



*photo by Steve Brown*

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Joining Sunday  
October 26, 2025



# Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

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.

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## Order of Worship

### GATHERING

#### VOLUNTARY

Prelude (Suite Breve)

Craig Phillips

#### HYMN 237\*

How Firm a Foundation

#### GREETING\*

Lilia Valentine Stewart

- L: Beloved of God, come gather in!  
Be at home here in this house of grace.
- C: We bring with us all that we are: our stories,  
our hopes, our yearnings, our fears.**
- L: God embraces all of it, and all of us!
- C: Thanks be to God!**
- L: Siblings in the Spirit, God's heart is open,  
and God's invitation is deep and wide.
- C: No matter who we are, no matter where our journey has taken us,  
there is a place for us here. Alleluia!**

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### ANTHEM

Joy Flows Down

Patricia Van Ness

### CONFESSING

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

#### SONG

Search Me, O God

Layzer/Sykes



## SILENCE

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:

**C: Merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have strayed from your path**  
**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 and mind and strength;**  
**and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,**  
**help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,**  
**so 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 281\*

Spirit of the Living God

## MUTUAL BLESSING\*

Mike Solberg

**Adults: May God be with you there.**

**Children: And may God be with you here.**

*Children up through 7th grade are now invited to a creative arts workshop in the Library and Chapel. Caregivers can find the children at Coffee Hour after worship.*

## JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS IN COVENANT

## INVITATION AND ADDRESS

Linda Ziebell

Peter Ambler

Nicole Dayhoff & Max Block

Karen Callwood

Julia LaGrand

Kathleen Coleman

Matisse Peppet

Michaela Dawson

Miriam Poole

## NEW MEMBERS' PROMISES

Mike Solberg

## ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS

## COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE\*

**All:** We who are now brought together  
and united into one Church  
under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head,  
in such sort as becometh  
all those whom he hath redeemed  
and sanctified to himself,  
do solemnly and religiously,  
as in his most holy presence,  
promise and bind ourselves to walk in all our ways  
according to the rule of the Gospel,  
and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances,  
and in mutual love and respect each to other,  
so near as God shall give us grace.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER AND WELCOME

### OPENING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

### READING

Luke 18:9-14

### SERMON

Kate Layzer

### HYMN\* (insert)

What Can I Offer You, Dear Friend

*see page 5*

### SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MINISTRY MOMENT

Rose Whaley

## 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

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church, with 10% for missions in the community and beyond. Please use the QR code for online gifts, or place your offering in the plate at the edge of the chancel.*



### OFFERTORY

With Grateful Heart

Mark Schweizer

### 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 444\*

Lord of All Hopefulness

### BENEDICTION\*

### VOLUNTARY

Impromptu (Suite Breve)

Craig Phillips

*\*You are invited to stand.*

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## Today's Worship Leaders

Kate Layzer

Lee Prouty

Mike Solberg

Lilia Valentine Stewart

Peter Sykes

Rose Whaley

Linda Ziebell

*Minister of Street Outreach*

*Facilities Manager*

*Interim Senior Minister*

*Liturgist*

*Music Director*

*offering a Ministry Moment*

*Deacon*

# OPENING HYMN

## How Firm a Foundation

237

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3. When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4. "When through fier - y tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5. "The souls that on Je - sus have leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!  
 for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe ov - er you shall not flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply:  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to their foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 for I will be near you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 those souls, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake!"

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*, 1787, alt.  
 MUSIC: Early American melody from Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832

FOUNDATION  
 11 11.11 11



281

# Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the".

liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,".

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.".

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON  
75.75.875

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Christian Music Publishing

## SERMON HYMN

# What can I offer you, dear Friend

Kate Layzer

Peter Sykes



What can I of - fer you, \_\_\_ dear Friend, who have poured \_\_\_ out all for me? \_\_\_  
How can I come be - fore \_\_\_ you, Lord, \_\_\_ or let your gaze rest on me \_\_\_ A  
How can I live and what must I do to make known \_\_\_ your grace to me? \_\_\_



What can I give you who have blessed my life so \_\_\_ a - bun - dant - ly? \_\_\_ "No  
thou \_\_\_ sand faults and fail - ures stand be - tween me and your bright glo - ry. \_\_\_ "Be  
Teach me to shape my life in your praise and \_\_\_ serve you worth - i - ly. \_\_\_ "My



rich \_\_\_ gift do I ask of you but to love with a heart that's free: \_\_\_ Do just - ice, love  
not a - fraid, \_\_\_ my dear - est dear, for my mer - cy has set you free. \_\_\_ Do just - ice, love  
light dwells in you ev - en now: let it shine for the world to see. \_\_\_ Do just - ice, love



kind - ness, walk gent - ly, \_\_\_ stay close, close \_\_\_ to me."  
kind - ness, walk gent - ly, \_\_\_ stay close, close \_\_\_ to me."  
kind - ness, walk gent ly, \_\_\_ stay close, close \_\_\_ to me."

Micah 6:6-8

EVEN NOW Irr.

### 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 with the QR code.



SCAN ME



# CLOSING HYMN

444

## Lord of All Hopefulness

1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, your  
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your

bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

WORDS: Jan Struther, *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931  
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Jack Schrader, 1989, adapt.

SLANE  
 10 11.11 12

## NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

**Peter Ambler** is a retired architect, a graduate of Princeton University and the Boston Architectural Center. For many years, he was a familiar figure on local tennis courts and community theater stages. He sang with the Arlington Belmont Chorale and the Boston Association of Cabaret Artists. From his first marriage, Peter has two children and four grandchildren. He and Lindsay Miller met at First Church and were married here in 1991.

**Karen Callwood** is originally from Somerville, MA and still resides there. She loves traveling; her favorite places so far are Ireland and Scotland. She also lived in Germany for three-and-a-half years teaching English. When she's not visiting new places, she enjoys bowling and reading.

**Kathleen Coleman** is a Latin scholar from Zimbabwe who teaches in the Classics Department and the Program in General Education at Harvard. She is married to Drew Griffin, a research librarian at the Cambridge Public Library. In addition to joining the church, Kathleen has also joined the First Church Choir!

**Michaela Dawson** is a long time DJ and cyber security nerd who can often be found crocheting in the front pews.

**Nicole Dayhoff and Max Block** live near Inman Square in Cambridge with their 6-month-old daughter Rosalind Sara Block. In their spare time, they like to hike with their dog Zuzu and explore New England. They're eager to grow in faith and fellowship at First Church in Cambridge.

**Julia LaGrand** is a second-year undergraduate student, studying philosophy and violin performance. She grew up in Michigan and has been in the Boston area for just over two years. Julia has been coming to First Church for about a year, and she is so happy to be joining.

**Matisse Peppet** has lived in the Boston area for eight years and was delighted to find First Church a year ago. She's new to the UCC, likes nighttime walks and thinking-together with friends, and is currently a Master of Divinity (MDiv) student at Harvard Divinity School.

**Miriam Poole** has been attending First Church with her parents Anne McClintock and Catherine Poole since 2008. She is currently a sophomore at the University of New Hampshire, studying International Affairs. From Godly Play to Confirmation Class, Miriam always felt welcomed and supported at First Church; she is excited to officially become a member and to continue to grow her relationship with this wonderful congregation.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Alice Napoleon-Jones and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother Judith Semmler, who died on Thursday, October 9, after a long battle with cancer.
- We pray for Amani and Amini Mataboro Tom, friends of First Church who have settled recently in Kenya, as they take in the difficult news that Amini's uncle was killed recently in Congo.
- We pray for the family and friends of Kevin Stanley, who died this week. Kevin had been a guest of the First Church Shelter and had moved to permanent housing in April.
- We pray for a friend of the church undergoing treatment for advanced cancer, and for her 12-yr-old son, feeling all the stresses of the situation.
- We pray for Lya Williams Howard, a newcomer to First Church, who is in the hospital because of her kidney disease.
- 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; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Jeff Morgan, Gaylen's brother; Tim Schoenfield, Henry's brother; Louise Higginbotham, Sarah'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 all those impacted by the federal government shutdown, including those who are losing their jobs and those who are concerned about looming cuts to health care subsidies.
- We pray for the moral courage of our political leaders, in particular in the places where Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents are intensifying their unlawful campaigns of violent detention, disappearance, and deportation, including here in Massachusetts. We pray for all who are living in an increased state of terror due to these actions, and that all of us may have the strength to take action and to bear witness to our neighbors in need.
- We pray for US cities under threat of militarization by our federal government, including Portland, Oregon, and Chicago, Illinois.
- We pray for all those touched by gun violence across our country. In the name of Jesus Christ, we condemn all violence, politically motivated and otherwise, whether exercised by those in power or those seeking to resist such power. May the love and justice of Jesus guide us all in this time.
- 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. 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; in Ukraine; in Haiti; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We pray with hope for the people of Gaza as Israel and Hamas take steps to exchange hostages and move toward a ceasefire.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Adult Formation: Small Groups @ 10

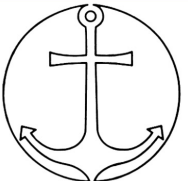
**Today, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom**

In these difficult times, we need to strengthen our hope, perhaps more than ever. Led by Brent Coffin, this monthly adult formation hour provides us an opportunity to get to know one another better through soulful conversations. And together, we explore how to strengthen our practices of hope, both for ourselves and others. Please join us, whether each month or just once.



*First Church Shelter presents*

### The 2025 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards



**FIRST CHURCH SHELTER**

Sunday, October 26  
12:30-2:00p.m.  
Margaret Jewett Hall  
11 Garden Street, Cambridge

### The 2025 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards

**Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

First Church Shelter staff and the Shelter Oversight Committee warmly invite everyone to this year's annual celebration of those doing the good work of care and compassion in the world.

Enjoy a delicious lunch and learn more about the worthy organizations receiving the 2025 Mitch Snyder awards.

### Family Choir Rehearsal

**Today, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m., Chapel**

First Church folks of all ages and experience levels are warmly invited to join the Family Choir for a few rehearsals leading up to a musical offering in our All Saints Worship on November 2. Grab a coffee and cookie after worship, and head to the Chapel to learn a simple old-timey hymn with Sarah Higginbotham.



### Baby Food & Diaper Drive Ends Today

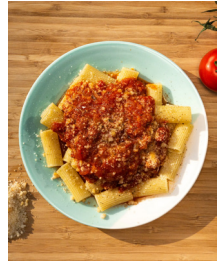
Harvard Undergraduate Food Security Initiative, a student organization dedicated to advocating for food and nutrition in the Greater Boston area, has invited us to participate in their baby food & diaper drive. Please bring your contributions of non-perishable baby food, baby formula, diapers, and wipes; and look for a collection boxes in Hastings Common.

## COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

### Family Night

**Tuesday, October 28, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall**

We provide pasta and red sauce, you bring a side dish or dessert to share. All are welcome, especially children with their parents and caregivers. Costumes are welcome this week! Please let Meredith know how many are coming by emailing: [familynight@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:familynight@firstchurchcambridge.org). No RSVP is too late! We eat in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) so that kids can play freely after dinner.



**Young Adults: Mt. Auburn Cemetery Sunset Walk & Faith on Tap  
Wednesday, October 29, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Meet at the Cemetery's Mt. Auburn St. Entrance**

The Young Adults group will meet on Wednesday night for a sunset walk in one of the most beautiful places in the city. Afterwards, we'll head to Harvard Square for Faith on Tap at Grendel's Den around 6:30pm. All 20-30 somethings are welcome to join for the walk, dinner, or both! RSVP, and get on the list for future events by emailing: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org)



### YOUNG ADULTS

regular meetups for First Church folks  
in their 20s and 30s



### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, November 1, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room**

The Men's Breakfast is a forum for any and all who identify as men at First Church. We meet monthly to share breakfast and to share experiences. We prepare breakfast and participate with a rotating monthly leader. All are welcome! 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



### 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 3-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks such as cheese & crackers or fruit. In general, the church has a No Nuts policy. If possible, please include a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies. [SIGN UP HERE.](#)



## OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST CHURCH



### All Saints Sunday, November 2

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives, devotion, and example of members and friends of our congregation who died in the last year, as well as their immediate family members. With help from our larger-than-life puppet saints that have been a First Church tradition for many years, we also commemorate all God's holy ones, known and unknown to us, who have now entered God's joy. Our tradition teaches that a saint is anyone who is called and gifted by the Spirit to carry

out a ministry of grace and reconciliation in the world, and who is responding generously. Our celebration will end with "Communion-in-the-round" and a lifting up of the names of all who are present in this sacred, liminal space across time and generations.

### All Saints Sunday List of Names

Each year on All Saints Sunday, we list names in our bulletin of loved ones in our community who have died since the last All Saints Sunday (November 3, 2024). The list is compiled from our weekly bulletin prayers for those who have been grieving loss over the course of the year. If you have lost a loved one and are concerned that they may not be included on the list, please reach out to Bruce in the office at [bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org) by this Tuesday.

### GBIO House Meeting

**Sunday, November 2, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

This month, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) launched a House Meeting Campaign amongst its 60+ member institutions to discern which issues are animating us most. This is a critical step in building toward winnable local campaigns and in drawing local congregations into closer solidarity with one another. The focus of a house meeting (which only sometimes takes place in an actual home!) is on personal stories – we emerge from these conversations knowing not just what people care about, but why. We'll be organizing house meetings for us within First Church as well as for FCCers to talk with others from nearby Camberville congregations. After worship on November 2, we'll gather around tables in MJH to take the first step in turning private pain into public action. All are welcome; please join us!





# CALENDAR

## Today's Events

|            |                                                                              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:15 a.m.  | Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary                                                   |
| 10:00 a.m. | Small Groups @ 10, Harter Room & via Zoom                                    |
| 11:00 a.m. | Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream                                |
| 11:20 a.m. | Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, Library & Chapel                      |
| 12:15 p.m. | Refreshments in Hastings Common                                              |
| 12:30 p.m. | The 2025 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards, Margaret Jewett Hall |
| 12:30 p.m. | Family Choir Rehearsal, Chapel                                               |
| 7:30 p.m.  | Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream                                     |

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL

**389 YEARS**  
**ON THE WAY**

**1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 5**

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, October 27

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

### Tuesday, October 28

6:00 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall

7:00 p.m. Executive Council, Harter Room and via Zoom

### Wednesday, October 29

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

5:00 p.m. Young Adults: Mt. Auburn Cemetery Sunset Walk & Faith on Tap

### Friday, October 31

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

### Saturday, November 1

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

### Sunday, November 2

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well

10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Small Groups @ 10, Harter Room & via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship: All Saints Sunday, Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common

12:30 p.m. GBIO House Meeting, MJH

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream



*scan for online bulletin*

Visit [firstchurchcambridge.org](https://firstchurchcambridge.org) to:

- Read all the [latest news](#).
- See our [events calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.
- Find transcripts and recordings of [sermons](#).
- Complete a [First Church Communications Request Form](#) to promote a church event.