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**SUMMER WORSHIP**  
August 29, 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 29, 2021

<b>Leading Worship</b>	Jean Dany Joachim, <i>Poet-in-Residence</i> Fred Edson Lafortune, Rhina P. Espailat, Christopher Brandt, Mary Buchinger, Willy Ramirez, Toni Bee, and Guillou France Medeley, <i>poets</i>
<b>Assisting in Worship</b>	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship &amp; Arts</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

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### Today's Programs and Events

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
- 11:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn
- 11:30 a.m. Landscaping Party on the church lawn
- 11:45 a.m. Summer Learning & Advocacy Check-In, MJH and [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.org/give](http://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](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

Allein Gott in die Höh sei Ehr'

J. S. Bach

### \*HYMN 302

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

(see page 4)

### \*GREETING

Jean Dany Joachim

- 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

Jean Dany Joachim and Dan Smith

### ANTHEM

Walk Together, Children  
*First Church Choir, 2018*

Spiritual

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sarah Higginbotham

### 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

READING Psalm 19

READING Matthew 11: 28-30

### POETRY AND REFLECTIONS

Jean Dany Joachim, Fred Edson Lafortune,  
Rhina P. Espailat, Christopher Brandt,  
Mary Buchinger, Willy Ramirez,  
Toni Bee, and Guillou France Medeley

## 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 88**

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

*(see page 5)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina  
*First Church Choir, 2021*

**VOLUNTARY**

Uppon La Mi Re

14th C.



**Morning Worship Returns to 11:00 a.m. Next Sunday, September 5**  
Join us in-person or online one hour later next Sunday as we move our Morning Worship back to 11:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of September.

OPENING HYMN

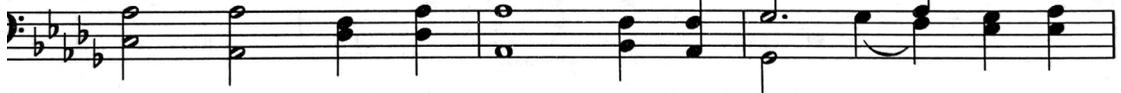
# Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1. Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to  
2. Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my  
3. Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you hea - vy  
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -  
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest  
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty.  
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care.



ORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990  
USIC: William P. Rowan, 1992, adapt.

AUSTIN  
87.87

## CLOSING HYMN

### My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

1. My Shep-herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name;  
2. When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
3. Your sure pro - vi - sions, gra - cious God, at - tend me all my days;

in pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake your ways;  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

you lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.  
MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm., FCC, 1997

RESIGNATION  
CMD

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We celebrate the birth of Laurie Burt's new granddaughter Olivia (Liv) Burt Engelkowski, who was born on August 19. Baby Liv, big sister Mara, and parents Alexa and Keith are all healthy and happy!
- 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 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, including 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 the people of Afghanistan in the wake of the U.S. military pull-out and the rapid and tragic collapse of the Afghani government at the hands of the Taliban, and for a swift and humane evacuation and resettling process for all who are fleeing. We pray especially for women, children and all who are facing increased violence, terror, discrimination and the 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 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 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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



### **Pastoral Care Cards at Popsicle Hour**

**11:30 a.m. on Summer Sundays**

Our Pastoral Care Teams have the summer off, but each Sunday through September 5 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. Urgent needs for care will be relayed to all Pastoral Care Team members 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](mailto:susieneubauer@gmail.com).

### **Landscaping Party after Worship**

**Today at 11:30 a.m.**

The Building and Grounds Committee is hosting another landscaping day at the church, and we'd love for you to join. We will continue to weed and also put down some mulch after church today, assuming the weather cooperates. We'll stick around until about 2:00 p.m. As before, we welcome overlapping participation in both landscaping and Popsicle Hour! If you wish to join, feel free to bring lunch to eat outside. We'd also appreciate it if anyone is able to bring additional tools to assist in the efforts (gloves, pruners, hand shovels), but these are not required - feel free to just bring yourself, and stay for as long as you like!



### **Summer Learning and Advocacy Check-In**

**Today at 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.

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



### GBIO Mayoral Forum

**Tuesday, August 31, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., via Zoom**

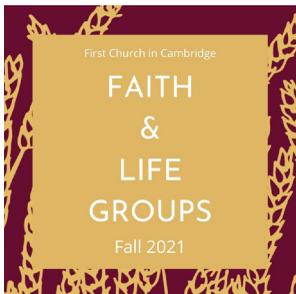
First Church, are you ready to take our power to Boston City Hall? The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's Mayoral Candidates Forum is fast approaching, and it is critical that we all come out to support our first action borne out of the Listening Campaign. We'll be asking the candidates for Mayor to commit to housing, mental health, and criminal justice reforms desperately needed in the city. Even if you do not live in Boston, your attendance shows

the candidates that GBIO is united and that our neighbors in Boston have friends that come through. Questions? Contact the First Church GBIO Core Team: [gbio@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:gbio@firstchurchcambridge.org)  
**Register here:** [bit.ly/gbiomayor](https://bit.ly/gbiomayor)

### Ecclesiastical Council for FCC Member Domenik Ackermann

**Wednesday, September 8, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., via Zoom**

First Church's Member in Discernment Dom Ackermann has reached a milestone on his journey toward ordination, and we invite you to bear witness to his accomplishments. An Ecclesiastical Council (EC) for Dom will be held to "examine his fitness to be ordained to the Christian Ministry." Come celebrate Dom's gifts for ministry! Learn more about Dom's EC and [register here](#).



### Call for Fall Faith & Life Group Leaders by September 8

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in-person this Fall? [Contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux](#) to discuss your idea for a Fall Faith & Life Group. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, and they involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to [Lexi!](#)

*Deadline for proposals: Wednesday, September 8!*

### In Memoriam

A service of remembrance and celebration will be held for beloved and longtime First Church member, **Rev. Cynthia Shoemaker**, at **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 19**, in the Sanctuary with an outdoor reception to follow, weather permitting. The service will also be livestreamed. Cynthia served as First Church's Minister of Christian Education in the 1980's and 90's. She died on April 21, 2021, following an extended struggle with Parkinson's Disease.

## FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



### ***Come, All You Thirsty:***

#### **Regathering Sunday, September 12**

On September 12, we will host a Regathering Sunday like no other! It will be fully hybrid. It will be deeply worshipful. It will be a chance to come together—in-person if you choose, or online if that's better for you, for whatever reason. It will be a regathering of our Covid-weary, connection-parched

souls, near and far—a time to celebrate the Spirit and this community which sustains us. It will be a chance to come to that "strong, renewing river" of our life together in God, to come "here where the Word runs cool and deep, calm and clear, sweet and wild."

You may not know yet whether "here" will be at 11 Garden Street or at home on a screen. That's okay; there's still time to decide. With the Delta surge, we are all still wondering what comes next. Our plans are (as per Covid-usual) "subject to change." Yet it's a good time to recall that "here" is where God is, which is wherever you are, and "here" is wherever we can meet God together... [Read more](#)

### **Plans for Regathering, Hybrid Style September Sundays, beginning at 9:45 a.m.**

We are eager to welcome everyone back to worship at First Church starting on [Regathering Sunday, September 12](#). Given ongoing concerns about the Delta variant, we've revised earlier plans and will now be offering a range of options, indoor and outdoor, in-person and online...

[Read more](#)



**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**  
Regathering 2021  
**SEPTEMBER SUNDAYS**

- 9:45 First Worship on the Lawn
- 10:15 Informal Outdoor Activities
- 10:45 Sanctuary Doors Open
- 11:00 Hybrid Worship in Sanctuary and livestreamed online
- 12:00 Popsicle Hour on the Lawn

[firstchurchcambridge.org](http://firstchurchcambridge.org)



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, August 30

- 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, August 31

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 11:30 a.m. All-Staff Lunch
- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Mayoral Forum, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

## Wednesday, September 1

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

## Thursday, September 2

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

## Friday, September 3

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

## Saturday, September 4

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

## Sunday, September 5 - Morning Worship returns to 11:00 a.m.

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 12:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn

## Monday, September 6 - Church building and office closed for Labor Day Holiday

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
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