



Summer Worship 2025 with Communion

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.
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.

**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

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

*HYMN

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READINGS

SERMON

*HYMN

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

COVENANT TESTIMONY

see insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please bring your bulletin and form a large circle on the chancel, including the front pew for those who wish to remain seated for Communion.

*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

*REMEMBERING JESUS

L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,
his daring love, his open table.
(silence)

L: We remember how he fed the five thousand people
with only a loaf of bread and a few fish.

C: **We remember how he never left anyone hungry.**

L: We remember how Jesus welcomed the children.

C: **We remember how he didn't turn them or anyone away.**

- L: We remember that the women came,
early in the morning, on the third day.
- C: They did not find him among the dead.**
- L: We remember that disciples met him on the road.
- C: They knew him when he broke the bread.**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND 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 THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice, and peace are welcome at this table.
For those worshiping via the livestream, please take and eat. For those here in the Sanctuary,
please receive the elements as they are brought to you in the circle.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- L: Let us give thanks!
- C: We 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 –
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**

***BENEDICTION**

*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.*