



Hybrid Summer Worship
September 4, 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

September 4, 2022

Preaching Today	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
Leading Worship	Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i> Dean Eaton, <i>Deacon</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Gaylen Morgan, <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 Summer Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 12:00 p.m. Refreshments on Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a visitor card found on the small clipboard in the pews or 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

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

Fugue on B-A-C-H

Robert Schumann

*HYMN 252

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

*GREETING

Dean Eaton

- 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

Nearer, My God, to Thee

L. Mason/arr. G. Toole

*Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee, e'en though it be a cross that raiseth me;
still all my song would be, nearer, my God, to thee, nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.*

*Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down, darkness be over me, my rest a stone,
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee...*

*There let the way appear, steps unto heaven; all that thou sendest me in mercy given;
angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to thee...*

*Then, with my waking thoughts bright wit they praise, out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee...*

*Or if on joyful wing cleaving the sky, sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee...*

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 311

Let us Break Bread Together

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 14:25-33

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Bring Bread Again

Mary Luti/Peter Sykes

*Bring bread again, the gift of earth and human hands creating.
Rough crust again, and falling crumbs, our hands a basket waiting.
Bring bread again, and eat the love of God unhesitating.*

*Bring wine again, the gift of sun and labor in the growing.
Dark stream again, the ripened grapes a scented grace bestowing.
Bring wine again, and drink the bliss of Christ-life overflowing.*

*Bring us again, all shed of fear, to eat unveiled together
the memory feast of pain and joy in mercy, now as ever.
Bring us again, and feel the draw of Spirit's gentle tether.*

*Bring bread again, and pass it 'round the circle wide and daring.
Remember Jesus, first from death, all hurt and shame repairing.
A feast and friend for friend and foe he'll make us by this sharing.*

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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.**

SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION AND 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 one of the stations, and then proceed back to your seats.

***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 –**

(cont'd. on next page)

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 325

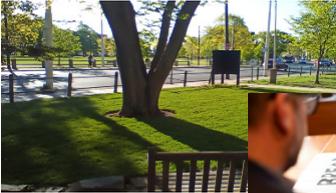
Now Let Us From This Table Rise

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Fugue on B-A-C-H

Robert Schumann



Refreshments on the Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour Today at 12:00 p.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

For one last week before we return to our usual routines, 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, or write cards from home, using the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the "Quick Links" on the [Members & Friends page](#) of our website.



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, 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

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

252

Unison

1. How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
 2. In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
 3. A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O God most high;

my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
 is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
 you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.

The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
 I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
 The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,

and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
 than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
 and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

WORDS: Arlo D. Duba, 1984
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

MERLE'S TUNE
 76.76D

This text is a paraphrase of Psalm 84. Duba, a Presbyterian,
 taught at Westminster Choir College, and is now Dean of the
 Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Words © 1986, music © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

PEACE HYMN

311

Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2. Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;
 3. Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
 Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;
 Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,

O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual, arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964, adapt.

LET US BREAK BREAD
 10 10 w. refrain

The earliest version of this spiritual consisted of stanza three, used to call slaves in Virginia to secret, unlawful meetings. The communion stanzas were added after the Civil War.

Arr. © 1965 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Co.

CLOSING HYMN

325

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

1. Now let us from this ta - ble rise, re - newed in
 2. With minds a - lert, up - held by grace, to spread the
 3. To fill each hu - man house with love, it is the
 4. Then give us grace, Com - pan - ion - God, to choose a -

bod - y, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live a -
 Word in speech and deed, we fol - low in the steps of
 sac - ra - ment of care; the work that Christ be - gan to
 gain the pil - grim way, and help us to ac - cept with

gain, his self - less love has made us whole.
 Christ, at one with all in hope and need.
 do we hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.
 joy the chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1968

MUSIC: Melody, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;
 harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
 LM

First used at the Pilgrim Church, Plymouth, England, in 1964,
 Kaan's phrase 'the sacrament of care' was used as the theme
 of an international conference in 1984.

Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Kathy Williams, who is grieving the loss of her husband Jim. Though Jim had been experiencing health challenges, he died unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 23.
- We pray for Nancy O’Connell, who is grieving the loss of her beloved husband Steve. Steve was diagnosed with cancer in July and died on Friday, August 19.
- We pray for Kirsten Manville’s father Keith, who is recovering from a serious fall.
- We pray for Devin Hansen’s Aunt Ellen, who is in hospital recovering from intestinal surgery.
- We pray for Heather Stanford, who is grieving the loss of her older “sister” Judy, who died recently of glioblastoma.
- We pray for Anita Anger as she is treated for lymphoma and ongoing heart trouble.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones’s mother; 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; a current First Church Shelter guest; and friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O’Donovan.
- We pray for all who are facing severe, dangerous heat, droughts, and fires in Massachusetts, across the U.S., in Europe, and around the world. We also pray for those experiencing intense flooding in Pakistan and other parts of the world.
- We pray for all who have been affected by the monkeypox outbreak around the world, and for our public health officials, that they might mitigate the harm done to our public and individual health. We pray that all may access medical care without shame.
- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, 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.
- We pray with hope at the news of climate action legislation recently passed at both the federal and state levels.
- 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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Grendel's Den, Harvard Square

Join the Young Adults at First Church for some casual fellowship with other 20- and 30-somethings. All welcome; we'll meet outside at Grendel's. Text Phil if you can make it or to get on the group's mailing list: 585-610-7919



Shall We Gather?

Fall 2022 and Regathering Sunday

Hybrid Worship at 11:00 a.m. and Luncheon at 12:15 p.m.

And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of spurring one another toward love and good words, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.

- Hebrews 10: 24-25



This fall, we are excited to be more intentional about how we gather! In worship, on retreat, and in our small group life, we will bring some First Church wonder and curiosity to this ancient, yet timely theme. In a season when many are already re-imagining what it means to gather, we ask:

How do we gather?

- What makes for good gatherings, anyway?
- How can we be more intentional about our purpose for meetings?
- How do we open and close our times together?
- How do we ensure there are chances to share our stories and lives with another?
- Who are the hosts, really, and who are the guests, especially when we are at church?
- What attention to detail might make our gatherings all the more powerful, memorable, and true?

Priya Parker, author of [***The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters***](#), offers helpful tips on some of the above that we are eager to explore together. Not surprisingly, our scripture and tradition have a lot to say about this, too! Join us on **Regathering Sunday, September 11 for Hybrid Worship at 11:00 a.m. and for a Regathering luncheon on the lawn at 12:15 p.m.**, as we gather in the Spirit. Come Sunday, and come this fall—let's make some First Church art of gathering together.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Faith Formation for Children & Youth Starts Up in September!

We are very happy to welcome children and youth back to in-person classes, workshops, and social gatherings this fall!

[Register your children for this year's programs here.](#)

Parents and caregivers, make sure you are on the "First Church Families" email list. Sarah Higginbotham sends a "News for First Church Families" e-newsletter every Thursday afternoon.

[Contact Sarah to get on the list.](#)



- **Church School Classes**

We plan to offer Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) and Bible 101 (5/6th grade) classes in our Church School. On **Regathering Sunday, September 11**, children will be invited to leave Morning Worship after the Passing of the Peace to meet their teachers and get a taste of what their classes are all about.

- **Youth Programs: Our Whole Lives, Confirmation Class & Youth Group**

ALL of our youth opportunities will take place on **Sunday afternoons, starting at 1:30 p.m...** [Read more](#)



Night Song

Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Night Song resumes on September 11 at 7:30 p.m. with attendance in person or via livestream. Beneficia lucis, the ensemble of men, will sing under the direction of James Busby. On September 18, a new ensemble of women will sing, with Teri Kowiak as director. Canticum vespertinum, the mixed ensemble

directed by Jennifer Lester, will sing on September 25. Please join us and tell your friends!

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset... [Read more about Night Song.](#)

Family Night Reunion

Tuesday, September 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., The Parsonage, 44 Garden St.

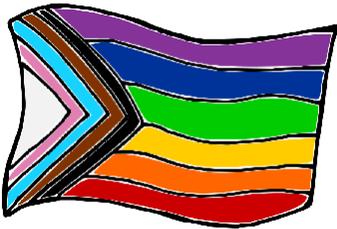
For many years before 2020, First Church families with young children would gather on Tuesday evenings in Sage Hall for a simple pasta potluck dinner. Parents would linger over dinner as kids raced around our basement playspace on tricycles or built towers with blocks. Deeper reflection and connection amongst parents would take place during seasonal small group offerings during this time, including Bible study and book group discussion. Now, all those who participated in Tuesday Family Nights are warmly invited to a reunion! [Read more](#)



LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Call for Fall Faith & Life Group Leaders by September 18

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in-person this Fall? [Contact Transitional Minister 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, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups 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 is Sunday, September 18.*



Celebrating Our ONA History—Faithfully (& Queerfully)

Responding to the Present

Sundays, September 18 & 25, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Harter Room and via Zoom

Join us as we celebrate our history as an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation since 1991! Grounded in our faith, we will discern together how we can continue to lovingly embrace our

LGBTQ+ siblings—especially our trans and nonbinary siblings, whose civil rights are under attack across our nation. We will talk about and give thanks to God for a wide breadth of sexualities and genders, and for every color on the rainbow that connects us all as beloved children, deeply cherished by our Creator. We look forward to seeing you there!

Newcomers Meet and Greet

Sunday, September 18, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m., Church Lawn

Those feeling new to First Church, or interested in meeting (in person!) someone new to our community, are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship at Coffee Hour on the lawn. Some of what you can expect: friendly faces, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation. Our first Joining Sunday of the season will be on October 30.



LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Aging With Grace and Dying Well Reunion

Tuesday, September 20, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., Harter Room & via Zoom

Join us as we regather the members of last year's group, where we offered each other companionship and spiritual resources for encountering the end of life. In this current season of regathering, let's again wrestle with the big questions together as we let God's presence and this community hold us. Let's learn together how we can find dignity, courage, grace, hope, and peace in our aging and in our dying. We will offer spiritual readings, time for conversation and reflection, along with a few practical resources for end-of-life planning. Folks who are new to the group are welcome to these gatherings. This group may continue on a monthly basis for ongoing support. Please email [Lexi](#) or [Dan](#) if you have questions.



SNEUCC 2022 Racial Justice Summit

Saturday, September 24

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury, CT

(virtual options available)

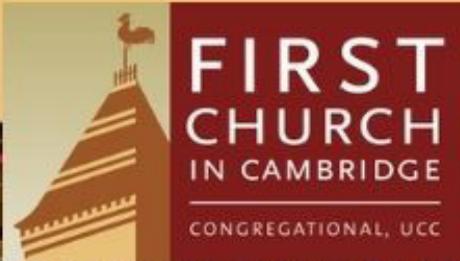
Join other SNEUCC members, authorized ministers, and partners at the **2022 Justice Summit**, a one-day in-person gathering (with virtual options) focused on devising strategies to confront racial inequity in local congregations and communities. The Summit includes worship, a plenary presentation by [Rev. Dr. Velda Love](#), plenary conversations with our [Theologians in Residence Revs. Drs. Yvette Flunder and Diane Schmitz](#), workshops that help connect us and strategize together for the work ahead; and time dedicated to spiritually sustaining the work for the long-haul. [More info and the registration link may be found here.](#)

First Church Returns to Craigville for our All-Church Fall Retreat

Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2

After two pandemic cancellations (as well as the "year off" we took in 2019), First Church is returning to [Craigville Retreat Center](#) for our beloved All-Church Fall Retreat! All are welcome to join us for a weekend of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. Take advantage of scheduled large group gatherings, small group sessions, supervised play/crafting time for kids, worship, group games, and more. Or, opt for a quiet walk on the beach, bird-watching at the marsh, or whatever your soul needs. Arrive on Friday evening, September 30, and stay through midday on Sunday, October 2, for the full event; or come for a portion of the weekend, for just one night or for a daytrip on Saturday. [Register now](#) to reserve your spot! Lodging and meals, plus all our First Church programming, are included; see the [registration form](#) for details.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, September 5 - Church Office and Building Closed for Labor Day Holiday

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

Tuesday, September 6

4:00 p.m. FCC Professional Caregivers Call, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, September 7

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

4:30 p.m. Nominating Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

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

Thursday, September 8

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

7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Grendel's Den

Friday, September 9

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

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

Saturday, September 10

8:00 a.m. Monthly Men's Breakfast, home of the Neubauers

Sunday, September 11 - Regathering Sunday

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play (preK-4th graders) & Bible 101 (5/6th graders) classes

12:15 p.m. Regathering Luncheon, church lawn

12:45 p.m. Confirmation Class (9/10th graders) and Youth Group (9-12th graders) Orientation for students and parents, Harter Room

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

 /firstchurchcambridge  /FirstChurchInCambridge  /c/FirstChurchInCambridge