



Hybrid Summer Worship
July 24, 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
1636 – 2022

July 24, 2022

Preaching Today

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*

Leading Worship

Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*

Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*

Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Devin Hansen, *liturgist*

Lee Prouty, *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

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

Praeludium in A minor

Dieterich Buxtehude

*HYMN C-23

Come, All You Thirsty

Devin Hansen

*GREETING

- 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

Let Thy Merciful Ears, O Lord

Thomas Mudd

*Let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

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.**

**You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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

*HYMN 314

As We Gather at Your Table

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Sarah Higginbotham

READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

READING

Luke 10:38-42

SERMON

Lexi Boudreax

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

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**Though I May Speak**

Hal H. Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

***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 C-25**

Let There Be Life in This House

BENEDICTION*VOLUNTARY**

All Glory Be to God On High

J. S. Bach

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.

**SCAN ME**

OPENING HYMN

Come, All You Thirsty

C-23

1. Come, all you thirst - y, to the riv - er,
 2. Come to the good, for - giv - ing riv - er,
 3. Come to the strong, re - new - ing riv - er,
 4. Riv - er of life, what deep com - pass - ion

here where the Word runs cool and deep.
 here where the Word runs calm and clear.
 here where the Word runs sweet and wild.
 feeds your e - ter - nal mer - cy song?

Come with the out - casts, crushed and bro - ken,
 Wash in the truth that frees the spi - rit;
 Come by God's gift, though un - de - ser - ving;
 God's own face shines in you re - flec - ted,

come, you who rage_ and you_ who weep.
 shed the ex - cus - es you_ hold dear.
 come be - cause God_ has called_ you Child.
 call - ing us back where we_ be - long.

WORDS: Kate Layzer

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

"Then the angel showed me the river of life,
 bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God
 and from the Lamb."

Rev 22.1

As We Gather at Your Table 314



1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.



CLOSING HYMN

Let There Be Life in This House

C-25

The musical score consists of four systems of music. System 1 contains four stanzas of lyrics: "1. Let there be life in this house, 2. Let there be life in this house, 3. Let there be life in this house, 4. Let there be life in this house," followed by a repeat sign. System 2 continues the lyrics: "poured from the rich - es of God; treasure in so man - y ten - der and truth - ful and real; life of be - long - ing, res - life of the Spi - rit and fire; sis - ters and broth - ers new - life of the Bod - y di - vine, kind - ly and pas - sion - ate," with a repeat sign. System 3 continues: "ves - sels of clay, giv - en for sharing, not hid - ing a - way: pect - ed and free, hon - ored for all God de - clares us to be: born from a - bove, dar - ing to love be - cause we have been loved: ear - thy and odd, we are the Church, be - lov - ed of God:" System 4 concludes with four stanzas of the final verse: "Let there be life in this house! Let there be life in this house! Let there be life in this house! Let there be life in this house!"

WORDS: Kate Layzer

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For First Church in Cambridge on the tenth anniversary
of its declaring itself an Open and Affirming Church

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We celebrate with joy the birth of Cameron Torrey Galatis, granddaughter of David and Elizabeth Torrey, on July 12. Cameron is happy, healthy, and safely home with her parents Eleanor and Mikey.
- 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 still 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 U.S., Europe, and around the world.
- We pray for all those impacted by mass shootings and other incidents of gun violence 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 experiencing 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.
- 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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 and the inability of Congress to pass comprehensive climate legislation. 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.



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 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

First Church Survey: Feeling Connected and Sunday Schedule Preferences

As we approach a new program year, we are seeking your input into our plans for how we envision our various opportunities for ministry, formation, fellowship, and connection at First Church. [This survey](#) is designed to help us understand how you are connecting and what ideas you may have for the coming year. Please take 5-10 minutes and complete the survey by Tuesday, August 2. [Read more](#)



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 AT FIRST CHURCH

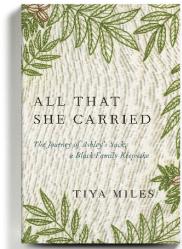
Summer Book Reading Groups

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

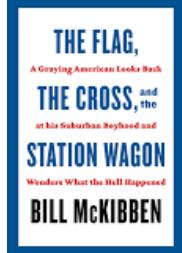
Please email Hilary Hopkins (hopkinsjh@verizon.net) to RSVP and receive Zoom info.



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: Sunset Stroll and Ice Cream

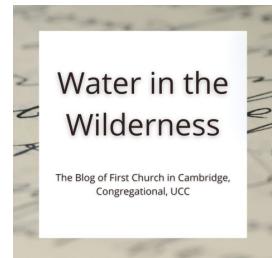
Thursday, August 4, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Lizzie's in Harvard Square

Join other First Church 20- and 30-somethings for some casual fellowship throughout the summer. 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. Our early August outing is for ice cream at Lizzie's in Harvard Square, followed by a stroll along the Charles. Meet at 7:00 p.m.; text Phil you're coming: 585-610-7919. See you soon!

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.



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Neighborhood Prayer Walk

Saturday, August 13, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Deacons invite you to a walk around our neighborhood of Cambridge, this time to the neighborhood of Lechmere! We have been gathering 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, we will be meeting at the independently owned [coffee shop Curio](#) and walking together to the **Lechmere Canal Park** to enjoy coffees and their signature waffle sandwiches, or any snack of your choosing! 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 Healing Service, August 21

This summer we offer a return of our healing services. In these services, we have an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands, and—for those who wish—anointing with oil, an ancient Christian practice now being revived across the ecumenical spectrum of churches. At the time of the sermon, we offer instead a brief introduction to the ritual and then invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time of silence for individual prayers.

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 25

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices, via Zoom

Thursday, July 28

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 29

9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Tower Room and Lawn

Sunday, July 31

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Summer Worship

Jaz Buchanan, 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

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