



SUMMER WORSHIP
August 8, 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 8, 2021

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Beth Spaulding, *liturgist*
Phil Jones, *for GBIO*
Molly Rivelli, *musician*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

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

*HYMN (insert)

As We Gather at Your Table

*GREETING

Beth Spaulding

- 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

Beth Spaulding and Lexi Boudreaux

ANTHEM

Eternal Light
FCC Choir 2019

Mark Schweizer

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

READING Psalm 34:1-8

READING 1 Kings 19:4-8

SERMON Lexi Boudreaux

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT Phil Jones

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD Kate Layzer

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 (insert)**

Come, Living God, When Least Expected

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina
FCC Choir 2021

VOLUNTARY

OPENING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

Carl P. Daw, Jr., an Episcopal priest and prolific hymn-text writer, has recently become full-time Executive Director of the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada.

BEACH SPRING
87.87D

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.
Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN

Come, Living God, When Least Expected

1. Come, liv - ing God, when least ex - pect - ed, when minds are
 2. Come now, as once you came to Mo - ses with - in the
 3. Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us as viv - id

dull and hearts are cold, through sharp - ning word and warm af - fec - tion
 bush a - live with flame; or to E - li - jah on the moun - tain,
 truth and liv - ing Lord, ex - plod - ing doubt and dis - il - lu - sion

re - veal - ing truth as yet un - told. Break from the tomb in which we
 by si - lence press - ing home your claim. So, let our minds be sharp to
 to scat - ter hope and joy a - broad. And we will share his ra - diant

hide you to speak a - gain in start - ling ways; break through the
 read you in sight or sound or print - ed page, and let us
 bright - ness, and, blaz - ing through the dread of night, il - lu - mi -

words in which we bind you to res - ur - rect our life - less praise.
 greet you in our neigh - bors, in ar - dent youth or mel - low age.
 nate by love and rea - son, for those in dark - ness, faith's de - light.

WORDS: Alan Gaunt, 1991

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, *Cinquante pseauxmes en francois*, 1543, rev. 1551

The tune is from the 1543 Geneva Psalter, the earliest of psalters prepared by Louis Bourgeois for reformer John Calvin.

RENDEZ À DIEU
98.98 D

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admin. Home Publishing Co.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda Ziebell, who is recovering at home after a recent hospitalization.
- We pray for Kirsten Manville's father Keith Manville, who was hospitalized with blood pressure issues and is recovering at home.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux and her family. Lexi's step-grandfather Stanley M. Slawsby died earlier this week.
- 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 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 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 Walk -- [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

Our Recent Technical Difficulties Unfortunately, after 70 Sundays(!) of a working livestream, those trying to connect to our service on Sundays July 18 and August 1 received a message saying that our broadcast was offline. We've been working with Comcast and can now confirm that these glitches were due to widely reported local Comcast outages for the first week and to a "fried" Comcast router the second week. The tech even wondered if our building had been hit by lightning! Hopefully such is the likelihood of our having these issues anytime soon! A small group of in-person worshippers were able to join us for worship last Sunday, and we were able to stream and record the service to [Facebook](#). You may also find the video on our [YouTube channel](#). We thank you for your patience and we fully expect to be back on track for the coming weeks. Also, a heads up that we are continuing to experiment with different ways of staging our chancel with an eye to serving both at-home and in-person congregants. Please share any feedback you may have with a member of our worship staff as we make our way to Regathering Sunday on September 12.

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](#)



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 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."



FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



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, [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.



A Summer Walk with First Church Friends Sunday, August 15, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Meet Hilary Hopkins at Mount Auburn Cemetery (in front of the chapel at the main entrance) for a leisurely stroll (mostly flat!) of about an hour or so around the grounds; no agenda except our lovely selves. Probably a water bottle would be a good idea.

You can park on any road that does NOT have green lines on it. Welcome one and all!

Young Adults Walk

Wednesday, August 18 at 7 p.m.

The Young Adults will do a sunset stroll in Somerville, up to Prospect Park, a favorite view of the city! We'll meet at Gracie's Ice Cream at 7p.m. All who're out of high school, and looking for social connection with other young adults are welcome!



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, August 9

- 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.

Wednesday, August 11

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

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Thursday, August 12

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. GBIO Delegates' Assembly, via Zoom

Friday, August 13

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

Saturday, August 14

- 2:00 p.m. A Summer Walk with First Church Friends, Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Sunday, August 15

- 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship, Joanne Paul preaching, via livestream
- 11:30 a.m. Popsicle Hour on the church lawn
- 2:00 p.m. A Summer Walk with First Church Friends, Mt. Auburn Cemetery

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

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