

All Saints Sunday November 2, 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.

Order of Worship

GATHERING

HYMN*

When the Saints Go Marching In

Oh, when the saints go marching in; oh, when the saints go marching in; oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!

And when the sun begins to shine; and when the sun begins to shine; oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when the sun begins to shine!

And on that hal-le-lu-jah day; and on that hal-le-lu-jah day; oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, on that hal-le-lu-jah day!

Oh, when the saints go marching in...

GREETING* Linda Ziebell

L: Dear friends in Christ, the peace of God be with you,

C: And on the whole world, peace!
L: Come in, and grow closer to God,

C: with saints of every time and place!

L: Come in, and find a future with hope,

C: with saints of every time and place!

L: Come in, and be in the company of God,

C: with saints of every time and place!

L: With saints of every time and place, give thanks and praise to God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTRODUCING THE PUPPET SAINTS

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Land On the Shore

Trad., arr. P. Amidon/K. Murphy

Oh, mothers, now our meeting is over, mothers we must part, and if I never see you anymore, I'll love you in my heart.

Yes, we'll land on the shore, yes, we'll land on the shore, yes, we'll land on the shore and be saved forevermore.

(fathers/siblings/dear friends)

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SONG

Search Me, O God

Layzer/Sykes



and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, Search me, O God,



SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace: 1:

C: 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.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE*

The peace of Christ be with you! L:

C: And also with you!

HYMN (insert)*

We're Marching to Zion

see page 6

MUTUAL BLESSING* Mike Solberg

May God be with you there. Adults: Children: And may God be with you here.

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School for Pastoral Care Sunday activities in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING 2 Corinthians 8:12-15

SERMON Mike Solberg

HYMN 454* God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Noël Grisanti

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY AND INVITATION TO OFFERING

Claire and Robb Morgan

INVITATION TO OFFFRING

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 Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Tune: "Invitation," Southern Harmony, 1867. Words attr. F. R. Warren. Arr. Calvert Horst, 2021

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.
And my soul, tho' stain'd with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters, to the city far away.
Souls have cross'd before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I AM!

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*

SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION Karen McArthur

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 him still,

C: centering our lives on his firm foundation, our hope and our healing.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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 come forward with your bulletins to receive the elements at one of the stations. Then proceed to the chancel to gather in a circle, making space to include the front pew in the North Transept ("the family section") in the circle for those who prefer to be seated. For those with mobility issues, please use the handrail near the piano or the ramp near the Children's Book Corner.

COMMEMORATIONS*

During this time, we will all be invited to name (aloud or silently) people who have died, whom we remember and keep close in our hearts.

Michael Nash Ambler Lucinda Kidder Nathaniel Joseph Nichols

Richard Hume Arimizu Rev. Tony Kill Ken Perkins George Battit Rev. Elizabeth King Verna Perkins

Richard Beal Timothy Lawrence Smith, Jr. Jim Rae

Ann Curby Anne Layzer Rev. Pat Robbennolt

Mac DestlerLoretta LesTom RohanRuth DuMontMaxwell LinerJudith SemmlerRaymond HuJay McCamicBarry Mark ShumanDana HuntTodd McCreightKevin Stanley

Phil Ingersoll Margaret Mickel Joan Whitaker
Barbara Caird Kelly James Napoleon Beverly Williams
Janet Kidder Perry Neubauer Carol Wilson-Braun

Ken Ziebell

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

L: Let us give thanks!

All: 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 splendor 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.

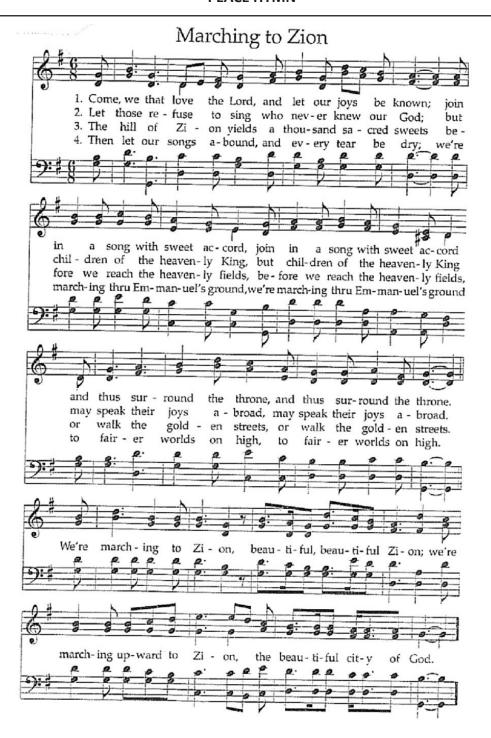
GOING FORTH

HYMN (insert)* For All the Saints see page 7

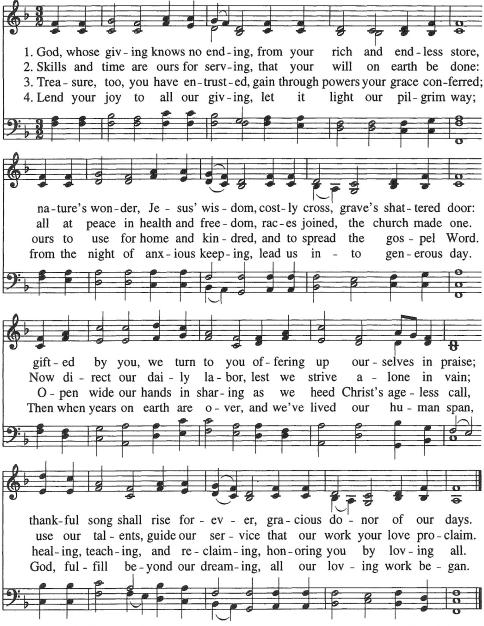
BENEDICTION*

^{*}You are invited to stand.

PEACE HYMN



God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 454

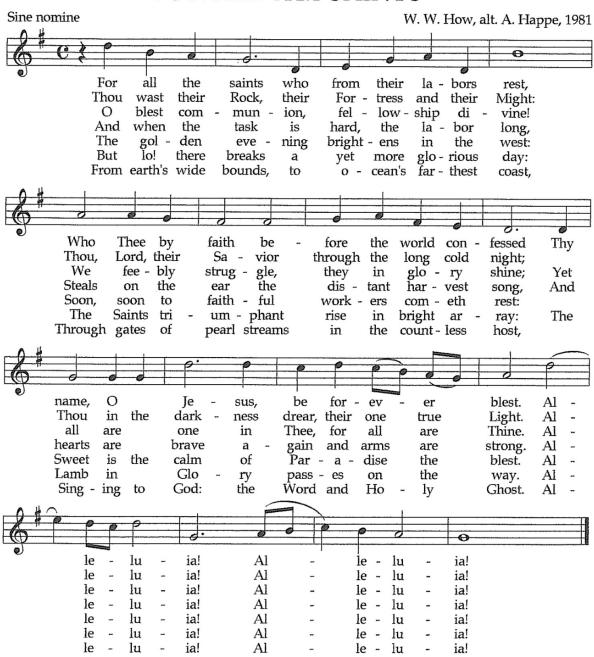


WORDS: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.

MUSIC: The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

BEACH SPRING 87.87D

FOR ALL THE SAINTS



Today's Worship Leaders

Noël Grisanti Sarah Higginbotham Karen McArthur Claire and Robb Morgan Lee Prouty Mike Solberg Peter Sykes Linda Ziebell

Pastoral Intern
Director of Communications & Christian Formation
Minister of Stewardship & Finance
offering a Stewardship testimony
Facilities Manager
Interim Senior Minister
Music Director
Deacon Liturgist

New to First Church?

Consider filling out a welcome card (online or on the small clipboards) to get connected.



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 <u>here</u> or with the QR code.

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 last 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 Devin Hansen's cousin Rob Dencola, who has been diagnosed with colorectal 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; 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 the island nations in the Carribbean, including Jamaica and Cuba, in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.
- We pray for all those impacted by the federal government shutdown, including those who are losing their jobs, those losing their SNAP benefits, 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 continuing threat of militarization by our federal government, including Portland, Oregon, and Chicago, Illinois.
- 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. 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

Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders Today, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., The Well

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 8th and 9th graders continues today with a session entitled "Meeting God Through Experience."





Christian Formation: Bible Study @ 10
"Hello, Bible. My name is _____."
Today, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom
Feel like maybe you would like to get a better feel for what the Bible has to do with your life and the world today? Here's a chance to take a first step in that direction. Pastor Mike is helping us get to

know the Bible better as part of our 10:00 O'Clock Hour offerings this fall. These sessions are for everyone, no matter your Bible background. The Bible has a fascinating personality, so take the first step in getting to know it: Hello Bible. My name is ______.

Today Is All Saints Sunday

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 ends 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.

You can read about the history of our puppet saints here: firstchurchcambridge.org/our-puppet-saints/



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



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!

Baby Food & Diaper Drive Extended One Week!

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.





Night Song

Sunday evenings, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

A worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset, Night Song is a hybrid offering of First Church for in-person attendance in the Sanctuary and viewing via livestream or listening at another time on the Night Song YouTube channel.

Learn more about Night Song.

Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

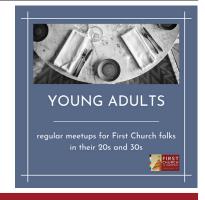
Please help us make worship as delicious as it is spiritually sustaining! For Coffee Hour each week we are looking for 3-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks such as cheese & crackers or fruit. In general, the church has a No Nuts policy. If possible, please include a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies. **SIGN UP HERE.**



COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

Young Adults: Pre-Worship Breakfast at Felipe's Sunday, November 9, 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Anyone in their 20s or 30s (and their kids) is invited to breakfast before worship next Sunday at Felipe's in Harvard Square! The Young Adults group meets a few times each month for casual fellowship, and we welcome anyone in that age group, especially newcomers. Email: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org to get on the mailing list for future events.





Stewardship Luncheon Sunday, November 9, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall

Join us for our Stewardship Luncheon as we begin this year's journey of **Togetherness and Fearlessness**. Over good food and fellowship, we'll celebrate how your gifts have helped our church share God's love in our community and beyond. Let's gather with grateful hearts to keep that love at the center of our lives and our giving.

Israeli Peace Movement Visiting Cambridge Sunday, November 9, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. First Parish in Cambridge, 3 Church St.

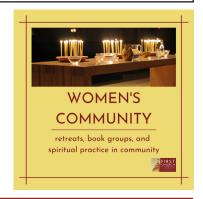


Standing Together is a progressive grassroots movement organizing Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel against the occupation and for peace, equality, and social justice. At this free event, co-leaders of Standing Together Sally Abed and Alon-Lee Green will share their reflections on the last two years, the grassroots success to achieve a ceasefire, and the steps the movement will be taking going forward to end the occupation and build peace. Please register to attend. The organizers are expecting a large crowd, so First Church folks plan to be at First Parish by 1:30 to get seats. Speak to Adam Weiss or email him at adamw@startmail.com with any questions.

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

Women's Community Book Group Tuesday, November 11, 6:30-7:45 p.m., via Zoom

Join us for a wonderful book suggested by one of our members: *Kitchens of the Great Midwest: A Novel* by J. Ryan Stadal. A library that chose the novel for its monthly read introduced the book this way: "The book is clearly a love letter to the strong food culture of the Midwest. The seven chapters are named after a food item..." Let's gather and share our reflections and maybe even some recipes! For questions or to receive the zoom link, contact Alex Steinert-Evoy: alex@steinert-evoy.org





Talk About Racial Justice: Join the Conversation Sunday, November 16, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall

At First Church, we affirm in our public witness and on our website that we aspire to be an anti-racist church. On Sunday, November 16, we invite you to reflect with us: How does this commitment resonate with you? If it does, can you share why it's meaningful to you? If it doesn't, know that it is equally welcome and important to express that too. In a time when

our core racial justice values are being tested by forces beyond our walls, it grounds and energizes us to deepen our shared understanding and commitment within our FCC community. Please join us for an open and inclusive conversation about First Church's racial justice ministry.

Your Beloved Community team will be hosting lunch and offering space for all voices and perspectives as we imagine the next chapter of this essential work. Everyone is warmly welcome. We look forward to seeing you there. Questions? Please contact Dave Kidder (David.e.kidder@gmail.com)

FIRST CHURCH NEWS



Looking Back at the 2025 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Award Presentations

On October 26, eighty people helped recognize and celebrate the work being done by Project Weber Renew, Providence, RI; The Massachusetts Bail Fund; The Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, Smokeworks-Harm Reduction, Boston; and Kristi and Kathi Alster of Cambridge.

All of the recipients were recognized for their years of generous, selfless efforts to bring hope and assistance to those struggling on the margins of our community.



How to Support Hungry Neighbors

On November 1, in response to the ongoing government shutdown, SNAP funds (aka "food stamps") were cut off for 42 million Americans, including 1.1 million Massachusetts residents. Here are some direct ways you can help neighbors who depend on food assistance:



Cook for the Friday Café

The Friday Café, First Church's weekly community meal program, is anticipating increased demand as food cuts come home. We would love your help! If you would like to contribute a homemade dish for an upcoming meal, please visit: thefriday.cafe and click VOLUNTEER to access our online meal signup.



Donate to the Greater Boston Food Bank

Food banks are struggling in the wake of previous food aid cuts, and will need support to meet increased demand. Donate at: gbfb.org/



Bring donations of canned and dry goods to church on the first Sunday of each month, to be passed along to our local food pantry.

Feeling the pinch? **The First Church Deacons' Fund** may be able to help. Speak confidentially to Pastor Mike, Will Erickson, or Beth Spaulding.

CALENDAR

Today's Events

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

9:40 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Bible Study @ 10, Harter Room & via Zoom

10:30 a.m. Puppet Saint Practice, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

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

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

The Week Ahead

Monday, November 3

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

6:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Care for the Caregivers, via Zoom

Tuesday, November 4

7:00 p.m. Arts & Communications Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, November 5

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Friday, November 7

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

7:00 p.m. Youth Group Gathering at the home of the Baker family

Sunday, November 9

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Multigen @ 10, MJH11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes

12:30 p.m. Stewardship Luncheon, MJH

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



scan for online bulletin

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL

389YEARS ON THE WAY

1636-2025

Visit firstchurchcambridge.org to:

- Read all the <u>latest news</u>.
- See our events calendar for Zoom links and details.
- Find transcripts and recordings of sermons.
- Complete a <u>First Church Communications Request Form</u> to promote a church event.