

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025

Preaching Today Mike Solberg, *Interim Senior Minister*
Liturgist Barb Hume
Assisting in Worship Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*
Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*
Justin Brueggeman, *guest organist*

Opening Voutary

Jerusalem, my Happy Home - G. Shearing

Reading

Luke 12:49-56

Opening Hymn

30 Praise Our God All Glories Show

Sermon Hymn

516 O Day of God, Draw Near

Anthem

Prayer of St. Patrick - Mark Schweizer

Offertory

Wondrous Love - Charles Dupree

Peace Hymn

393 Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

Closing Hymn

84 Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Voluntary

Fugue in C - D. 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)

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:*



OPENING HYMN

30

Praise Our God, All Glories Show

1. Praise our God, all glo - ries show,
 2. Earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Praise our God, all mer - cies trace,
 4. Strings and voic - es, hands and hearts,

Saints with-in these courts be - low,
 Tell of won - ders, sing of worth, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sing of prov - i - dence and grace,
 In the con - cert bear your parts;

An - gels round the throne a - bove,
 Age to age and shore to shore, Al - le - lu - ia!
 All that God for us has done,
 All that breathe, your God a - dore,

All that see and share God's love,
 Sing-ing prais-es ev - er - more! Al - le - lu - ia!
 All God sends us through the Son.
 Sing-ing prais-es ev - er - more!

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte, 1834, alt.

MUSIC: Melody attr. Robert Williams, 1817; harm. John Roberts, (1822-1877)

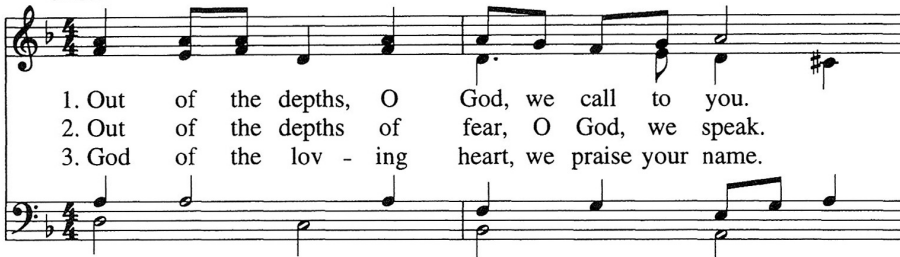
LLANFAIR
 77.77 w. alleluias

English Anglican country prelate Henry Lyte's version of Psalm 150 is set to a stirring Welsh hymn tune attributed to a blind Anglesea Island basketmaker.

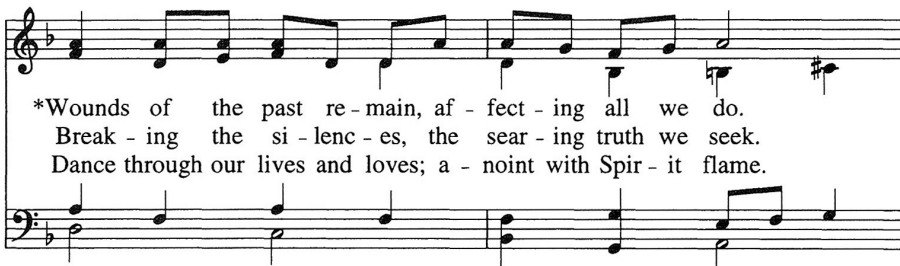
PEACE HYMN

393 Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

Unison



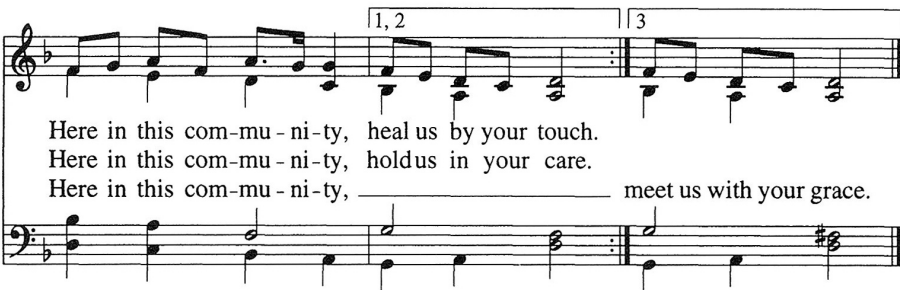
1. Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
 2. Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
 3. God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.



*Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.
 Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the sear - ing truth we seek.
 Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.



Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so much.
 Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we share.
 Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar face.



Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, heal us by your touch.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, hold us in your care.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, _____ meet us with your grace.

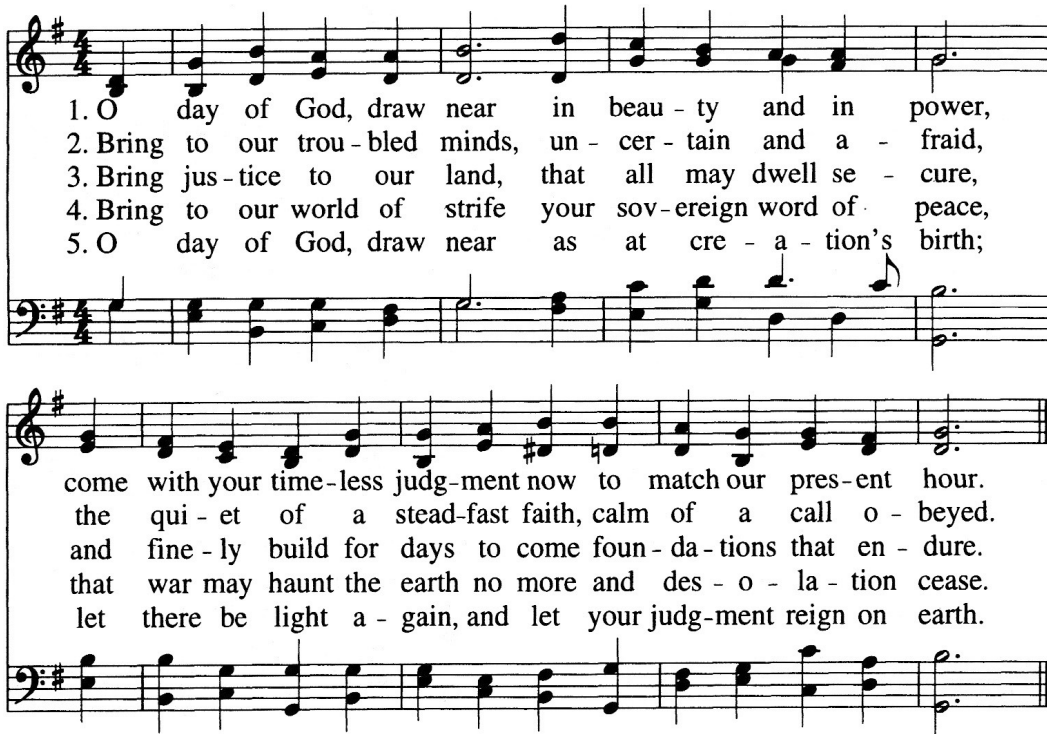
* Ruth Duck has provided the following words that
 may be used for those who are seriously ill:
 Free us from fear of death, our faith and hope re - new . . .
 or, for those who have been abused:
 Wounds of a - buse re - main, af - fect - ing all we do . . .

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1988
 MUSIC: Robert J. Batastini, 1994
 FENNIVILLE
 10 12.10 12

Words © 1988, music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

O Day of God, Draw Near

516



1. O day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
 2. Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
 3. Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
 4. Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
 5. O day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;

come with your time-less judg-ment now to match our pres-ent hour.
 the qui - et of a stead-fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
 and fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
 that war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
 let there be light a - gain, and let your judg-ment reign on earth.

WORDS: Robert B. Y. Scott, 1937, alt.

MUSIC: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva 1551; arr. William Crotch, 1836

ST. MICHAEL
SM

An ordained minister of the United Church of Canada, Robert Scott taught at McGill and Princeton. The tune is from Louis Bourgeois' 1551 psalter, edited for John Calvin in Geneva.

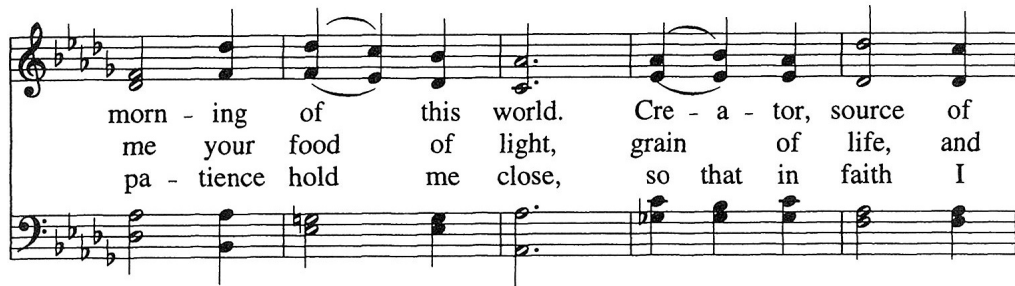
Words © Emmanuel College, Toronto, Canada

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

84



1. Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2. Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3. Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of
 me your food of light, grain of life, and
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I



ev - 'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

WORDS: Julian of Norwich (1342-1419); adapt. Jean Janzen, 1991
 MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874

MARYTON
LM

Dame Julian was a recluse in Norwich, England, who wrote *Revelations of Divine Love*, telling of God's love for all people. Janzen is a published poet who also teaches poetry writing at a California Mennonite college.

Words © 1991 Jean Wiebe Janzen

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Mary Martha Thiel as she recovers at home from surgery.
- 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'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 gun violence in our nation, including those grieving after recent mass shootings in Montana and New York City.
- 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, where the lack of safe access to food is causing mass starvation; in Ukraine; in Haiti; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 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.
- We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis.

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

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

ONE MILLION RISING

Community Resistance Gathering

Sunday, August 24, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Join with other First Church folks as we connect to [One Million Rising](#), a national effort to train one million people in the strategic logic and

practice of non-cooperation. Martha Mueller Cook and Alex Steinert-Evoy will facilitate the gathering, offering an opportunity to learn together and deepen our community connections in the face of authoritarian force being used across the country. Please email [Sarah Higginbotham](#) for the registration link.

WooSox Field Trip

Sunday, August 24, 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Polar Park, Worcester

The Young Adults group invites you to join a multigenerational outing to see the WooSox play at Polar Park! Email youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org, or talk to Phil Servello-Jones to RSVP. We'll arrange carpooling to and from church.



Prayers for Liberty Labor Day Walk

Monday, September 1, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., Lexington to Boston

On May 30, [Prayers for Liberty](#) held an interfaith clergy march from Lexington to Boston. Hundreds of faith leaders from all different sects and creeds, including our own Pastor Mike, came together in support of democracy and human rights. The organization is now planning to march again. And this time they're inviting as many lay people as possible to join for all or part of the walk, which will begin



[register here](#)

at the Lexington Battle Green and end at the statue of The Embrace in Boston Common. The walk will take place on Labor Day, all day from 9:00 to 5:00. We understand that this is a lot of effort for a day traditionally spent holidaying, but we believe the times demand this of us. [Register for the walk here](#), and let [Sarah Higginbotham](#) know that you've registered, so that we can look for and connect First Church folks to each other during the walk.



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 week-end of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. 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](#)

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

Please help us make worship as delicious as it is spiritually sustaining! For Coffee Hour each week we are looking for 2-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks such as cheese & crackers or fruit. [Sign up here.](#)



scan to sign up

Meet Our Pastoral Intern

We are very happy to announce that we will have a Pastoral Intern for the coming academic year! At the end of August we will welcome Noël Grisanti, who will be with us 15 hours per week and will be involved in a few areas of ministry: worship, pastoral care, stewardship and finance, communications, and street outreach. Noël introduces herself below, and we look forward to her ministry and learning among us, beginning on August 26.

And just to be clear, we also look forward to Emma Mitchell being back with us as our Pastoral Associate when her parental leave is complete, likely in the October/November timeframe!

Hi, everyone! My name is Noël Grisanti (she/her). I am a third-year Master of Divinity student at Harvard Divinity School, where I study social justice ministry with a particular focus on the role of the church at the intersection of racial, economic, and climate justice. During the 2024-2025 school year, I worked as a chaplain intern in the Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life at Brown University, and this summer I have been serving as an interfaith chaplain at UCLA Santa Monica Hospital.

I grew up in New York City as the oldest of four sisters (yes, I love Little Women.) Growing up, I attended a Southern Baptist church in midtown Manhattan: an incongruous mix of a warm, diverse church community with homogenous, conservative values. During my time at Amherst College, I discovered the United Church of Christ. Within the UCC, I have found a church home where my political life could be fostered and fed by my spiritual life, and vice versa. After several years teaching middle and high school Latin, I followed a call to divinity school and am now pursuing ordination as a Member in Discernment in the UCC.

This year I am eager to join the community at First Church in Cambridge. I am excited to learn about the ins and outs of church life and leadership, to participate in worship, and to support the needs of the community through various forms of ministry. I love iced coffee, astrology, red pandas, and crosswords; and I live in Cambridge with my husband Max.

