



Summer Worship 2025

**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
389 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1636 – 2025

GATHERING

Please find the hymn numbers, readings, and music titles in the weekly insert.

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Beloved people, God has set this day before us—
C: a day of resurrection, and thus a day of renewal and praise.
L: God has set our lives before us—
C: a span of years in which to love, and learn, and serve.
L: God has set a sense of the Eternal upon our hearts and minds,
C: so that we might live into the fullness of Divine love.
L: With gratitude for this moment with Jesus among us, let us worship God.

*HYMN

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION AND SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray:
All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have strayed from your way,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Grant us true repentance, and hearts eager for the work of repair.

**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.*

Through the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!
C: **And also with you!**

*HYMN

Children are invited to remain in worship today, and they are welcome to visit the Children's Book Corner (near the side door) at any time. If young ones need a break, they are welcome to join the Nursery in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) or on the outdoor playground.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READINGS

SERMON

*HYMN

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

COVENANT TESTIMONY

All: We believe that our covenant with God and each other calls us:
to love God with all that we are,
and our close and distant neighbors as ourselves;
to seek peace through justice and equity for all people;
to engage in nonviolent resistance to evil;
to respect and preserve God's earth;
to foster community across every barrier and division;
to attend to God's unfolding and reconciling Word;
to support each other in our frailties and strengths,
that we may embody that love which overcomes fear and death.
This we testify, confessing always our reliance on God's grace in Christ,
and on the power of the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OFFERTORY

*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

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

As part of First Church's ongoing sustainability efforts, during the summer months we are re-using our worship bulletins. At the end of the service, please place this bulletin in the basket near the sanctuary door. You may keep the weekly insert. Thank you.



SCAN ME

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 left.