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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 27, 2021

**Preaching Today** Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
**Leading Worship** Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*  
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*  
Issa, Khima, and Marcia Bibbins, *guest musicians*  
David Kidder, *liturgist*  
Kevin Newell, *tech support*  
**Bulletin Cover Image** Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

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### Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Summer Learning & Advocacy Kickoff, [via Zoom](#)  
11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)  
12:15 p.m. Special Congregational Meeting, [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](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)

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*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

Woke Up This Morning

traditional

**Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus!  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus!  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,  
halle-lu, halle-lu, hallelujah!**

**Singing and praying with my mind...  
Can't hate your neighbor when your mind's...  
Living and loving with my mind...**

#### \*GREETING

David Kidder

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

David Kidder and Lexi Boudreaux

### CANDLELIGHTING

#### ANTHEM

More Than Anything

Myron Williams

## 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

### READING

Mark 5:14-23

### SERMON

Dan Smith

### MUSICAL RESPONSE

I Believe You're My Healer

Aaron and Amanda Crabb

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

## 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**

**\*HYMN 442**

What a Friend We Have In Jesus

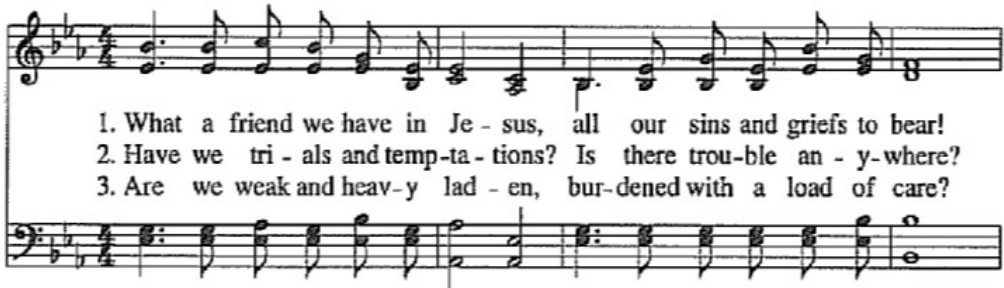
*(see page 4)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

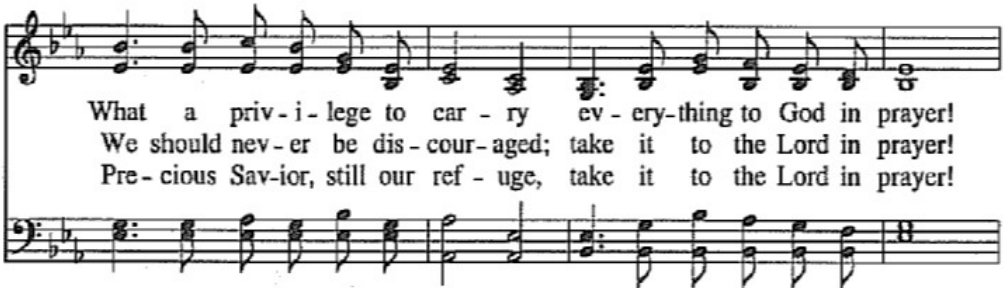
**VOLUNTARY**

## CLOSING HYMN

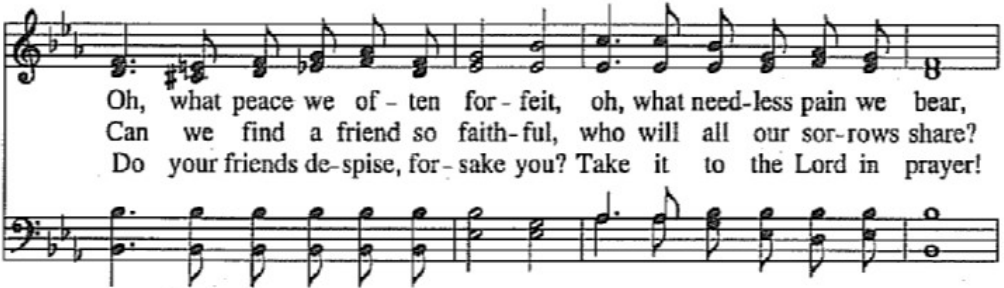
### What a Friend We Have in Jesus



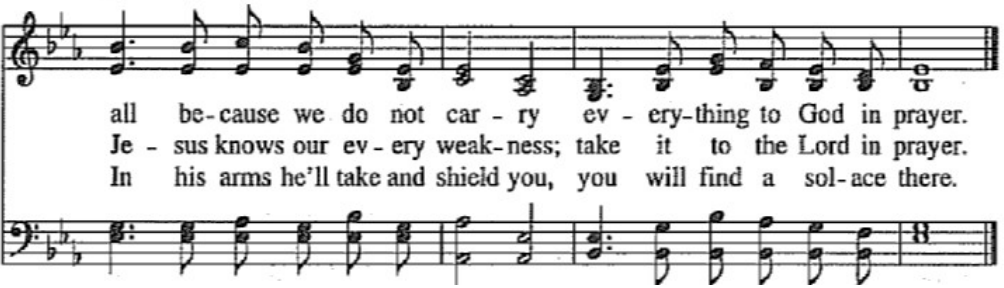
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3. Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, bur-dened with a load of care?



What a priv-i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith-ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a sol - ace there.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Sarah Fujiwara’s brother-in-law Mark Deck, who was hospitalized after a bike accident last week. Mark has suffered serious injury to his spinal cord and is facing a long road of rehabilitation and recovery. We pray for Mark’s healing and for his family and loved ones.
- We pray for First Church sexton Rebecca LaFrance and the Emma family, as they mourn the loss of Rebecca’s cousin, who died unexpectedly this week at the age of 24.
- We pray for Susie and Chuck Longfield and Chuck’s mother Anne Longfield and their family as they grieve the loss of Chuck’s sister Dianne Totten, who died recently of cancer.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins as she mourns the loss of her cousin Ted Felton, who died unexpectedly of a stroke last week.
- We pray with joy for the birth of Poppy Renee Hurst, granddaughter of Brent and Poppy Coffin and daughter of Emily Coffin Hurst and TJ Hurst, born last week in Philadelphia.
- We pray for Carter West, who has been staying home for a few weeks, working through the effects of medication toxicity.
- We pray for Director of Operations Kirsten Manville's mother-in-law Agnes Foley, who is recovering from a serious car accident.
- 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: Pauline Fennel; 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.
- 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 44 (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 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 who are awaiting vaccines, globally and locally, 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 and for the “long-haulers.”

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

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



### *Today's Adult Formation 9:30 Hour* **Summer Learning and Advocacy Kickoff** **Today at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom**

Our final Adult Formation 9:30 Hour of the year will kick off a summer of preparation for our fall formation plans to learn more about the living legacy of settler colonialism. Our Beloved Community, Christian Formation, and Missions & Social Justice groups are teaming up to present [a range of opportunities for learning and advocacy](#). We will review suggested reading materials and films for your experience on your own time. We will also share about a number of current legislative measures that we've been invited to support by local indigenous persons.

### *An Opportunity Before Us* **Special Congregational Meeting** **Sunday, June 27, 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 us for an important Congregational Meeting after worship today to vote on whether to call Lexi Boudreaux to the role of Transitional Minister for a designated term of two years. You can read the full proposal [here](#). Join the Special Congregational Meeting [here](#).

*Note: A Congregational Forum about this and other matters was held on June 13. Lexi shared her own perspective on this opportunity; a summary of her remarks is available [here](#). The formal Call To Meeting can be found on the homepage of our website.*



**SUMMER WORSHIP**  
**BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M.**  
**IN JULY AND AUGUST**



## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



### Summer Opportunities for Connection and Learning

Summer is upon us, and what a different summer it will be from the last one! We hope and pray you find extra time...

- for gathering with friends and family, in-person and in places near or far-away;
- to be outside, and mask-free, whether in a city park, on a mountaintop, at a camp ground, or at the beach;
- to keep reading up and/or acting up in ways that make God's love and justice real;
- in quiet reflection about what a wild year-plus it has been;
- to give thanks to God!

Here's some of what we have in store for this summer at First Church. Please join us for any or all of it!

- 10:00 a.m. [Live-Streamed Worship](#) in July and August\*
- [Popsicle Hour](#) on the Lawn and time for prayer in our sanctuary, every Sunday after church (weather permitting)
- Summer Antiracist Learning and Advocacy ([Kickoff](#) via Zoom today at 9:30, Hybrid [Check-ins](#) on Sundays, August 1 & 29 at 11:45 a.m.)
- *Sarah's Long Walk* [Summer Book Group](#) --Wednesdays, July 7 - August 25 at 7 pm
- Summer Walks -- [Saturday, July 17](#); [Saturday, August 7](#); [Sunday, August 15](#)
- "Call to Return" Part 2 with Carlyle Stewart (starting in August, dates TBD)
- Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Summer Delegate's Assembly (Thursday, August 12)
- [Contemplative Practices Group](#) (Every Monday at 4:00 p.m.)
- [Thursday Bible Study](#) (Every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.)

\*Please [sign up here](#) if you'd like to be a part of helping us pivot to our in-person and live-streamed reopening service on Regathering Sunday, September 12!

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

### First Church in Cambridge Creates Reparations Fund

On Monday, May 24, 2021, the Executive Council voted unanimously to approve the creation of a First Church Reparations Fund. The [measure](#) was brought before church leaders by members of the "Exploring Reparations" Faith & Life group, our Beloved Community group, and our Missions and Social Justice committee. In light of [our church's history of enslaving people](#) of African and Indigenous decent, [recent discussions about reparations](#), and [focus groups](#) with members of local communities who have been harmed by our actions, we feel called by the Spirit to take this first step of creating a fund to which individuals may contribute... [Read more](#)



### Summer Book Group: *Sarah's Long Walk* Wednesdays, July 7 - August 18

7:00 - 8:15 p.m., via Zoom

The Christian Formation Committee invites you to a summer book group. Join Hilary Hopkins in reading and discussing, in leisurely fashion, *Sarah's Long Walk: The Free Blacks of Boston and How Their Struggle for Equality Changed America* by father and son Stephen

and Paul Kendrick. This lively, absorbing, and elegantly-written book is the story of school desegregation in Boston's early days. In 1847, Sarah, a Black five-year-old girl, was forced to walk past five white schools to get to her ramshackle Black school; her father sued the city of Boston. The legal struggle that followed culminated in 1954 with the historic decision *Brown v. Board of Education*.

We will read several chapters a week and then meet for an hour or so to discuss what we learned and our reactions, thus working our way through this fine book in six meetings. Feel free to eat supper and/or enjoy a beverage during our meetings!

To register for the group or for more information, please contact: Hilary Hopkins at [hopkinsjh@verizon.net](mailto:hopkinsjh@verizon.net)

*NOTE: the book can be purchased used on Amazon or from other booksellers.*



**SUMMER POPSICLE HOURS BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 4**

Would you like to eat a popsicle after worship on the church lawn with other First Church members this summer? Well, you are in luck! Bring your own picnic lunch and we will provide the popsicles!

As a part of our reopening plans, we will be gathering outside every Summer Sunday at 11:30 a.m. to spend quality time with each other for a different kind of Coffee Hour. If the forecast indicates rain, we will gather virtually for Zoom Coffee Hour; we'll notify you via First Glance and in the Announcements offered in Morning Worship.

Additionally, you can opt for "a side of prayer" with your popsicle; we will open the doors to the sanctuary for silent prayer, reflection, and to light a candle.

We hope to see you in person at some point this summer!



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, June 28

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Beloved Community meeting, 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.

## Wednesday, June 30

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

## Thursday, July 1

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom

## Friday, July 2

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

## Saturday, July 3

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

## Sunday, July 4 - Summer Worship begins one hour earlier

- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship with Holy Communion; Lexi Boudreaux, preaching, via livestream
- 11:30 p.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn

## Monday, July 5 - Church Office and Building Closed

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

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