



SUMMER WORSHIP
August 22, 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, August 22, 2021

Preaching Today Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Leading Worship Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Anne Holtzworth, *liturgist*
Peter Sykes, *Director of Music*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*
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

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

Suite Breve

Craig Phillips

*HYMN 252

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

*GREETING

Anne Holtzworth

- 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

Of Hospitality
First Church Choir, 2019

Jane Marshall

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

Sarah Higginbotham

READING

1 Kings 8 (excerpted)

READING

Psalm 84

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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 241**

We Will Build Your Church, O Christ

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina
First Church Choir, 2021

VOLUNTARY

Suite Breve

Craig Phillips

OPENING HYMN

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1. How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
2. In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
3. A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O God most high;

my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.

The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,

and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

WORDS: Arlo D. Duba, 1984
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

MERLE'S TUNE
76.76D

This text is a paraphrase of Psalm 84. Duba, a Presbyterian, taught at Westminster Choir College, and is now Dean of the Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Words © 1986, music © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

CLOSING HYMN

We Will Build Your Church, O Christ

1. We will build your church, O Christ, with met - tle, mor - tar, flesh and
2. We will build your church, O Christ, with hope and heal - ing, faith and
3. We would be your church, O Christ. Break forth your heal - ing, pour forth
4. We would be your church, O Christ, O lead us through the trials of

stone to bring you praise and give that praise a home. And
trust that care and in - sight nour - ish things un - seen. And
life, and bring to un - ion those once set a - part. And
life and call us, claim us, that your realm may thrive. And

when we find our cher-ished tem-ple walls us from a world in need,
if the knowl-edge that we nur-ture lim-its vi-sions of your peace,
when we stif-fen to your knead-ing, when our sor-row bends our knees,
when we love our church life such that we for-get it first serves thee,

lift us through the gift of gos-pel, dy-ing, ris-ing, borne by thee.

WORDS: Gail S. Ransom, 1984, alt.
MUSIC: Gail S. Ransom, 1984; harm. FCC, 1997

NEEDVILLE
78 10.9787

Gail Ransom, Director of Children's Christian Education of First
Congregational Church of Houston from 1985-1986, wrote this
hymn for the 85th anniversary of Immanuel UCC, Needville TX.

Words, music © 1984 Gail S. Ransom
Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray in gratitude and celebration for the birth of Silvana and Gloria Culpepper, twin daughters of Sophia Guglietti and Mellisha Culpepper, sisters to Frankie and Angelo, and granddaughters to Gaylen Morgan.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux and her family. Lexi's step-grandfather Stanley M. Slawsby died recently.
- We pray for Devin Hansen's aunt Ellen Smith, who is recovering from intestinal surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; Dave Kidder's sister Lucinda Kidder; 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 impacted by the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti last Saturday, for all victims and loved ones, for first responders and medical care staff, and for all participating in the relief effort.
- 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 the people of Afghanistan in the wake of the U.S. military pull-out and the rapid and tragic collapse of Afghani government at the hands of the Taliban. We pray especially for women, children and all who are facing increased violence, terror, discrimination and constriction of human rights. We also pray for all who have served in the counter-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan who are watching events unfold with particular grief and dismay.
- 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.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

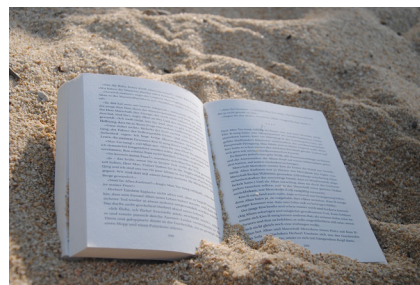
If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Susie Neubauer at: susieneubauer@gmail.com.

Summer Learning and Advocacy Check-In

Next Sunday, August 29, 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 second hybrid session at 11:45 a.m. next Sunday, August 29, 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.

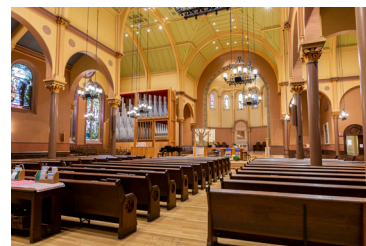


Summer Learning On Your Own — Antiracist Resources

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."

Our Current Thinking on Our Reopening Plan

We at First Church have been tracking the news of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus, and likely you have been, too. The headlines describing upticks in cases around the country, and even here in Massachusetts, reflect the sober reality that we are not yet free of this pandemic... [Read more](#)



FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

The Friday Café returns indoors (sort of)!

After 18 months outside, serving bag lunches and packaged restaurant meals to go, the [Friday Café](#) will shift to a **hybrid model on September 10**. We had hoped to be fully indoors from that date, but the Delta variant makes indoor dining too risky. So we will resume in-person volunteering, with home-cooked food served hot in Margaret Jewett Hall... but we will use take-out containers instead of plates, and seating will continue to be on the church lawn in dry weather... [Read more](#)



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](#)



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, August 23

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons and Executive Council, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, August 25

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Thursday, August 26

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

Friday, August 27

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

Saturday, August 28

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

Sunday, August 29

- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship, Dan Smith preaching, via livestream
- 11:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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