

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025

Preaching Today Mike Solberg, *Interim Senior Minister*
Liturgist Devin Hansen
Assisting in Worship Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Opening Voutary

Preludium in G Minor - Buxtehude

Sermon

Prayer School

Opening Hymn

11 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Sermon Hymn

443 Seek Ye First

Anthem

The Call - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Offertory

Cantate Domino - Gretchaninoff

Peace Hymn

Hallelu, Hallelu... Praise Ye the Lord!

Closing Hymn

442 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Reading

Luke 11:1-13

Closing Voluntary

Fugue in C Major - Buxtehude

Today's Programs and Events

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Multigenerational Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
11:15 a.m. Refreshments on the Lawn (weather permitting)
11:30 a.m. Field Trip to Harbor Islands, meet on the church lawn

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a **welcome card** found on small clipboards in the pews or [online](#), so that we might connect with you about our community.

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

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.

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

11

Unison



1. Ye watch-ers and ye ho-ly ones, bright ser-aphs, cher-u - bim and
 2. O high - er than the cher-u - bim, more glo-rious than the ser - a -
 3. Re-spond, ye souls in end-less rest, ye pa - tri - archs and proph-ets
 4. O friends, in glad-ness let us sing, su - per-nal an-thems ech - o -

thrones, raise the glad strain, Al-le - lu - ia! Cry out, do - min - ions,
 phim, lead their prais - es, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou bear - er of the e -
 blest, Al - le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Ye ho - ly twelve, ye
 ing, Al - le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! To God the Fa - ther,

prince-doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels' choirs,
 ter - nal Word, most gra-cious, mag-ni - fy the Lord, Al-le - lu - ia,
 mar - tyrs strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song,
 God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One,

Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia!

SERMON HYMN

Seek Ye First

443

Descant



Al - - le - - lu - - ia, al - -

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un- to you; seek, and

le - - lu - - ia, al - - le - -

right- teous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

lu - - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972


This text is based on Matthew 6:33, which asks us to put our priorities straight.

SEEK YE FIRST
Irr.


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CLOSING HYMN


442 What a Friend We Have in Jesus




1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3. Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, bur-dened with a load of care?



What a priv-i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith-ful, who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a sol - ace there.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda Ziebell and her family as they mourn the loss of Ken Ziebell, a beloved First Church member, who died on Wednesday evening after a long decline in health.
- We pray for Holly Marple's mother Margaret, who is recovering from a recent heart attack; and we pray for Holly as she cares for her mother at home.
- We pray for Henry Schoenfield's brother Tim, who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 bladder cancer.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer's Disease; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; Katy Bauer, Sunnessa Schettler's mother, who is experiencing COPD; and Keith Manville, Kirsten Manville's father, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Betsy Opitz; Louise Higginbotham, Sarah's mother; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; 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; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for those impacted by catastrophic flooding in central Texas that caused tragic deaths and destruction. We mourn with those who lost family members and friends, and we pray for local, state, and national leaders as they respond to the crisis.
- We pray for all those who will lose services and supports as the recently passed national budget bill takes effect in the coming months and years.
- In this tense time in our country, we pray for all those standing up, in their homes or on the streets, to resist all abuses of power, especially those paying significant personal costs. We pray for strength to not turn away from our neighbors in need, even as our government dramatically expands funding for detention, disappearance, and deportation initiatives that ignore rights guaranteed by our nation's constitution.
- We lift up the Harvard University community, including people from our congregation, in the midst of a confrontation with the federal government over academic independence and freedom of speech.
- We continue to celebrate the dignity and worth of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings who are experiencing an onslaught of prejudicial discrimination condoned by the current administration and encouraged by recent rulings by the Supreme Court. We affirm that all of us are beloved in the eyes of God, just as we are.
- We pray for people around the world trapped in cycles of violence, especially all the innocent victims of the deadly power games of political rulers: in the Middle East, including in Gaza, Israel, and Iran; in Ukraine; in Haiti; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis.
- We pray for all those giving and receiving care, compassion, and needed services from First Church's homeless ministries, both in the First Church Shelter and at the Friday Café. We continue to pray and work for a just society where housing is recognized as a human right.

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

-Insert 2-

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Harbor Islands Field Trip

Today, 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Young Adults Group is planning to pick up lunch, hop on the T, and catch the Boston Harbor Islands Ferry after worship today. We'll enjoy a hike with unmatched views of the city and some of the best access to wildlife in the area. Expect to be back in Cambridge around 5:00 p.m. ***This outing is open to ALL ages, not just Young Adults.*** To RSVP, send an email to: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org or speak to Phil Servello-Jones and Casey Marsh.



Parsonage Discussions

Sunday, August 3, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)

Wednesday, August 6, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

In its report presented at the Special Congregational Meeting on June 22, the Parsonage Working Group recommended three options for how First Church can best meet our obligation to provide appropriate housing support for our senior minister and determine the future of the property at 44 Garden Street:

- 1) **renovate the property** and keep it as a single family home;
- 2) **redevelop the property** into a multiple (2-3) unit building, with one unit serving as ministerial housing; or
- 3) **sell 44 Garden and buy a new property** to serve as ministerial housing, with any remaining sales revenue going into long term investments.

The rich discussion during the meeting affirmed that these were the most realistic options and indicated the desire to have some additional discussion about the specific implications of each option in terms of finances, timelines, etc. If you would like an opportunity to hear more detailed information and to talk through the three options in a focused way, please join us on Sunday, August 3, after worship or on Wednesday evening, August 6.

These will be the last sessions held for group discussion as we prepare to make a decision as a congregation in September, but you are always welcome to reach out to one or more of the Working Group members (Jim Cairns, Laurie Burt, Chris Baker, Audrey Bellinger, and David Torrey) with your questions or perspectives.



*find Zoom links
on the calendar*

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Register for the All-Church Fall Retreat

Friday, September 26 - Sunday, September 28, 2025

Registration is now open for the 2025 All-Church Retreat at Craigville! The retreat is an amazing opportunity to spend time with our multigenerational church community in a glorious location on the Cape. Join Sarah

Higginbotham, Leslie Pelton-Cairns, and other church leaders for a weekend of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. Take advantage of large group gatherings, small group sessions, supervised play/crafting time for kids, worship, group games, a “campfire” sing-a-long, 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 26, and stay through midday on Sunday, September 28, for the full event; or come for a portion of the weekend, for just one night, or even a daytrip on Saturday. [Register here!](#)



register here



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. [Read more here.](#)



*scan for
more details*



Breaking Bread Together: Stewardship Meals

The Stewardship Committee is organizing a series of meals to help foster community, connection, and a sense of belonging.

A few folks have kindly agreed to host - now we just need to

find friends to join in! If you would be interested in sharing a meal and connecting with about 8-10 others from First Church, please express your interest by completing [this form](#). All you need to do is indicate your interest and whether you are available on the dates noted, and the Stewardship Committee will follow up to confirm your date, time, location, and coordinate a potluck sign-up!



scan to sign up



Contribute to the Reparations Fund in 2025

The First Church Reparations Fund seeks to repay, in a small way, the debt owed to Black and Indigenous communities for centuries of harm. Your continued support is vital. [Learn more and donate here.](#)



scan to learn more and donate