \$1 million to fund public education and transportation in our state. If you would like to support this economic and climate justice initiative, the Missions & Social Justice Committee invites you to help get it passed by canvassing, making calls, and joining other volunteer opportunities throughout the summer and early fall. More information is available at: fairsharema.com/volunteer

THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, July 18

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Vera's in Union Square

Thursday, July 21

- 6:00 p.m. Drop-in Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Summer Book Reading Group: *All That She Carried*, via Zoom

Friday, July 22

- 9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Tower Room and Lawn

Saturday, July 23

- 11:00 a.m. Neighborhood Prayer Walk with the Deacons, meet at Central Square T stop

Sunday, July 24

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Hybrid Summer Worship
Lexi Boudreaux, preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour

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

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 • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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