

PENTECOST

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! 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.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
385 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 1

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Laurie Williams, *liturgist*
Issa and Marcia Bibbins, *guest musicians*
Wyatt Jackson, *guest artist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Godly Play for All Ages, [via Zoom](#)
- 9:30 a.m. Middle School Formation: Bible 101 and Faith & Social Justice, [via Zoom](#)
- 11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
- 12:15 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour: brief check-in
- 12:30 p.m. GBIO Listening Sessions, [via Zoom](#)

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?

Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

GIVE TO FIRST CHURCH

You can give online at www.firstchurchcambridge/give or by texting “\$ ___” to: 1-844-996-0982.

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

Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).

Have an edit or update for our website?
Complete the [FCC Website Changes form](#).

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 257

This is the Day

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Sarah Higginbotham

L: Beloved siblings, peace to you!

Let us open ourselves to the Spirit who descends upon us now

C: to make music in our hearts,

L: to sing God's love with our tongues,

C: to dance prayers in our souls,

L: to plant hope with our hands,

C: to inspire joy through all of our sparkles, polka dots, and flare.

L: For each of us are Your Beloved.

C: For we are Your Church.

All: We lift up our hearts in worship and praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CANDLELIGHTING

Dan Smith

ANTHEM

I am not Forgotten

Israel Houghton

Marcia Bibbins, voice; Wyatt Jackson, sacred movement; Issa Bibbins, piano

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Laurie Williams

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: Loving and Gracious God,

in our silence, we confess to you

the burdens that weigh heavy on our hearts.

Help us to remember that your love has no limits,

that your love is wider than we can imagine;

it hovers over all of the Earth.

Embolden us, we pray, with the power of your Spirit,

so that we may grow in love and in faith.

In Your One and in Your many names,

Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know that it's the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly dove,
stay right here with us filling us with your love.
And for these blessings, we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt, we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Acts 2:1-17

The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

REFLECTION

Jaz Buchanan

RESPONSE OF FAITH

Bless Me (Prayer of Jabez)

D. Lawrence & A. Crouch

Sarah Higginbotham, Marcia Bibbins, Laurie Williams, voices

Wyatt Jackson, sacred movement

Issa Bibbins, piano

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR 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 and address God 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

Sarah Higginbotham

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 386**

We Are One in the Spirit

(see page 5)

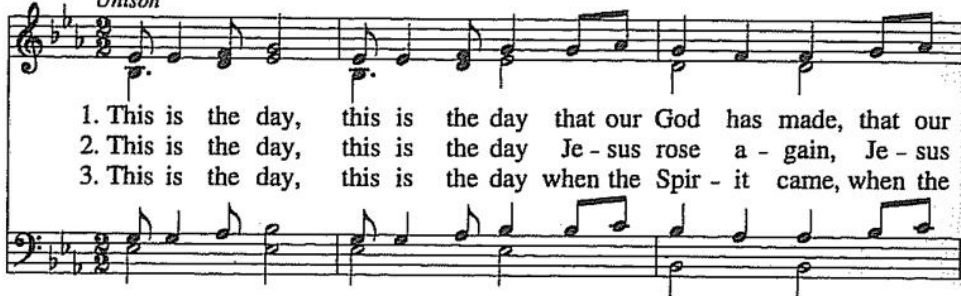
***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

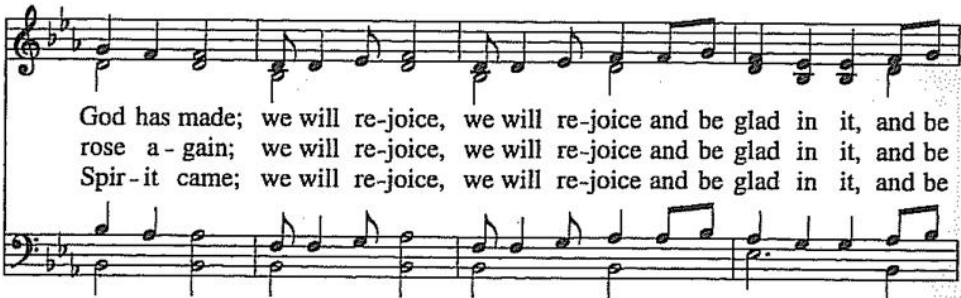
OPENING HYMN

This Is the Day

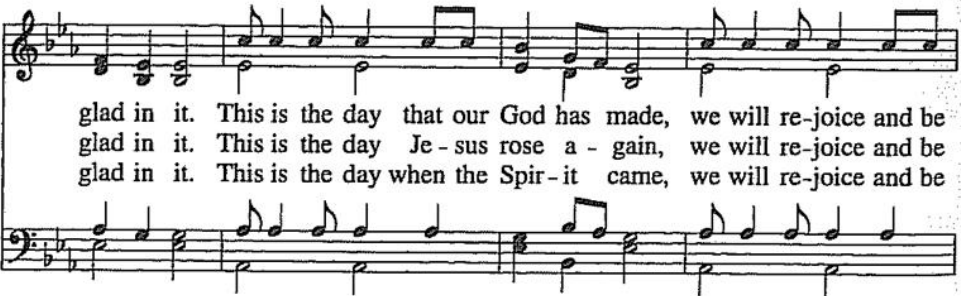
Unison



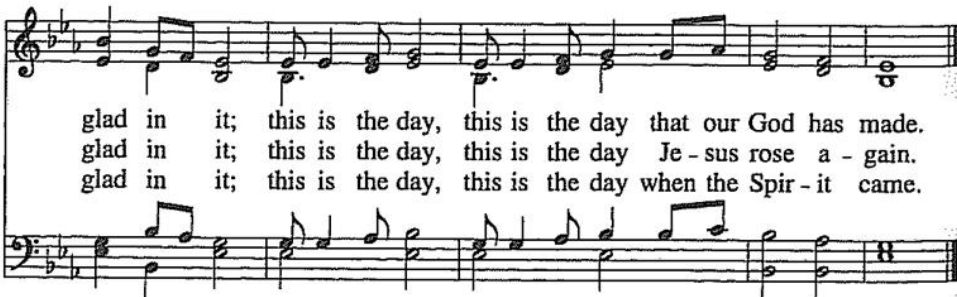
1. This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
2. This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
3. This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the



God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
Spir-it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be



glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
glad in it. This is the day when the Spir-it came, we will re-joyce and be



glad in it; this is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
glad in it; this is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
glad in it; this is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

WORDS: St. 1 para. Les Garrett, 1967, alt., sts. 2,3, traditional, alt.
MUSIC: Les Garrett, 1967

THIS IS THE DAY
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CLOSING HYMN

We Are One in the Spirit

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:

Refrain (Harmony)

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

verse 4: We are called to make choices, we respond with our Love,
We are called to make choices, we respond with our Love,
and together with Wisdom, she'll connect us all as one:

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda Ziebell as she prepares for surgery on Thursday to remove a sarcoma from her leg. We also pray for solace and grace for Linda and Ken Ziebell as Ken transitions from their shared home and settles into a care facility in Bedford.
- We pray in joyful celebration with Jim Rissling and Biss Teelucksingh, and daughter Aadya, as they welcome a newborn son and baby brother, Devdan Vir Rissling Teelucksingh, born on May 8, through surrogacy.
- We give thanks and celebrate with Lion Sekou, who is a 3rd grade winner of the Cambridge Public Library's 22nd Annual Poetry Contest for his poem entitled "My Real Life and True Imagination."
- We celebrate with Beth Spaulding upon the upcoming 25th anniversary of her ordination on May 26.
- We celebrate the graduates among us, including high school grads Emma Blanc and Ella Simons; college grads Jessica Goode, Nicole Haas-Loomis, and Craig Williams; as well as Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan (M.Div) and Shelter Staff Janella Sorin Kang (M.P.H).
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux and her family as they mourn the loss of her grandmother Elsie Pitre Smith, who died recently.
- We pray for Ingeborg Haug and the Haug-Weller family as they mourn the loss of Ingeborg's brother Hans Gert Wengert, who died peacefully on May 5.
- We pray with grateful hearts for First Church Moderator Julie Pridham as she prepares to move to Flagstaff, Arizona, in June.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; Linda Ziebell; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode.
- We pray for peace and justice in Palestine and Israel in a time of deadly warring violence, especially in Gaza, Jerusalem, and the Aqsa Mosque and the Temple Mount.
- We pray for the people of India, South Asia, and South America in the midst of a terrifying pandemic surge, that they may receive all possible assistance to treat the sick and bring infections under control; and for the global community, that they may offer prompt and effective support.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.
- We lament and decry the ongoing impact of police brutality and killings and pray for all persons of color who continue to live in daily fear of police and racial violence. We also pray for all those mourning and all those impacted by mass shootings. We pray for those impacted by gun violence and those lobbying for gun control legislation.
- We pray for all those impacted by hate crimes and by misogyny. We lift up all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in this time of increased threat and discrimination.
- We pray for the friends and family of the 25 (known and reported) transgender and gender non-conforming people who have been murdered in the US in 2021. We pray for lawmakers to make compassionate, equitable, and just decisions as they are faced with bills that seek to discriminate against transgender people.
- We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines, especially families with young children—may there be a swift, hassle-free, and equitable distribution for all. We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the “long-haulers,” and we continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers.
- We pray for our nation and our world as we experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- We pray for immigrants and asylum seekers at our southern border, as well as undocumented people throughout the country, who continue to live in fear, often separated from family, as our nation struggles to develop just and compassionate policies.

IN MEMORIAM A service celebrating the life of longtime First Church member Nancy Sanders will take place on Thursday, June 3, at 11:00 a.m. Family will gather in the sanctuary; friends are invited to attend via the livestream. You may find the link [here](#) on our calendar.

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

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



GBIO Listening Campaign is underway!

Join a GBIO Listening Session After Worship Today or Next Sunday, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

Join with First Church and the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization as we begin our journey towards a new platform by listening deeply to what's on all of our hearts. [Just show up](#) today, or [sign up](#) for next Sunday's session. We look forward to greeting you and hearing your story.

Calling all gardeners...

Flower Planting for All Ages

Next Sunday, May 30, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

First Church Lawn

Welcome the warm weather and change of season by helping us plant colorful flowers along the playground fence and in front of the church building. First Church folks of all ages are invited; bring your own gardening gloves and a trowel, if you have them. Let's brighten up our corner of Garden and Mason for everyone to enjoy! We'll finish up in plenty of time to return home for livestream worship.



Adult Formation Series extended

Meeting God in Our Bodies: An Exploration of Queer and Womanist/Feminist Theologies
Sunday, May 30, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

In this extension of our series, Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux and First Church members Karlene Griffiths Sekou, Taj Smith, and Laurie Williams will continue our discussion of how womanist theology informs our perception and understanding of our bodies and what that has to do with our collective liberation.

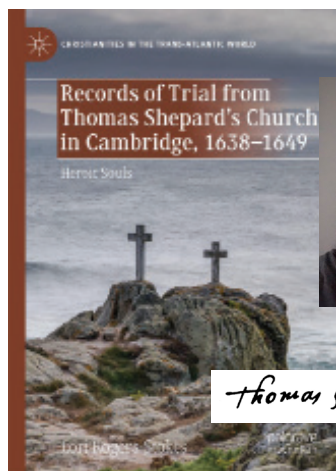
FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Upcoming 9:30 Hour

Exploring Reparations

Sunday, June 6, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Since last summer, a small group of First Church members has been meeting monthly as the “Exploring Reparations” Faith & Life group. The group has explored what reparations have looked like and what reparations could look like, and they have shared experiences of personal and local reparations. They’ve wondered about where God is calling us next on our individual and collective First Church journey towards repair. Please join members of this group for a discussion of their learning and to consider how First Church, as a whole, could move towards a local reparations initiative... [Read more](#)



Thomas Shepard

Upcoming Adult Formation offering

Talk with the Author: *Heroic Souls* - Spiritual Struggles in Thomas Shepard's Church

Sunday, June 6, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

Historian Lori Rogers-Stokes has studied the precious few records that remain from the time of Thomas Shepard, the first minister of the Puritan congregation that evolved, over nearly 400 years, to today's First Church in Cambridge. The most exciting find in the records from Shepard's ministry (1636-1649) are the voices of women who came to tell him their stories of spiritual seeking. Young wives and mothers, elderly widows, serving women, daughters of powerful men

— all told stories that feature their independent labor in reading, praying, listening, asking questions, and making meaning in a world narrowed down to just the seeker and her God. Dr. Rogers-Stokes's interpretation is at odds with previous scholarship that characterized these women as anxious or confused. Dr. Rogers-Stokes will show how, by going back to the original manuscripts, she discovered what other scholars had overlooked... [Read more](#)

Find more events and news on our website: firstchurchcambridge.org



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 24

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 5:00 p.m. "Exploring Reparations" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Tuesday, May 25

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, May 26

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, May 27

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, May 28

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, May 29

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, May 30

- 9:00 a.m. Multigenerational Flower Planting, First Church lawn
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Meeting God in our Bodies, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via livestream
- 12:30 p.m. GBIO Listening Sessions, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Young Adults' Walk to Castle Island

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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