



Freddie Funck

Advent
December 7, 2025



Order of Worship

GATHERING

Voluntary

Chaconne and Fugue in D minor

J. S. Bach

Hymn 119*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Advent Candle-Lighting*

Young Adults Group

L: Dear friends, Advent is a season of waiting.

**C: We wait for the Light to show us the way
through this dark time of year.**

L: Loving and patient God, be with us now,
as we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace.

**C: Help us open our hearts to the true glory of God,
often found in surprising places.**

L: The Light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

Words of Welcome

Beth Spaulding

Anthem

O Radix Jesse

Healey Willan

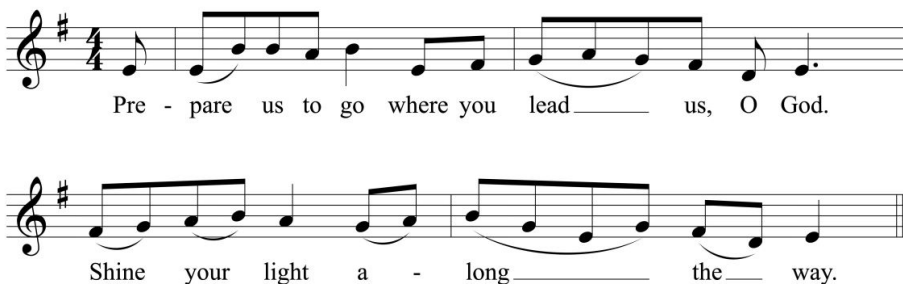
*O Root of Jesse, who standest for an ensign of the people,
before whom kings shall keep their silence,
to whom the nations shall offer their petitions, come to deliver us; wait not any longer.*

CONFESSING

Invitation to Confession

Advent Antiphon

Layzer/Sykes



Silence

**You are invited to stand.*

Advent Prayer of Confession

L: Let us pray together:

**C: Holy One, we begin this Advent season watching
and waiting for your glory to appear.
You entered our world not in a palace or on a throne,
but in a shed and upon a manger.
And yet, we are often spiritually impatient,
drawn to what is powerful and safe.
Help us honor the faithful resisters, the truth-tellers,
and those working to build a society of respect and fairness.
Enter our hearts, O God, so we may see your glory aright.
In the name of the One for whom we wait, Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

L: Beloved of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Spirit,
I joyfully assure you that the One who came in humility loves you completely.
You are forgiven and set free. Your past failures are released,
and your future is held securely by the One who calls you beloved.

**C: Thanks be to God! We embrace this forgiveness
and go forth to celebrate the quiet, humble glory of our Redeemer.**

Greeting of Peace*

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: And also with you!

Hymn 121*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Mutual Blessing*

Noël Grisanti

Adults: May God be with you there.

Children: And may God be with you here.

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Pastoral Care Sunday activities in the Library.

Children will return to worship in time for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding

Reading

Isaiah 11:6-9

Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Hymn 318*

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Announcements

Sarah Higginbotham

Invitation to Offering and Gift Giving

We invite everyone to bring forward your regular morning offering, as well as your unwrapped gifts and gift cards for Coat Boston & the Holiday Shop. If you don't have a tangible gift today, please come forward anyway, and open your hand over the baskets as a sign of the offering of your heart to God and others.



Coat Boston
Donation



FCC Offering

Offertory

A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt

*A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race.
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
Turning our darkness into light.
This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring,
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing.
Our God of endless might, gave her his child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.*

Advent Doxology*

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication*

SHARING THE FEAST

Invitation

- L: Friends, let's share what we know in our hearts.
Who is invited to this welcome table of love?
C: Everyone!
L: Everyone! The young and the old,

C : **the rich and the poor**
L: the lowest and the least;
C: **sinners and saints together in communion.**
L: Come, then, find your place here
 where there are no strangers or outcasts,
 only siblings in the sight of God.

Remembering and Giving Thanks

L: And what do we remember at this table?
C: **We remember Jesus' birth and his presence as God with us.**
L: We remember his life and his love.
C: **We remember his suffering and death.**
L: We remember his rising and the promise of new life.
C: **We remember that he taught us we are holy,**
L: that every person and all creation is holy and beloved in God's sight.

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 come forward with your bulletins to receive the elements at one of the stations, and then proceed to the chancel and around the sides of the sanctuary to gather in a circle, making space to include the front pew of the Family Section in the circle for those who prefer to be seated.

Prayer of Thanksgiving*

L: Let us give thanks to God:
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 splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the fruits of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH

Hymn (insert)*

People, Look East

see page 6

Benediction*

Today's Worship Leaders

Noël Grisanti

Sarah Higginbotham

Kate Layzer

Emma Mitchell

Lee Prouty

Beth Spaulding

Peter Sykes

Young Adults Group

Pastoral Intern

Director of Communications & Christian Formation

Minister of Street Outreach

Pastoral Associate

Facilities Manager

Deacon

Music Director

Leading the Advent Candle-Lighting

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 [here](#) or with the QR code.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

119

1. Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and trem-bling stand;
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, as of old on earth he stood,
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way,
 4. At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; cher-u-bim, with sleep-less eye,

pon-der noth-ing earth-ly - mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand,
 Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture, in the bod-y and the blood,
 as the Light of light de-scend-eth from the realms of end-less day,
 veil their fa-ces to the pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry,


Christ our God to earth de-scend - eth, our full hom-age to de-mand.
 he will give to all the faith-ful his own self for heaven-ly food.
 that the powers of hell may van-ish as the dark-ness clears a-way.
 "Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord most high!"

WORDS: Liturgy of St. James, 4th century, tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1864
 MUSIC: French carol, 17th century, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

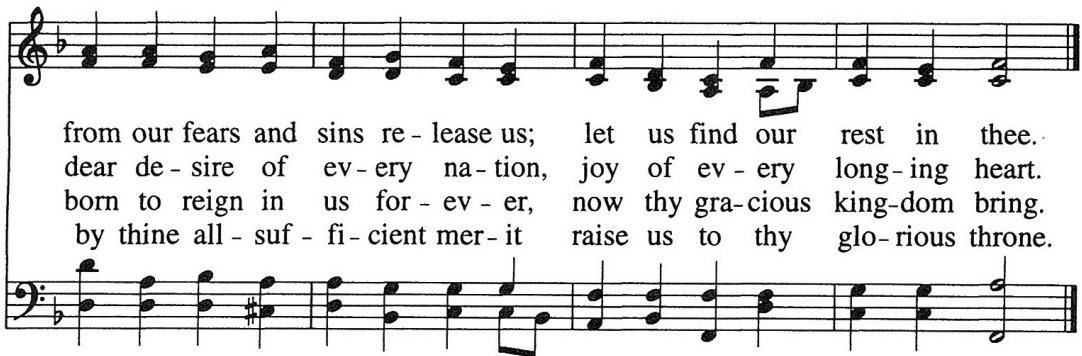
PICARDY
 87.87.87

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

121



1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



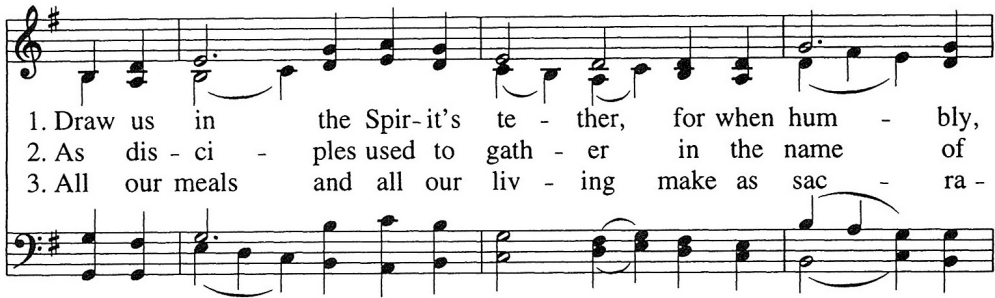
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.

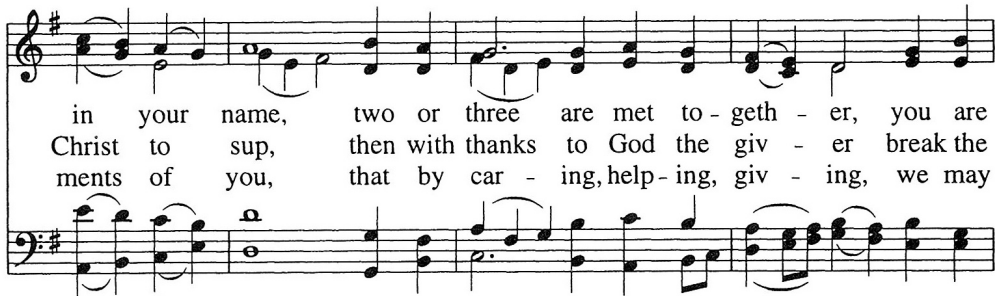
MUSIC: Melody attr. Christian F. Witt, (1660-1716), *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715STUTTGART
87.87

318

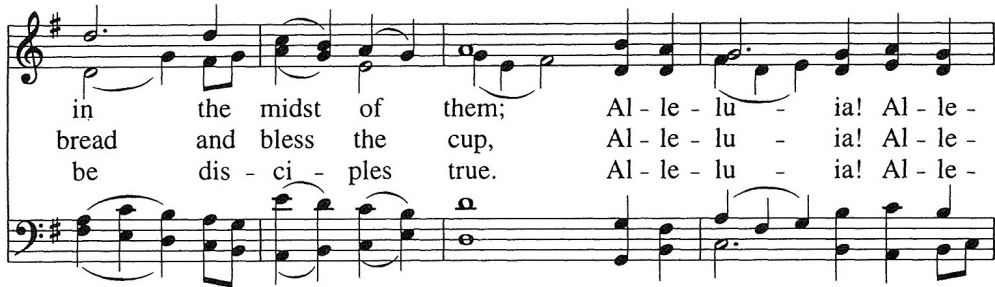
Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether



1. Draw us in the Spir-it's te - ther, for when hum - bly,
 2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3. All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er, you are
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er break the
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, we may



in the midst of them; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

WORDS: Percy Dearmer, *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931, alt.
 MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957; adapt. Jet Turner, 1967, alt.

UNION SEMINARY
 87.87.44.7

CLOSING HYMN

116

People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 that in course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day -
 Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, *The Oxford Book of Carols*, 1928
 MUSIC: French carol; harm. Barry Rose, 1980

BESANÇON
 87.98.87

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Sarah Fujiwara and her family as they mourn the death of Sarah's brother-in-law Mark Deck, who died on November 27. Mark was a beloved uncle to Sarah's children Emi, Rob, and Nick; their spouses; and Emi's sons Ren, Kai, and Otto.
- We pray for Gaylen Morgan and her family, who are grieving the loss of Gaylen's brother Jeff. Jeff died on Tuesday, December 2, after a difficult battle with cancer.
- We pray for Ian Ho as he recovers from surgery to resolve chronic nasal congestion.
- We pray for our Community Minister for Latin America Mónica Maher and the people of Ecuador, who are living through an authoritarian, and recently brutal and deadly, crackdown by the government against its detractors.
- 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; Lya Williams, who is living with kidney failure and awaiting a transplant; 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; First Church friend Kelly; Devin Hansen's aunt Ellen Smith and cousin Rob Dencola; 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 who are living in an increased state of fear and betrayal as Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents are intensifying their often unlawful campaigns of violent detention, disappearance, and deportation, including here in Massachusetts, and most recently in Charlotte, NC. We pray for the communities around them, for strength to take action and to bear witness to our neighbors in need. We pray for the moral courage of our political leaders to stand up for what is right, not what is popular.
- 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, including in Gaza and Israel, Ukraine, Tanzania, Haiti, Ecuador, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We pray for the people of El Fashur in the Darfur region of Sudan, amid a horrific campaign of ethnic cleansing against non-Arabic minorities.
- 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

The Glory of God: Advent 2025

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “the glory of God?” Radiant light, blaring trumpets, the impression of overwhelming might? When the shepherds heard the announcement of Jesus’ birth, “an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.” And yet this angel was not announcing the arrival of a dominating army, a wealthy ruler, or a powerful king. Instead, the glory of God comes to us vulnerable, weak, needing care – as one destined for the cross. This Advent, join us in worship and community as we consider the glory of God in the body of a baby. Let us bring all our assumptions of what glory looks like and turn them upside down, into a manger.



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 “The History of Christianity.”

Christian Formation: Bible Study @ 10

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 _____.



Coat Boston & Holiday Shop Donations

On this second Sunday of Advent, First Church collects new coats for children, as well as new toys for holiday gifts. All unwrapped gifts and coats will be blessed in our worship service, alongside the offering. Particularly wanted are dolls representing people of color, superhero figures, books, games, and sports equipment (especially soccer balls). All will be distributed in the Greater Boston area by Coat Boston and The Holiday Shop. Learn more at: coatboston.org/donate/ We ask that all adult coats be donated to our own Friday Café.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Alternative Christmas Fair

Today, 12:15 - 2:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Please join us for First Church's Alternative Christmas Fair, where we help our non-profit vendors raise money for their organizations and clients by doing our holiday shopping at their tables. And bring your friends as well!

Preparing for Emma's Farewell

Pastoral Associate Emma Mitchell has returned from parental leave and is walking with us through the seasons of Advent and Christmastide. On Sunday, January 11, we will bid her Godspeed as she ends her time with us and moves to midcoast Maine. Before then, Emma is making time in her schedule for visits with anyone who would like to sit together, in person or on Zoom, to share some time before she leaves this role. [You can sign up for a meeting with Emma here.](#)

In preparation for saying goodbye, everyone is invited to contribute to a slideshow that we'll share on the big screen in Margaret Jewett Hall at her farewell reception. You can draw a picture, write words of parting and well wishes, and/or include photo images of her time with us. Use an 8.5x11 inch piece of paper as your canvas, and then either scan the page or take a photograph to create a digital image to send to [Sarah Higginbotham](#). If you'd rather just hand over your paper to Sarah, that works, too! Look for a "Farewell Slides" crafting station on Sundays through January 4, where you can work on your creative offering.



*sign up to meet
with Emma*



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.](#)

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Advent Poetry & Prayer

Mondays, December 8, 15, and 22, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m., via Zoom

Join Pastoral Associate Emma Mitchell for an online Advent gathering for community, stillness, and spiritual grounding as the days grow shorter. Together on Zoom, we will read a poem, listen for how it speaks to our lives in this season of Advent, and share prayer in real time. Come as you are – walking the dog, cooking dinner, settled into a quiet corner with a candle. Join us for one session or for all. All are welcome – feel free to invite friends and family. [Register to receive your Zoom link here!](#)



Family Night

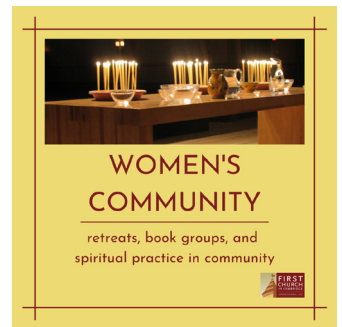
Tuesday, December 9, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall

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. Please let Meredith know how many are coming by emailing: familynight@firstchurchcambridge.org. No RSVP is too late! We eat in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) so that kids can play freely after dinner.

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., via Zoom

Please join us for our appropriately-chosen December book: [*The Time of the Child*](#) by Niall Williams. If you haven't read anything by this Irish author, this would be a wonderful place to start. NPR introduces the novel here: "It takes place in the weeks leading up to Christmas 1962 and opens — and closes — on a set piece of Mass at the parish church, where most of the village gathers. In between lies a story that feels, at once, realistic in its rough and comic everyday unfolding and mythic in its riffs on the grand themes of despair and spiritual redemption." Please come talk with us about your impressions of this novel!! For questions or to receive the Zoom link, contact Alex Steinert-Evoy: alex@steinert-evoy.org



Young Adults: Christmas Party & Hymn Sing

Friday, December 12, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Home of Angela & Phil Servello-Jones

Come celebrate the season by singing carols, drinking cider, and sharing fellowship with other Young Adults (20s-30s). RSVP by emailing:

youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org or letting Angela or Phil know. Whether you're brand new to First Church, or have been here your whole life, you're welcome to join the party.

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



Special Music Sunday

Sunday, December 14 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

On the third Sunday of Advent, December 14, the First Church Choir will sing selections from the beloved *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi with a baroque orchestra. We will rehearse on two Thursday

evenings, December 4 & 11, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., as well as on the morning of December 14.

If you would like to sing, please contact Music Director Peter Sykes at: psykes@aol.com.

Faithful Resistance Gathering

Sunday, December 14, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join other members of the Faithful Resistance Community for a training entitled ***“Community Defense: Supporting Our Immigrant Neighbors.”*** This one-hour event led by trainer Elaine Almquist will

offer information about the state of ICE in Massachusetts, preparing our own community for safety, knowing your rights, what

to do if you see ICE, supporting our immigrant neighbors, and connections to front-line organizations. All are welcome to come learn and support each other in these challenging times.

A light lunch will be served; please RSVP to Alex (alex@steinert-evoy.org) or Martha (marthamuellercook@gmail.com) to help us plan the lunch order.



The UnPageant

Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we gather for our untraditional take on the Christmas pageant: the UnPageant!

The UnPageant is First Church's unrehearsed, low-stress,

multigenerational telling of the story of Jesus' birth. Come hear the age-old texts and sing the cherished carols as we celebrate the wonder of God's love among us.

Festive Christmas Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 21, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

We invite everyone to contribute a favorite holiday treat for a festive time of fellowship after the UnPageant. Whether it's a batch of your sought-after Christmas cookies or a holiday veggie plate in the shape of a snowman, we want to see it and eat it! Plan to drop off your offering in the Kitchen before worship, and then come ready to enjoy a mini-feast of snacks for the season.



ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH



Christmas Poinsettia Donations

If you wish to donate poinsettias in celebration, honor, or memory of loved ones this Christmas, please send the names of those to be recognized to Bruce Dillenbeck (bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org) in the First Church office **by Monday, December 15**. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made [online](#) or by

check in the offering basket (payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of "Poinsettias"). ***Please send an email to Bruce with the names, even if you pay by check through the offering basket or online; this way we can make sure no one is missed.***

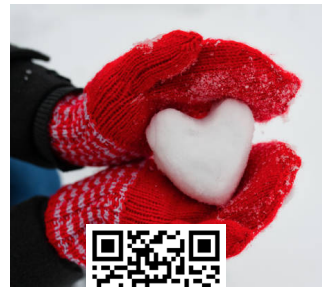
The list of names will appear in the UnPageant bulletin on Sunday, December 21.

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts:

The Friday Café's Winter Glove Drive

Share the gift of warm hands this holiday season by giving a pair of winter gloves to a neighbor in need! If you wish, add a personal message to the recipient. Bonus: Consider making a gift in honor of someone on your holiday gift list!

- Donate gloves: suggested donation \$10 per pair.
Optional: add a personal message for free.
- Make a gift in someone's honor: suggested donation \$25.
Includes glove donation and a card to your honoree.



[Participate here.](#)



Gift Cards for Shelter Guests

In this holiday season, the Shelter Oversight Committee is inviting donations to help ensure each of the 14 Shelter guests receives \$25 in gift certificates. Providing gift certificates allows Shelter guests to select and choose what they want and need: health and hygiene items, snacks, socks, and more. If you would like to donate gift cards or contribute towards their purchase, make a donation directed toward the Shelter at: firstchurchcambridge.org/give or contact Shelter Director Jim Stewart: jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-335-7664.

CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

O come, all ye faithful! Come this Christmas Eve to worship the One who embodies the surprising and disrupting Glory of God! Join us in person or online for this festive, family-friendly, candlelit service of lessons and carols, with Emma Mitchell offering a Christmas message. In the warmth and light of our Sanctuary or by your Christmas tree at home, join us as we celebrate this holy night and sing out our joy to the world!



Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Chapel and via livestream

Join us on Christmas morning for a joy-filled and bright service in which we fill our Chapel with the sounds of Christmas—readings, prayers of thanksgiving and praise, and a very special harpsichord meditation by Peter Sykes of William Byrd’s “The Bells.” We also celebrate Christmas Communion together.

Epiphany Potluck & Service

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

6:00 p.m. Potluck, MJH

7:10 p.m. Service, Chapel to Sanctuary, spreading the light

Epiphany (“manifestation”) is a Christian feast so ancient that it predates Christmas. We will celebrate Epiphany on Tuesday, January 6, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner in Margaret Jewett Hall. The meal will be potluck through and through: you are invited to bring either a main dish casserole (last names beginning with A-H), a salad or side dish (last names beginning with I-M), dessert (N-R), or drinks (S-Z). After our feast and a brief gathering ritual in the Chapel, we will set off together on a candlelight journey through the darkness until we arrive at the Sanctuary and circle it with light. Under the dome in the chancel, we will rejoice in the sacrament of baptism and renew our own baptismal promises, ending with a joyful “sprinkling” of all present. This event is for all ages, so gather up friends, neighbors, kids, and come share the light!



FIRST CHURCH NEWS

Stewardship 2026



Stewardship Campaign Update

Many, many thanks to all who have shared their pledge or intention for giving for 2026.

As of November 30, we are 93% towards our goal of \$660,000!

Of the 86 pledges/intentions received so far:

- 10 are from newcomers
- 76 are from people who pledged last year, with an average increase of 20%

Pledging or sharing your intentions is tremendously helpful for the church's faithful financial planning. If you haven't yet shared your financial intention for 2026, you may [make your 2026 Stewardship Pledge online](#), or by mailing your pledge card to the church, placing it in the offering plate next Sunday, or [emailing Karen McArthur](#). There are extra pledge cards on the tables at the back of the Sanctuary and by Hastings Common.

[Make a financial pledge for 2026](#)

Parsonage Update

The Parsonage Working Group is pleased to announce that the 44 Garden Street property is under agreement for a spring closing. This is right on schedule with our need to confirm new pastoral housing in 2026 in time for the arrival of our new settled Senior Minister.



CALENDAR

Today's Events

- 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: Bible Study @ 10, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Advent Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas Fair, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 8

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

Tuesday, December 9

- 6:00 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, December 10

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room

Thursday, December 11

- 4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, December 12

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH
- 6:30 p.m. Young Adults Christmas Party & Hymn Sing, Servello-Jones's home

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday in Advent

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Multigen @ 10, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Advent Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common
- 12:30 p.m. Faithful Resistance Training, MJH
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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