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November 26, 2023

## 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  
387 YEARS  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 3

## November 26, 2023

<b>Preaching Today</b>	Carla Arevalo, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Casey Marsh
<b>Leading Worship</b>	Phil Jones, <i>for the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i> Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	<a href="#">Bearwalk</a>

### Today's Programs and Events

10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
12:30 p.m.	Faith & Life Group: Holiday Art Workshop - Art for God, Chapel
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 a visitor card found on the small clipboards or this "[virtual visitor card](#)" so that we might connect with you about our community.

### Give to First Church

You can give online: [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)

### Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

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**

Nun danket alle Gott

J. S. Bach

**\*HYMN 105**

The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen

**\*GREETING**

Casey Marsh

L: Beloved of God, welcome, welcome, welcome to this household of love:

**C: where our lives are grounded in the hope of a healing God,**

L: where our hearts become tender and share together  
in community and belonging,

**C: where we act in collective truth for a better world.**

L: Siblings in the Spirit, come, gather in, let God's grace wash over you!

**C: O come, ye thankful people, O come!**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**ANTHEM**

Oculi omnium

Charles Wood

**CONFESSING**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**SILENCE**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Let us pray:

**All: Holy and beloved God, we give you thanks for this day,  
for cycles of discernment and celebration, of giving and receiving.  
You know our anxieties and fears, God.  
You know when we hold back our love,  
and when we withdraw from yours.  
Lead us God, to give and receive, freely and without fear.  
In this season of harvest and thanksgiving,  
help us trust that there will always be plenty,  
so that our connection with you is deepened  
and our relationships strengthened,  
in Jesus' name. 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 FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

*Please turn to your immediate neighbors and offer a handshake, or a hug! Or if you prefer to maintain social distance, fold your hands or arms in a sign of peace. We want everyone to be comfortable; today let there be no spiritual distance between us.*

### \*HYMN 340

Peace Before Us

*Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can find the children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### READING

Luke 17: 11-19

#### SERMON

A Posture of Remembrance

Carla Arevalo

### \*HYMN 424

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

### MINISTRY MOMENT

Phil Jones

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: 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.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give Online



Give by Text



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

Simple Gifts

Traditional, arr. Robert Lehman

### \*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.

### GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 354

Lord, We Would Be Instruments of Loving Service

\*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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### 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.

The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen 105

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
 2. Christ's beau - ty doth all things ex - cel:  
 3. For hap - pi - ness I long have sought,  
 4. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,

'tis full of fruit and al - ways green:  
 by faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
 and plea - sures dear - ly I have bought:  
 it keeps my dy - ing faith a - live;

the trees of na - ture fruit - less be  
 the glo - ry which I now can see  
 I missed them all; but now I see  
 which makes my soul in haste to be

com - pared with Christ, the ap - ple tree.  
 in Je - sus Christ, the ap - ple tree.  
 they're found in Christ, the ap - ple tree.  
 with Je - sus Christ, the ap - ple tree.

WORDS: Anon., *Collection of Joshua Smith*, 1784, alt.  
 MUSIC: Cornish carol, harm. Jeffrey Rickard, 1992, alt.

CORNISH CAROL  
 LM

PEACE HYMN

340

Peace Before Us



1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace be - neath our feet.
2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us, love be - neath our feet.
3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us, light be - neath our feet.
4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us, Christ be - neath our feet.



*Additional verses: joy, truth, hope.*

WORDS: David Haas, (b.1957), alt., based on a Navaho prayer  
MUSIC: David Haas, (b.1957); harm. FCC, 1997

PRAYER FOR PEACE  
445.447

Words, music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX



- Peace with - in us, peace a - bove us, let all a - round us be peace.
- Love with - in us, love a - bove us, let all a - round us be love.
- Light with - in us, light a - bove us, let all a - round us be light.
- Christ with - in us, Christ a - bove us, let all a - round us be Christ.



424 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

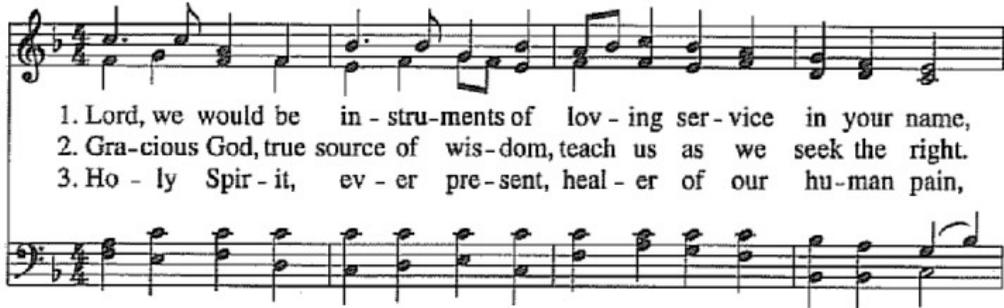
1. We walk by faith and not by sight;  
 2. We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
 3. Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;  
 4. That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra-cious words we hear from Christ who spoke as  
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; but in con - fess - ing  
 and may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 in realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.  
 we re - jice: our Sav - ior and our God!  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

CLOSING HYMN

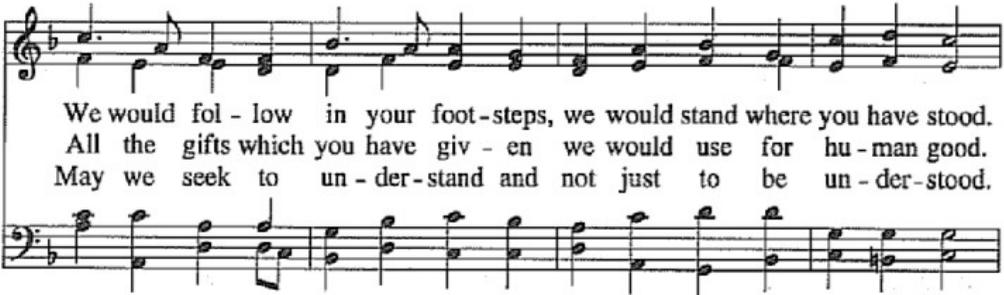
Lord, We Would Be Instruments of Loving Service 354



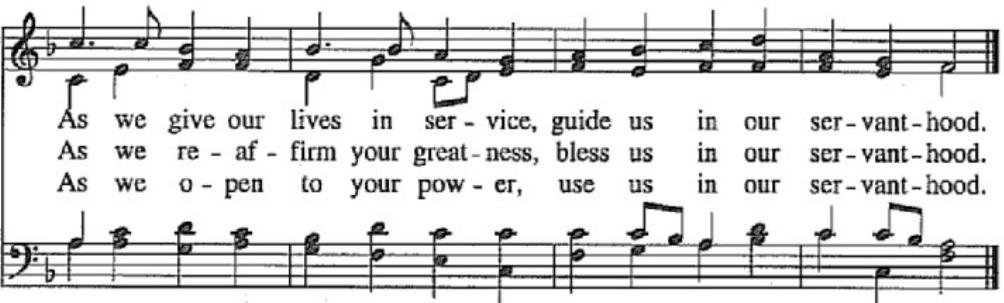
1. Lord, we would be in - stru - ments of lov - ing ser - vice in your name,  
2. Gra - cious God, true source of wis - dom, teach us as we seek the right.  
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er pre - sent, heal - er of our hu - man pain,



of - fring up our full com - mit - ment to the work for which you came.  
When we dwell in doubt or dark - ness, grant us your great hope and light.  
help us share your con - so - la - tion, dur - ing times of stress and strain.



We would fol - low in your foot - steps, we would stand where you have stood.  
All the gifts which you have giv - en we would use for hu - man good.  
May we seek to un - der - stand and not just to be un - der - stood.



As we give our lives in ser - vice, guide us in our ser - vant - hood.  
As we re - af - firm your great - ness, bless us in our ser - vant - hood.  
As we o - pen to your pow - er, use us in our ser - vant - hood.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for a warm and safe arrival for Nuro and Idle, two Somali refugees who will be welcomed to Cambridge by the First Church & Friends Welcome Corps Team in the coming days. We also pray for the team's volunteers as they partner with Nuro & Idle in these first weeks of transition.
- We pray for Andrea Seek and her family as they grieve the loss of Andrea's mother Lynda Soderquist, who died last Sunday morning.
- We pray for Marian Smith as she moves from her home in Arlington to a retirement community.
- We pray for Sexton George Williams, who is recovering from emergency eye surgery.
- We pray for Ginny Harlan's son Michael and his family, who live in Louisville, as Michael has been diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma.
- We pray for Krysia Burnham, who is recovering from hip surgery.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who is recovering in a rehab facility after an extended hospital stay for various serious medical issues.
- We pray for Jennifer Petrallia, who is suffering from debilitating anxiety and depression.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; Jim Rae, Ami Brenner's father; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for the many families seeking emergency shelter in cities and towns across Massachusetts.
- We pray for all those in Lewiston, ME, and the surrounding towns, as they continue to cope with their shared experience of a tragic mass shooting. We continue to pray and advocate for common sense national gun control legislation.
- We pray for workers who are unemployed, laid off, or displaced. We pray for immigrants waiting for work permits or desperate for work, and for union workers who are striking for better pay and working conditions.
- We continue to pray for all impacted by and recovering from recent natural and climate related disasters, most recently the hurricane in Mexico. We continue to pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, including in Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. As we prepare to welcome two refugees through the Welcome Corps, we pray for all political and climate refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the impact of vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are unable to give and receive care in their own states.
- We pray for the 14 men finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter; and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding resources and listening ears.

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

### Prayer for Israel and Palestine

We pray for an end to the war and the heartwrenching violence in Israel and Palestine. We pray for all hostages and their families; for those living in daily fear for their and their loved ones' safety; and for all who are grieving the thousands of deaths of Israelis, Palestinians, and others in Israel, Gaza, and around the world, including members of our congregation who have close ties with people who are currently in the area.

We decry the horrifically violent Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7. We decry retaliation that involves violence against civilians, including deprivation of water, fuel, and food in Gaza. We pray for redoubled diplomatic efforts to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We continue to pray for a just peace in Israel and Palestine and throughout the region. We also pray for Jews and Muslims, nearby and around the world, who are facing increased threats and acts of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim discrimination, hatred, and violence.

We pray for ourselves, that we will be faithful, compassionate, and open to God's love and leading, and to all whom we encounter through these tension-filled times. Across whatever division or disagreement, may our words and deeds seek to honor the humanity and God-given dignity of every human being.



**Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?**

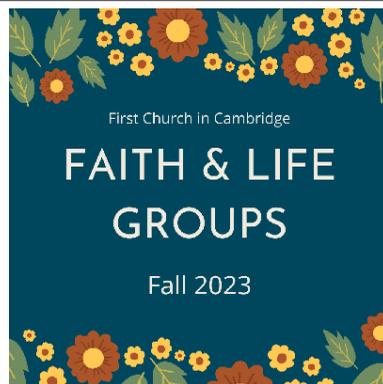
Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Holiday Art Workshop: Art for God

Today, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Chapel

Join First Church artist Henry Gates as we use pastels to briefly make a page of art for God. Sitting before a tapestry-size painting of twelve Christian festivals, make your own festival color square. We'll use any remaining time to talk about the value of Christian art in church. All materials provided, and all ages and abilities welcome.



### Night Song

Sunday evenings, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m.

Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

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.](#)

### Welcome Corps Newcomers Arriving;

### Warm Winter Clothing Needed

You may have heard the exciting news that after months of preparation and waiting, our Welcome Corps group was matched with a newcomer family! A Somali mother and her adult son are traveling very soon to make their new home here. Our team is working to welcome them at the airport with open arms and to companion them as they find their way into housing, health care, learning English, finding jobs, and more. If you can join us in assisting and getting to know them, please [complete this form](#) as a first step. We have roles for time commitments small and large.



As the refugees will be arriving directly from Africa into a cold New England November, we are asking for donations of warm clothing. They are a woman and her adult son; we do not yet know their sizes, but all donations are welcome and any extra clothing will be given to the Friday Café. ***Please bring in any items from the list below ASAP, as the newcomers are arriving within the next few days.*** There will be a plastic bin just inside the doors next to the Church offices in which to put them. Please bring in male or female adult sizes of warm coats, hats, gloves, mittens, boots, scarves, socks, fleece, sweaters, sweatshirts, and sweatpants.

## COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

### Young Adults: Faith On Tap

Monday, November 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Painted Burro, Davis Square, Somerville

First Church has a thriving Young Adults group, meeting a few times a month for casual fellowship. Our long running Faith on Tap series continues this Monday at the Painted Burro in Davis Square. Reach out to Phil Jones by emailing: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) to stay in the loop for future Young Adults get-togethers.



### BRIAN O'DONOVAN LEGACY SERIES ANNUAL HOLIDAY BENEFIT VARIETY SHOW

TO BENEFIT:



WITH:

TOMMY & LOUISE  
& FRIENDS

DAVID COFFIN

MATT & SHANNON HEATON

KLEZMER ENSEMBLE - NEC

KIERAN JORDAN | MARGIE DELANEY

ESSENCE - ACAPELLA GROUP - TUFTS UNIV

ENCHANTED - ACAPELLA GROUP - TUFTS UNIV

MARY CASEY & THE O'DONOVAN FAMILY

### Friday Café Benefit Concert

Wednesday, November 29 at 7:30 p.m.

The Burren, 247 Elm St, Davis Square, Somerville

Kick off the holidays with joy and gladness while supporting the work of the Friday Café! This festive event will feature artists like the Revels' David Coffin, world-class Irish musicians Shannon & Matt Heaton, the New England Conservatory Klezmer Band, Tufts *a cappella* groups Essence and Enchanted, and others. All ticket sales benefit the Friday Café.

Go to: [burren.com](http://burren.com) or [24hourconcerts.showare.com](http://24hourconcerts.showare.com)

**BREAKING NEWS:** The concert is SOLD OUT!

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 2, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person on Saturday morning for our monthly gathering, a time to reflect and rejoice. If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: [p.byerly@comcast.net](mailto:p.byerly@comcast.net)



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

a monthly gathering  
for sharing our stories and reflections



### Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays

Holding Hilary Hopkins in our hearts, First Church continues to provide contributions to the Many Helping Hands Food Pantry. The volunteer-run, donation-driven pantry offers a grocery shopping experience on the second Saturday of each month. You are invited to donate healthy snacks, hygiene products, spices, and (when possible) items bought in bulk/case, as this supports customers having a similar shopping experience. **First Church donations can be left in the large baskets in the Narthex on the first Sunday of each month, which is next Sunday, December 3.**

## COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

### Call to Repair: Justice, Healing, and Reparations in Massachusetts Sunday, December 3, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Reparations Interfaith Coalition hosts a virtual Interfaith Reparations Gathering, bringing together organizations, communities and congregations across Massachusetts to learn and discuss how the reparations movement is progressing locally and how we can move it forward. National and local Black leaders in the reparations movement will speak to our shared sense that reparations are not a transaction but rather a spiritual and ethical practice. This event is open to all those interested in building their understanding of and work towards reparations. We hope to leave you with action ideas for education, advocacy, and ways to make material reparations.



This is the first event among more to come from the Reparations Interfaith Coalition, a new, currently predominantly white, group of faith- and ethically-based communities dedicated to moving reparations forward in Massachusetts. This event is part of a national Sacred Reparative Season launched by the [Grassroots Reparations Campaign](#).

Register for the Reparations gathering at: <https://tinyurl.com/MAInterfaithReparations>



the Friday Café is now collecting  
**gently used clothing**  
for neighbors in need (adults)

jeans sweats thermals flannels  
hoodies jackets rain gear coats hats  
gloves scarves sneakers warm  
boots toiletries camping gear

more @thefriday.cafe

## GBIO IN-DISTRICT MEETINGS



### Let's Show Up First Church!

The next leg of our Housing Justice Campaign is up and running. We are staging In-District Meetings (IDMs) with our local senators and representatives across Greater Boston, asking them directly to support our legislative and budget asks. If you have been looking for the opportunity to engage, this is your chance.

These meetings will be essential in ensuring that Governor Healey's Affordable Homes Act gets enough support on Beacon Hill to pass. Every one of us has a role to play by showing up, and bringing our neighbors!

There will be over a dozen IDMs over the coming weeks and months. Some that are coming up:

#### **Wednesday, December 6**

Senator Cindy Friedman, Reps. Sean Garballey and Ken Gordon (Lexington, Arlington):  
[CLICK THIS LINK TO REGISTER](#)

#### **Tuesday, December 12**

Senator William Brownsberger, Reps. Dave Rogers, Kevin Honan, John Lawn, Steve Owens and Mike Moran (Belmont, Watertown, Allston/Brighton):  
[CLICK THIS LINK TO REGISTER](#)

#### **Wednesday, January 10**

Senator Michael Barrett, Reps. Thomas Stanley, Michelle Ciccolo, Carmine Gentile, and Simon Cataldo (Lexington, Waltham):  
[CLICK THIS LINK TO REGISTER](#)

There are IDMs pending with Pat Jehlen (Cambridge, Somerville) and Sal DiDomenico (Central Square, East Cambridge, Charlestown). If you have different legislators, [fill out this form](#), and we will be in touch with details for your IDM. These In-District Meetings are the way we can win big for housing justice statewide.

Hope to see you out there!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

### Advent 2023

*O Come, O Come*

*O Come, O Come*

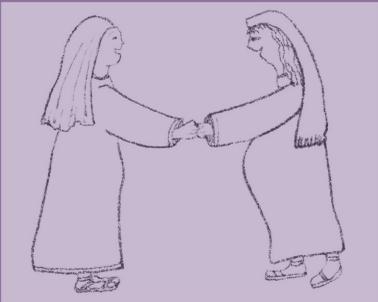
O Come ...what? What are we longing for? Is it peace? Is it justice? Is it solace or silence? Is it healing or wholeness? Is it a simple gift of love? For what is your heart most yearning and waiting in this season of Advent? The familiar hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* reminds us, eventually, that it is ours to “Rejoice! Rejoice!” For Emmanuel, which means “God with us” comes at Christmas! But first, in this season of anticipation, we are invited to slow down, to wonder, to wait, to pray, and to prepare our hearts, to make space in our souls. “God with us” comes to us and meets us right where we are. Join us this Advent in worship and community, in study and small groups, as we yearn, sing, and pray together ... O Come, O Come...!

# O COME, O COME

*Advent 2023*



## Sheltering in Friendship



A Women's Community  
Advent Gathering



### Sheltering in Friendship:

**A Women's Community Advent Gathering**

**Saturday, December 2, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Margaret Jewett Hall**

All those who identify as women are invited to join us for a restorative exploration of the role of friendship in our lives. We will enter an alternative space of togetherness, where we will rest, deepen our connections, play, and reflect together. We will ground ourselves in our own life stories and in the story of Mary learning of her pregnancy and seeking shelter and comfort in her cousin Elizabeth's house.

Childcare is available, either onsite or via financial support for a babysitter of your choosing in your own home. Please RSVP at [this link](#) by November 30, and contact [Emma Thomas](#) with any questions.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

**Adult Formation: Exploring the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany  
Sundays, December 3 and 10, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.**

**Harter Room and via Zoom**

Join First Church member Beth Spaulding for an opportunity to delve into the richness of these seasons in the life of the church. We'll look at the themes of the seasons and how they are expressed in music and art, and we'll share memories of our own experiences.

### **Advent Workshop**

**Sunday, December 3, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Margaret Jewett Hall**

On the first Sunday of Advent, plan to join us after worship for a variety of arts and craft activities to prepare for the season. Bring your Advent candle ring to decorate with greens (new candle rings and candles will be available until we run out). Choose among other crafts, including beeswax candle-dipping, ornament-making, and more. Enjoy a bagel-and-cider lunch as you take in the creative energy around you. All are welcome! And volunteers are needed! If you would like to lead a simple craft at the workshop—no experience necessary; instruction and supplies provided—please contact [Sarah Higginbotham](#) to learn more.



### **Advent Season Gift-Giving and Donation Suggestions**

The Missions & Social Justice Committee is pleased to share with you a list of organizations with which First Church partners closely and who are seeking donations in this holiday season. In the case that you and your family are in a position to support any of these organizations, we hope that you find the list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Molly Baker at: [mollybaker96@gmail.com](mailto:mollybaker96@gmail.com), co-chair of the Missions & Social Justice Committee. [Find the full list on our website.](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT



### **Coat Boston & Christmas Shop Collection Sunday, December 10**

This year, Coat Boston and the Christmas Shop is seeking donations of gift cards, books, toys, socks, hats, mittens and coats. These gifts will be given directly to schools, partner agencies and organizations in Boston that serve individuals and families in need of resources. For ideas, please check out their [Amazon Wish List](#). As is our tradition, First Church will collect unwrapped gifts for the Christmas Shop and Coat Boston during our worship service on Sunday, December 10.

### **Alternative Christmas Fair Sunday, December 10, 12:15 - 2:00 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall**

First Church is excited to once again host the annual Alternative Christmas Fair! What makes it “alternative?” All proceeds raised by the vendors will go directly to benefit their charitable and social justice causes. Our growing list of vendors this year includes: A Thread of Hope, Solutions at Work, Canaan Fair Trade, and Friday Cafe. Come buy presents for your loved ones, and support worthy causes! Hope to see you there!



### **Holiday Open House at the Parsonage Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. The Parsonage, 44 Garden St., Cambridge**

Join Dan Smith and Nancy Kilburn for a First Church tradition of festive and fireside fun. Come for all or part of the evening. We'll provide a light meal and holiday spirit(s)! Feel free to bring some holiday cookies or drinks to share, or just bring yourselves and some holiday cheer. We hope to see you there!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

### Young Adults Christmas Party & Hymn Sing

Friday, December 15, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Home of Phil Jones and Angela Servello

All Young Adults are invited to celebrate the season at Phil and Angela's home in Brighton. Make a festive craft, drink a festive drink, and sing a festive hymn. RSVP to Phil at: [p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com](mailto:p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com). Even if you can't make it, get in touch with Phil for a full list of Young Adult get-togethers in the new year.



### Special Advent Music Sunday, December 17

This year the First Church Choir will sing a setting of the beloved Magnificat text by Italian composer Isabella Leonarda (1620-1704), the first woman to have written sonatas for violin and basso continuo. This rich work is accompanied by strings. **Rehearsals are at 7:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall on three consecutive Thursdays: November 30 and December 7 & 14.** Come and join us in our festive preparations! For more information, contact Music Director Peter Sykes at: [psykes@aol.com](mailto:psykes@aol.com).

### Mark Your Calendars

#### Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 a.m. The First Church UnPageant in Hybrid Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

#### Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Hybrid Worship

#### Sunday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship

#### Saturday, January 6 - Epiphany

6:00 p.m. Epiphany Potluck & Worship Service





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, November 27

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

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

## Tuesday, November 28

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

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

## Wednesday, November 29

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Friday Café Benefit Concert, The Burren, Davis Square, Somerville

## Thursday, November 30

- 5:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom (note time change)
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Creating a Spiritual Autobiography, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

## Friday, December 1

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

## Saturday, December 2

- 1:00 p.m. A Women's Community Advent Gathering, MJH

## Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Exploring the Seasons, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Workshop, MJH
- 2:00 p.m. Call to Repair Workshop, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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