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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, June 13, 2021

**Preaching Today**  
**Leading Worship**

Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*  
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Campbell and Callum Pelton-Cairns, *liturgists*  
Chris Reynolds, *Clerk*  
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

**Bulletin Cover Image** Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

### TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism, [via Zoom](#)  
9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Children's Book Corner,  
[via YouTube Premiere](#)  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)  
12:15 p.m. Congregational Forum, [via Zoom](#)  
2:00 p.m. Popsicle Hour Kickoff, church lawn

### 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](http://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](mailto: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

Variations on *Ah, vous dirai-je, Maman*

W. A. Mozart

### \*HYMN 35

Glory Be to God on High

(see page 4)

### \*GREETING

Campbell Pelton-Cairns

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

Campbell and Callum Pelton-Cairns

### CANDLELIGHTING

Lexi Boudreaux

### ANTHEM

JLM (Jesus Loves Me)  
*First Church Choir, 2019*

Bradley Phillips

## 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

Dan Smith

#### READING

Psalm 90:1-2, 12-17 (The Message)

God, it seems you've been our home forever;  
long before the mountains were born,  
Long before you brought earth itself to birth,  
from "once upon a time" to "kingdom come"—you are God.

Oh! Teach us to live well!  
Teach us to live wisely and well!  
Come back, God—how long do we have to wait?—  
and treat your servants with kindness for a change.  
Surprise us with love at daybreak;  
then we'll skip and dance all the day long.  
Make up for the bad times with some good times;  
we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.  
Let your servants see what you're best at—  
the ways you rule and bless your children.  
And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us,  
confirming the work that we do.  
Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

#### READING

Mark 4:26-34 (The Message)

Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

"How can we picture God's kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It's like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it."

With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

#### REFLECTION

Sarah Higginbotham

#### \*HYMN C-29

Perfect Yet Unfinished

*(see page 5)*

# SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Chris Reynolds

### PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

### PRAYERS FOR THE 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 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

### \*BLESSING OF 2021 GRADUATES

### \*HYMN 237

How Firm a Foundation

(*see page 6*)

### \*BENEDICTION

### VOLUNTARY

Sonata in C Major

W. A. Mozart

# OPENING HYMN

## Glory Be to God on High

1. Glo - ry be to God on high,  
2. Crea-tures of the field and flood, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3. Stars that have no voice to raise,

Let the whole cre - a - tion cry,  
Earth and sea cry "God is good," Al - le - lu - ia!  
Give to God their ra - diant praise,

Peace and bless-ing God has given,  
Toil-ing pil - grims raise the song, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Si - lent powers and an - gels' song,

Earth re - peat the songs of heaven,  
Saints in light the strain pro-long, Al - le - lu - ia!  
All un - to our God be-long,

WORDS: Theodore C. Williams, 1890, alt.  
MUSIC: Joseph David Jones, 1868

GWALCHMAI  
77.77 w. alleluias

Williams was minister of All Souls' Unitarian Church in New York City.  
GWALCHMAI, a Welsh tune, is named for both a bard and a town.

# SERMON HYMN

## Perfect Yet Unfinished

1. Per - fect yet un - fin - ished, we gath - er in your  
2. Ma - ny doubts and ques - tions still move with - in our  
3. Praise the One who forms us and sets for each a  
4. Through our hu - man search - ing your truth and love and

sight like trav - el - ers who greet the com - ing day. —  
faith; they shake our small, too - sim - ple cer - tain - ty. —  
path, who search - es for us in our way - ward - ness; —  
care will work their way in - to our deep - est pain. —

We of - fer what we are, Lord, and what we yet will  
Your grace is in our seek - ing; your fa - vor ev - en  
Your mer - cy is our lan - tern, your love our dai - ly  
O bless our hum - ble jour - neys and strength - en our frail

be, drawn from the world to fol - low in your way.  
now rests on our pil - grim long - ing to be free.  
bread; your pres - ence is our qui - et strength and rest.  
faith, un - til we greet you face to face a - gain!

WORDS: Kate Layzer

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For the Confirmation Class of 1997

## CLOSING HYMN

### How Firm a Foundation

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3. When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4. "When through fier - y tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5. "The souls that on Je - sus have leaned for re - pose

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!  
 for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe ov - er you shall not flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply:  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to their foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 for I will be near you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 those souls, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake!"

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*, 1787, alt.  
 MUSIC: Early American melody from Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832

FOUNDATION  
 11 11.11 11

This hymn, of anonymous English authorship, found its greatest success in America where it was sung to the tune FOUNDATION, particularly in southern Methodist and Baptist churches.



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Director of Operations Kirsten Manville's mother-in-law Agnes Foley, who is recovering from a serious car accident.
- We pray for Pauline Fennel, who has been diagnosed with a recurrence of breast cancer. She will begin a promising and non-invasive course of treatment this week.
- We pray for Linda Ziebell as she continues to recover from a recent surgery to remove a sarcoma from her leg.
- We pray for Monica Maher's sister Julie Maher, who suffered a series of heart attacks in Portland, Oregon.
- 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 transitions to her new life in Flagstaff, Arizona.
- 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; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; 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 are affected by ongoing gun violence in our country and for those working toward common sense gun control legislation.
- As we continue this month of honoring LGBTQ Pride, we celebrate sexual and gender diversity as a blessing that enriches us all and pray for full inclusion and justice for all LGBTQ persons.
- We pray for the friends and family of the 28 (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 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.

## 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 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 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 those demonstrating against the Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota, which threatens indigenous tribal lands and promotes climate change. 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.

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

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

*Today's 9:30 Formation Hour*

### **Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism**

**Today and Sunday, June 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](#)



*An Opportunity Before Us*

**Congregational Forum Today at 12:15 p.m., via Zoom**

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 join an important Congregational Forum after worship today 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. We will also hear a mid-year financial report and an update on our reopening plan. 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.

*Summer's coming...*

### **"Popsicle Hour" Kick-Off**

**Today at 2:00 p.m. on the church lawn**

Following the online Congregational Forum, join us at 2:00 p.m. for a time of fellowship on the church lawn. We will have time to reconnect in person, enjoy the weather, and try out this new way of doing coffee hour for the summer... [Read more](#)



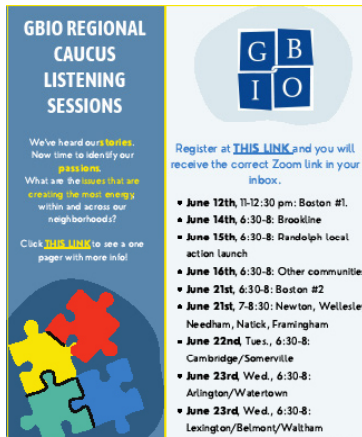
## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

### Young Adults' Gathering: Decorate a Birdhouse

Sunday, June 20, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.


#### Cambridge Common

Come make your own tiny sanctuary for birds! The Young Adults group will meet on the Cambridge Common to build and decorate some birdhouses. We'll bring supplies; you just bring creative energy. Want to get on the Young Adults' email list? Contact: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org)



**GBIO REGIONAL CAUCUS LISTENING SESSIONS**

We've heard our **stories**. Now time to identify our **missions**. What are the **issues** that are **creating** the most **strains** within and across our neighborhood? Click [THIS LINK](#) to see a one pager with more info!



Register at [THIS LINK](#) and you will receive the correct Zoom link in your inbox.

- June 12th, 11-12:30 pm: Boston #1.
- June 14th, 6:30-8: Brookline
- June 15th, 6:30-8: Randolph local action launch
- June 16th, 6:30-8: Other communities
- June 21st, 6:30-8: Boston #2
- June 21st, 7-8:30: Newton, Wellesley, Needham, Natick, Framingham
- June 22nd, Tues., 6:30-8: Cambridge/Somerville
- June 23rd, Wed., 6:30-8: Arlington/Watertown
- June 23rd, Wed., 6:30-8: Lexington/Belmont/Waltham

*Help us focus GBIO's platform of issues!*

### GBIO Regional Caucuses Starting this Week

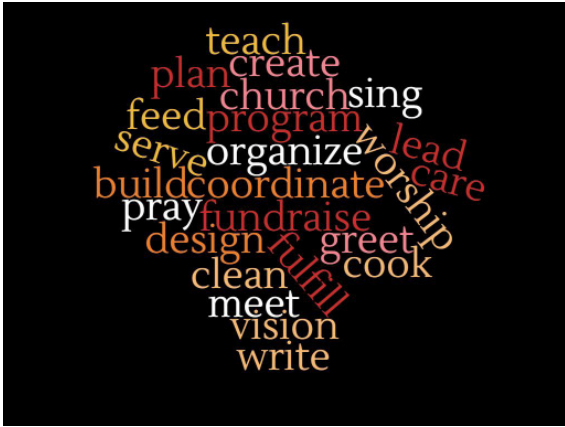
This spring, First Church has been listening closely to the stories carried by our congregation. Along with the other members of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, we've taken the season of renewal to find out what is on the hearts and minds of our neighbors. So what's next? Now that we know some of our stories, it's time to look for shared passion, and opportunities to act. We hope that you'll come to one the GBIO Regional Caucuses to share where you see the themes we've uncovered surfacing around you. You can register for your hometown caucus [here](#).

### UCC General Synod XXXIII - Register Now

Registration is open for a Special Virtual General Synod 33 which will be held July 11-18, 2021. This bi-annual meeting for the United Church of Christ is a chance to connect in covenant for worship, keynote addresses, learning and justice-making with siblings in the Spirit across the country...

[Read more and register here](#)





### How Can You Serve First Church?

As a faith community, we have devoted much love and energy to moving First Church forward in its ministries and aspirations over the past year. This is the time of year when the Gifts Discernment/Nominating Committee reaches out to First Church members and friends. While we have specific Officer and Committee positions to discuss, we'd also like to know your general thoughts about your involvement at First Church... [Read more](#)

### SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, June 27, 2021

12:15 p.m., via Zoom

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held at 12:15 p.m., Sunday the 27th of June, 2021, via Zoom.

1. To vote to call Alexandra Boudreaux to the position of Transitional Minister, effective September 1, 2021, for a designated term of two years.
2. To hear reopening plans, including a possible vote, if needed, on necessary expenditures.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council,  
Christine Reynolds, *Clerk*



## Timing of Reopening

### June 13

- Congregational Forum via Zoom, 12:15 p.m.
- Summer "Popsicle Hour" Kickoff, 2:00 p.m.

### June 20

- Regathering Group for Inclusion & Belonging attends worship in-person to begin work of transition to hybrid worship

### June 27

- Special Congregational Meeting via Zoom, 12:15 p.m.



## Timing of Reopening

### July & August

- Deacons and church leaders attend worship in person at 10:00 a.m. to acclimate, offer feedback, and recalibrate for fall reopening (*others will have the opportunity to attend Summer Worship to assist in reopening plans*)
- Popsicle Hour every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. with time for individual prayer in the sanctuary, open to all (*BYO picnic lunch, weather permitting*)

### September 12: Regathering Sunday

- All are welcome to our reopened hybrid worship services in the sanctuary



## FIRST CHURCH REOPENING PLAN



### Hybrid Structure: Fall 2021

*(subject to change)*

- 9:30 a.m.** Zoom Church School (*1st & 3rd Sundays*)  
Zoom Adult Formation
- 10:15 a.m.** Choir Rehearsal in MJH  
Worship Leaders' run-thru in Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m.** Sanctuary doors open  
Nursery open in Sage Hall
- 10:50 a.m.** Live-stream begins with pre-worship slides
- 11:00 a.m.** Hybrid Worship in Sanctuary
- 11:20 a.m.** Church School in-person (*most Sundays*)
- 12:15 p.m.** Fellowship Hour on lawn/in MJH
- 12:30 p.m.** Hybrid post-worship programs in MJH  
*(starting in October)*

### Practical & Theological Considerations

#### **We believe in science.**

- *We will follow CDC guidelines and city/state protocols for masking/distancing.*
- *Because we are a multigenerational community, we may take a more conservative stance.*

#### **We are called by God to offer a radical welcome to all.**

- *We strive to be accessible to all: in-person and remote, cautious and venturesome, local and afar.*
- *We are improving our technology in order to offer a similar experience of worship and programs, no matter where you are.*

#### **We wish to offer our communal "first Sunday back" at a time when most can attend.**

- *As many First Church folks travel in the summer, we want to wait until September for a powerful moment of shared celebration, grief, healing, and joy.*
- *Our "Regathering Group on Inclusion and Belonging" is meeting to plan for a reopening that is as consistent as possible with our Antiracist Vision and our Christian values of radical hospitality.*



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, June 14

- 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 15

- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

## Wednesday, June 16

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

## Thursday, June 17

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

## Friday, June 18

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

## Saturday, June 19

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

## Sunday, June 20

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Deacons

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

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