



SEASON OF 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 30, 2021

Preaching Today Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Leading Worship Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Lindsay Miller, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*
Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

9:00 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Flower Planting, front lawn
9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Meeting God in Our Bodies, [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

Allegro from Sonata in F Major

C.P.E. Bach

*HYMN 230

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

(see page 3)

*GREETING

Lindsay Miller

L: Beloved of God, the Spirit is with us even now, gathering us in.

**C: Then let us be held in God's presence, courage, strength, and love.
The Spirit meets us wherever we are!**

L: Her love is poured out in abundance—
where tears and hope are mingled together,
where anger cries out for justice and peace.

**C: Receive her power and wisdom, through works of mercy
and healing and liberation.**

L: Come, then, let us worship God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CANDLELIGHTING

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Psalm 150

Patricia Van Ness

First Church Choir, Pentecost 2018

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: Holy One, in the light of your risen glory
we see the harm we have done, the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied.**

Heal us, we pray.

**Wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow in your way
and tell the good news of the gospel.**

Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

READING

Romans 5:1-5

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 222

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

(see page 4)

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

*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 12

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

(see page 5)

*BENEDICTION

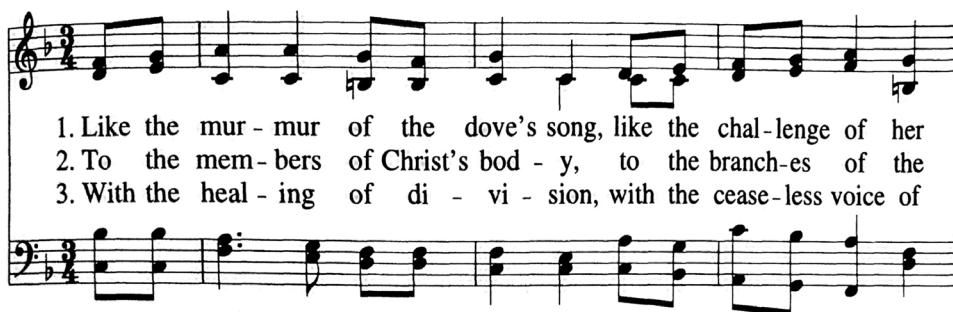
VOLUNTARY

Vivace from Sonata in F Major

C.P.E. Bach

OPENING HYMN

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare:
come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982
MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1969

BRIDEGROOM
87.87.6

SERMON HYMN

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

1. O Ho - ly Spir - it, Root of life, the Cos - mic
2. E - ter - nal Vig - or, Sav - ing One, you free us
3. O Ho - ly Wis - dom, Soar - ing Power, en - com - pass

Source of love and light, a - noint our wounds, a - wak - en
by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to wear our
us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en - cir - cling

us, and grant we see with heal - ing sight.
pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
all, a - bove, be - low, and through this world.

CLOSING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh melody from John Roberts' *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

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COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda Ziebell as she recovers from a recent surgery 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 for John Schultz, who was hospitalized last week for atrial fibrillation.
- 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 the graduates among us, including high school grads Emma Blanc and Ella Simons; college grads Jessica Goode, Nicole Haas-Loomis, James Clark Stewart, and Craig Williams; as well as Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan (M.Div) and Shelter Staff Janella Sorin Kang (M.P.H).
- We pray with grateful hearts for First Church Moderator Julie Pridham as she prepares to move to Flagstaff, Arizona, in June.
- We pray with First Church member Giselle Korn for her friend Jessie and Jessie's infant daughter Zoey. Zoey is currently recovering after emergency brain surgery; her mother Jessie is unable to be with her due to her recovery from her own recent surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; 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 all those who serve in the armed forces and their families, and for all those whose lives have been lost in that service, whom we remember this Memorial Day weekend.
- During this week of the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's murder and the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre/Black Wall Street Massacre, we pray that our country continues to reckon with and work towards repairing its appalling historic and present day realities of racial violence.
- We pray for all those who are affected by ongoing gun violence in our country, especially the families and communities of the multiple victims of a shooting at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority railyard in San Jose, CA, on Wednesday.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for peace and justice in Palestine and Israel, and for an ongoing cease-fire following a period of deadly warring violence, especially in Gaza and Jerusalem. We pray for communities most impacted that they may find resilience and hope to process their grief and trauma, assess damage, and rebuild.
- 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.
- 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 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 wrapping up.

Join a GBIO Listening Session After Worship Today, 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. [Join us today](#) after worship; we look forward to greeting you and hearing your story.

Next Sunday's 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...

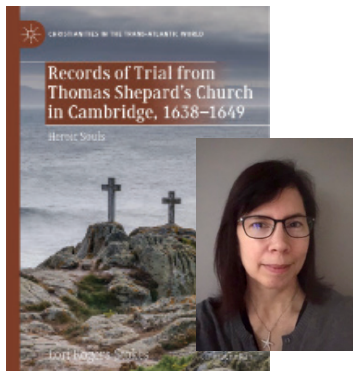
[Read more](#)



First Church history, reinterpreted.

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](#)

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Upcoming Adult Formation Series

Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism Sundays, June 13 and 20, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Please join us for a special two-part series on Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism, led by Vanderbilt University Professor and Theologian [Dr. Joerg Rieger](#). For more than two decades, Dr. Rieger has worked to bring together theology and the struggles for justice and liberation that mark our age. His work addresses the relation of theology and public life, reflecting on the misuse of power in religion, politics, and economics...

[Read more](#)



Looking Ahead

Children's Sunday, June 13 11:00 a.m., via livestream

On the second Sunday of June, it is our tradition to mark the end of the program year with celebrations of things accomplished and gifts of gratitude for the many people who make our children's formation offerings so special. This year, most of our moments of recognition will be virtual, but the feeling will be the same... [Read more](#)



An Opportunity Before Us

June 13 Congregational Forum and June 27 Special Congregational Meeting

As we look ahead to the summer and fall, we are invited to discern next steps as we journey further into post-pandemic life, our three-phase staffing plan, and our vision of being an antiracist church. Please plan to join an important Congregational Forum after worship on Sunday, June 13, to learn more about the opportunity before us to call Lexi Boudreaux to the role of Transitional Minister for a designated term. You can read more [here](#). Come with your questions and your input for the discussion. Please also mark your calendars for a Special Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, June 27, at which time First Church members will be asked to vote on how we feel led by the Spirit.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day - Church Building and Office Closed

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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

Tuesday, June 1

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Core Team Meeting, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Wednesday, June 2

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

Thursday, June 3

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Nancy Sanders, via livestream
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, June 4

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

Saturday, June 5

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, June 6

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Exploring Reparations, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Thanking our Church School Teachers, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via livestream
- 12:30 p.m. Talk with the Author: *Heroic Souls - Spiritual Struggles in Thomas Shepard's Church*, via Zoom

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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