



SUMMER WORSHIP
July 25, 2021

**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, July 25, 2021

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Carlyle Stewart, *Community Minister for Racial Justice*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Bruce Hoppe, *liturgist*

Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

Today's Programs and Events

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
11:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn
5:00 p.m. Young Adults Walk, meet at 11 Garden walkway

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.org/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

Pastorale

Domenico Zipoli

*HYMN 86

O Christ, the Healer

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Bruce Hoppe

- L: Come home to the presence of God in this time,
C: as we pause to drink in the comfort of community.
- L: Come home to the center of your spirit,
C: resting in the stillness of prayer.
- L: Come home to the hope of expectation,
C: and prepare our hearts for holy surprises.
- L: Come home to connection and resilience,
C: for we are the body of Christ.
- L: Come home to this space of belonging and becoming,
C: for God's presence is here in this sacred time and space.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Blue Green Hills of Earth
First Church Choir, 2018

Kim Ole

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Together, let us confess to God what is weighing on our hearts:
**All: Before you, O God, and before one another,
we confess the harm we have brought on our lives,
the lives of others, and the life of the world.
Forgive us, O God.
Renew us, and enable us to grow in love.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

READING

Psalm 147

READING

Matthew 11:25-30

SERMON

Carlyle Stewart

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 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**

**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.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 167**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

(see page 5)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina
First Church Choir, 2019 and 2021

South African traditional song

VOLUNTARY

Toccatà in G minor

Johann Pachelbel

OPENING HYMN

O Christ, the Healer

1. O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
2. From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
3. How strong, O Christ, are our de - sires, how weak our
4. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -

health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -

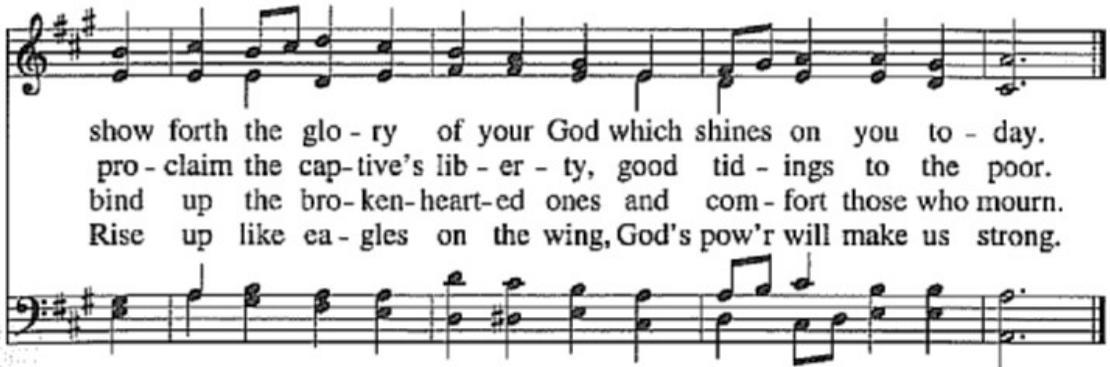
be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

CLOSING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1. A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2. A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3. A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Kirsten Manville's father Keith Manville, who was hospitalized with blood pressure issues and is recovering at home.
- We pray for Anne McClintock, who was hospitalized with a bone infection and is now recovering from surgery at home.
- We pray for the family of former First Church member Helen Grogan, who died peacefully on Cape Cod at the age of 94. Helen was married to former First Church Senior Minister Wells Grogan.
- We pray for Dave Kidder's sister Lucinda Kidder, who was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer and is undergoing treatment.
- 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.
- 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 state and federal legislators, who are locked in partisan battles over issues of voting rights and discrimination based on gender identity. May our democratic system of government withstand efforts to dismantle the rights of its people to live freely and equally together, while allowing every voice of every color to be heard at the ballot box.
- We pray for all who are affected by the recent surge of COVID-19 diagnoses due to the Delta variant and the lower levels of vaccination in parts of the US and around the world. 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.”
- We pray for all impacted by wildfires on the West Coast, as well as those experiencing severe flooding elsewhere. We pray for all who are acutely experiencing the effects of climate change, especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction. 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 renewed commitment on the part of all levels of every government, corporations, and each of us to make necessary changes to sustain our planet for this and future generations.

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

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 campground, 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
 - Find a lengthy resource list on our [Racial Justice page](#) (*scroll down to "Our Current Work" and click on "Summer Learning On Your Own"*)
 - Hybrid [Check-ins](#) on Sundays, August 1 & 29 at 11:45 a.m.
- *Sarah's Long Walk* [Summer Book Group](#) --Wednesdays, July 7 - August 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- Summer Walks -- [Saturday, August 7](#); [Sunday, August 15](#)
- ["A Call to Return" Part 2](#) with Carlyle Stewart (starting in August, dates TBD)
- [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Summer Delegates' Assembly](#), Thursday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- [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

Pastoral Care Cards at Popsicle Hour

11:30 a.m. on Summer Sundays

Our Pastoral Care Teams have the summer off, but each Sunday in July and August, there will be an opportunity for anyone at First Church to write cards. Come to Popsicle Hour and write cards to your fellow members who need care or have joyous news. Or take note of the prayer concerns in each week's bulletin and write cards at home. If there are urgent needs for care, all Pastoral Care Team members will be contacted by the church office. Grateful blessings to our faithful team members. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Susie Neubauer at susieneubauer@gmail.com.



Young Adults' Walk

**Today, 5:00 p.m. (*rescheduled from last Sunday*)
Meet at First Church**

Young Adults are taking the "Gentle Blasphemy" conversation series outside! Meet up at the church today at 5:00 p.m. for an in-town walk to Christina's Ice Cream in Inman Square. Questions? Email: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org

Summer Learning On Your Own — Antiracist Resources

Check out our [Racial Justice](#) page on our website to find a lengthy resource list to guide you. Scroll down to "Our Current Work" and click on "Summer Learning On Your Own."



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

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



Looking Ahead...

Summer Learning and Advocacy Check-In Next Sunday, August 1, 11:45 a.m.

Hybrid: in-person in MJH and via Zoom

This fall, our Beloved Community, Christian Formation, and Missions & Social Justice groups are teaming up to offer a range of opportunities to learn more about the living legacy of settler colonialism. In June, we offered some options for learning on our own and in

conversation with members of local indigenous tribes. Please join us for our first hybrid session at 11:45 a.m. next Sunday, August 1, either in-person in Margaret Jewett Hall or via Zoom. This will be a time of sharing what we have learned so far and looking ahead to fall opportunities.

A Call to Return, Part 2, September, dates TBD

In the Fall of 2020, our Community Minister for Racial Justice Carlyle Stewart hosted a series entitled “Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice.” In those sessions, participants learned about the intersection between Christian theology and racial theories that have been very harmful throughout history. They learned that the call to “return” to the God of justice involves confronting not only the racism that has been perpetuated and, in some cases, condoned by the American Christian church, but also their own personal ideas, prejudices, and biases about race and white privilege. In this “Call to Return Part 2” series, First Church will have the opportunity to recreate a holy space to learn about relationship building, mutual commitments, and relationships. **Sign up to participate... [Read more](#)**



GBIO Delegates' Assembly

Thursday, August 12, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

After hearing 1500+ stories across sixty member institutions during the our Listening Campaign, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is preparing to launch its platform for the next two years. The platform needs ratification! Come represent First Church proudly!

Register here: <https://bit.ly/gbioaugust12>

Reach out to [Phil Jones](#) or [Will Erickson](#) with any questions.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, July 26

- 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, July 27

- 6:30 p.m. Investments Committee, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Wednesday, July 28

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. *Sarah's Long Walk* Book Group, via Zoom

Thursday, July 29

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

Friday, July 30

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

Saturday, July 31

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

Sunday, August 1

- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship, Dan Smith preaching, with guest musician Issa Bibbins, via livestream
- 11:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn
- 11:45 a.m. Summer Learning & Advocacy Check-In, MJH and via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Young Adults' Gathering, church lawn

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org