



CHRISTMASTIDE

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
383 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 1 9

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an Open and Affirming, Just Peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at:
www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use Hastings Common, through the same door.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

WORSHIP LEADERS

January 5, 2020

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Playing the Organ and Directing the Choir

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Liturgist

Amy Matias, Deacon

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Christe, qui est lux et dies

Samuel Scheidt

*HYMN 164

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Amy Matias

L: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light!

C: Glory streams from heaven afar! Alleluia!

L: The Daystar shines upon us!

C: The darkness cannot put it out!

The Christ Candle is lit.

L: The light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

L: Let us pray:

**C: Praise to you, O God,
for the light of Jesus,**

L: for the mystery of love,

C: the dawn of hope,

L: the gift of faith!

**C: Praise to you, O God,
who finds us in the shadows of night
and shines a human face to light our way. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Quem pastores, laudavere

Trad., arr. Vaughan Williams

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness.

Your justice protects the weak and vulnerable, yet we seek privilege and power.

Your righteousness redeems the poor and needy, yet we seek wealth and possessions.

Your peace upholds the oppressed and defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and walls.

Forgive us, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things;

through Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

L: Friends, hear this good news: God's love lights our way to a new dawn, and God's mercy is working in our hearts even now.

The light of Christ and the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us share this good news and greet one another now with a sign of Christ's peace.

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN C-26

Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning

The Church School (preschoolers - 7th graders) is now invited to gather in Margaret Jewett Hall to prepare brown bag lunches for the Outdoor Church. The children will return to the Sanctuary with their offering at the Doxology and may rejoin their families for Communion after the Prayer of Dedication.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Revelation 21:1-6a

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Psallite

Michael Praetorius

***DOXOLOGY**

**To God, all glorious heav'nly 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

***GATHERING**

***PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

L: How good it is to praise you, Morning Star!
Your beauty ushers in the dawn,
and in your light we see light—

**C: justice for the nations, mercy for the broken-hearted,
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak, and forgiveness for the sinner.**

L: You reveal your love in joy and sorrow,
and we know your wonder even in the shadow of death.

**C: All your creatures behold your works
and testify to your faithfulness**

L: And so we too, fragile lamps in your holy house,
raise our hearts in praise. Amen.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, we remember Jesus, our brother.

Silence

L: He took his place among sinners, although he had nothing to repent.

C: He was baptized with them, God's Child and Delight.

L: We remember that he called disciples and ministered to all.

C: He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the poor.

L: We remember that he died between thieves,
and was buried in a borrowed grave.

**C: We believe that you raised him. He lives even now,
the Light of the World.**

L: How wonderfully he fed us! Loaves and fish for the multitude,
wine for a wedding in Cana, living water for the woman at the well,
breakfast for disciples on the shore!

C: Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.

L: He took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it, saying:

This is my body, surrendered for you!

**C: And when the supper was over, he took a cup filled with wine.
He gave you thanks for it and passed it to his friends, saying:
This is my life-blood poured out for you, and for everyone,
so that sins might be forgiven.**

L: He told us, "Do this and remember me!"

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND 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.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are welcome to partake of this feast. Today, we will serve communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward to the servers at one of the stations at the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and dip it in the cup. (Please exit your pews to the right and return from the left.) The cup is filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten-free. Persons who for any reason are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of holy communion!

***THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, 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 gifts 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 414**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Christmas Benediction

Beverly Taylor

The Word is flesh and dwells among us! Glory to God in the highest!

VOLUNTARY

In dir ist Freude

J. S. Bach

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all impacted by the measles outbreak in Samoa which has already claimed over 72 lives, mostly children, and for Moana Bentin and her son Vincent who traveled there recently to offer assistance.
- For the victims and all affected by the recent stabbing in Monsey, New York and for Jews everywhere as they confront the global resurgence of anti-Semitic violence, vandalism, and hate speech.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. As the weather becomes more severe, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For guidance for our nation and our political leaders at this time of political upheaval and through historic impeachment proceedings. We pray for a spirit of transparency, collaboration and civility.
- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray also for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- For all impacted by the deadly wildfires in Australia and flooding in Indonesia. We offer up our sadness, fears, and grief, and pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis, including sea-level rise, coral reef destruction, storms, wildfires, and climate migration. May God awaken and empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and to care for the poor around the world who are most immediately affected by our inaction.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith by Tuesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

RECLAIMING JESUS: Why? How? And Why Now? Today and Sundays, January 12, 19 & 26, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room It often seems that it is difficult in this day and age for people to speak of their faith when we are outside of the religious place we might attend. This can be especially true for Christians when it seems that Christianity with a capital C has been co-opted/defined by a more conservative or even radicalized evangelical right. One answer to this may be Jim Wallis's new book, *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*, and his podcast, "Reclaiming Jesus Now." They both look at our current political crisis and sees it as a "deeply spiritual and dangerously moral one." Wallis believes that we have become disconnected from Jesus and suggests that "it is time to return to him, to come home." With Wallis as our guide, together we will consider some ways to find our way back and "reclaim Jesus." Rev. Alex Steinert Evoy and others will lead this series.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and returning with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church by 2:00 p.m. Speak with the Deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in the ongoing mission project.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the Deacons and Ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel, located near the baptismal font. If you would like to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known.

THE FIRST CHURCH DEACONS' FUND is one of the many ways in which our community cares for one another. Church members in need of financial assistance for a one time or short-term emergency may make a confidential request to one of the deacons or clergy. This fund belongs to us and relies on our contributions. We hope people will take advantage of this aid. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons' Fund, if able. Please mark on your check or online contribution "Deacons' Fund." This Fund is also available to reimburse parishioners who use Lyft, Uber or cabs to get to and from church services in severe weather. Please forward or send a receipt to Karen McArthur by email or you can leave a copy in her mailbox in the church office.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION TODAY Every Communion Sunday, we collect food offerings for our Cambridge neighbors experiencing food uncertainty. Breakfast foods, proteins, cooking oil, rice,

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

fruit, and veggies—these are all welcome. Mark your calendar for next month's collection on February 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MEETING Today, 12:30 p.m. Harter Room Please join us as we make plans for a series of event in March and April when we will be we recognizing and responding to the Climate Crisis and preparing for a celebration of Earth Day on April 22. As Christians, we feel called to acknowledge the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is real and poses significant threats to God's creation. Together we will explore options for a springtime session offering significant personal and communal learnings and promoting understandings for our faith. Come share your ideas. All are welcome!

YOUTH GROUP Today, 2:00 p.m., meet in Hastings Common Join us for a First Church Youth Group classic - Laser Tag! Meet in the Hastings Common and we'll head out to West Roxbury for some Laser Tag.

CANDLELIGHT YOGA Today, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Harter Room Enjoy this early evening of candlelit gentle yoga, chanting, and meditation in the Harter Room at First Church in Cambridge. Come decompress from your week and tap into the inner sanctuary of your body and mind. This is a time to experience deep relaxation and renewal at the start of this season of Epiphany. Please dress in layers, bring a yoga mat and water bottle. All levels of experience welcome. Taught by Gandhi Solanki and Nancy Webber.

NIGHT SONG Today, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary Cap your Sunday and start your week with this beautiful, contemplative, candle-lit musical service that includes choral music, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

EPIPHANY POTLUCK DINNER AND WORSHIP TOMORROW Monday, January 6, 6:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall and Sanctuary Join us for a simple dinner followed by a candlelit procession through our building, ending in the Sanctuary. This traditional Epiphany celebration is a First Church family-friendly favorite. The meal is a true potluck; bring a dish to share. Worship begins in the Chapel at about 7:00 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM Hunter Dupree, a long-time member of First Church, died on Saturday, November 30. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in Margaret Jewett Hall. All members and friends are invited.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR, SUNDAY WORSHIP, January 19 Join us for a special service of worship celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King. Participants from our recent Road to Freedom Pilgrimages to Washington, DC, will share testimony about the transformative experience of visiting the MLK JR Memorial, the Frederick Douglas House, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

TRACES OF THE TRADE: A Story from the Deep North, Film Screening, Sunday, January 19, 12:30 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall Join us for a special screening of “Traces of the Trade.” In this feature documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.

2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON Sunday, January 26, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Come one and all to the 384th Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge on Sunday, January 26, following Morning Worship! A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting. We will celebrate another very full year of ministry. We will thank one another for gifts shared and celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders. We will also do some looking ahead as we seek to discern where God is leading us next! Join us for this centuries old tradition of meeting, prayer, and song!

PRAYING THE PSALMS: DAILY PRACTICE & WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Most Thursdays, ongoing, 7:15 - 8:45 a.m., Library We invite you to read, pray, and reflect on one Psalm each day (we began with Psalm 1 on Dec. 1, and will be continuing with Psalm 32 on Jan. 2, Psalm 33 on Jan. 3, etc). For the weekly Bible study, we gather for coffee or tea at 7:15 a.m. most Thursdays, beginning with a time of soulful check-in promptly at 7:30. We then dive into some reflection about the Psalms of the week, sharing what we are learning about maintaining a daily spiritual practice, alone and together. Feel free to drop in when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. Our weekly study will continue this week on Thursday, January 9, in the Library. Questions? E-mail Dan or Brent (brentbcoffin@gmail.com).

*First Church Homeless Ministries
Proudly Presents...*



The Village Well Gala

Join us for an evening of music, dessert, and wine to support the Friday Café and First Church Shelter, two vital community ministries that welcome and support our homeless neighbors.

**Saturday, January 25 from 7-9pm
11 Garden St., Cambridge**

**Special guest speaker Dr. Sandro Galea,
Dean of Boston University's School of Public Health**

With your help, we can strengthen our community
and help ALL our neighbors thrive!

*Tickets are \$35 each. Visit www.vancoevents.com/424
to reserve your seats or make a donation.*

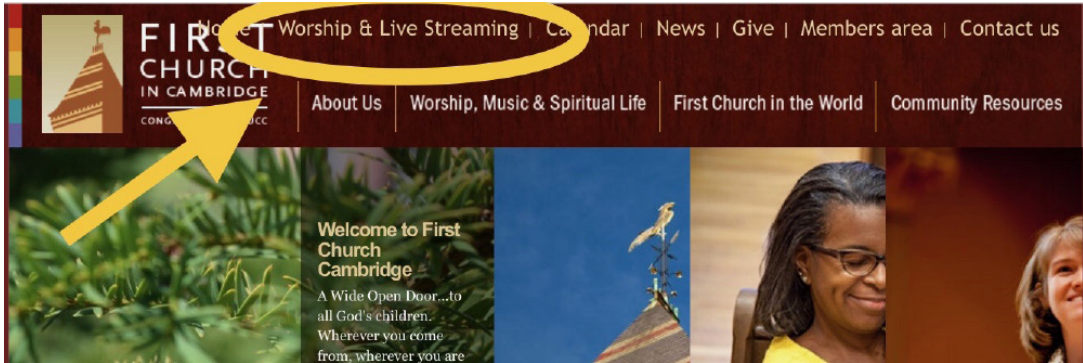
WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

MALE SURVIVORS UNITED You are invited to join together with an anonymous community of like-minded adult men affected by unwanted or abusive sexual experiences. Leave isolation behind and join our monthly phone calls for free peer support, by male survivors for male survivors. Our group is nonprofessional. We are peers, not therapists. Together we help each other reclaim our voices and our lives. The calls are at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the 2nd Sunday of each month. For more information see malesurvivorsunited.org or contact First Church Deacon Bruce Hoppe confidentially at bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org

CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBIT The Harvard Museum of Natural History is presenting an ongoing exhibit entitled “Exploring the Impact of the Warming Climate on the Planet.” Drawing on the latest scientific information about our warming climate, including both its local and global effects, this multimedia exhibit includes engaging video and storm simulations, a “check your knowledge” interactive station, and a dramatic inside look at a high-tech Argo float from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution—one of more than 4,000 deployed worldwide to monitor global oceans and climate. The museum is located at 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge.

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU’D LIKE TO SEE IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN? You may submit notices of church-sponsored or community events to Sarah Higginbotham via email by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday in order to be considered for the following Sunday’s bulletin.

LIVE STREAMING OF MORNING WORSHIP AND NIGHT SONG NOW AVAILABLE.



Thanks to a generous donation and as part of our recent sanctuary audio improvement, we now have the capacity to livestream and record our weekly worship services.

Go to our website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org and click on the “Worship and Live Streaming” link at the very top of the page.

On Sundays, 10:55 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 7:25 p.m. - 8:40 p.m., you will be able to view on any internet-connected computer or mobile device. Recordings will be archived and made available on our website.

The view is of the chancel platform only; the camera angle does not include the pews. Also, please note that you can now enjoy our worship services in real time from the monitor in Hastings Common, if, for whatever reason, you need to step out of the sanctuary.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 5

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: "Reclaiming Jesus," Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church School Offering
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship & Refreshments, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:30 p.m. Environmental Stewardship Meeting, Harter Room
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet at Hastings Common
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, January 6

- 4:00 p.m. Annual Reports due to Kirsten Manville
- 6:00 p.m. Epiphany Potluck & Worship Service, MJH and Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 8

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, The Well (Rm. 22)

Thursday, January 9

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, Library

Friday, January 10

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

Sunday, January 12

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: "Reclaiming Jesus," Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Carlyle Stewart preaching, Sacrament of Baptism for Liam Joyce
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preK - 7th grade)
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship & Refreshments, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Church School Teacher Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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First Church in Cambridge?
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ __ to 1-844-996-0982



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