



Season of Regathering
Hybrid Morning Worship
September 26, 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, September 26, 2021

Preaching Today	Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
Assisting in Worship	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i> Ebony West, <i>Ministerial Intern</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i> Jim Cairns, <i>liturgist</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

9:45 a.m.	First Worship on the Lawn
10:15 a.m.	Outdoor fellowship time with informal activities
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	All-Church-School Activity with Sarah, MJH
12:15 p.m.	Popsicle Hour on the Lawn
12:15 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
12:15 p.m.	Newcomers Gathering on the Lawn
12:15 p.m.	Young Adults: Brunch at Grendel's Den, meet on the Lawn
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for 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.

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

Toccata in F Major

Dieterich Buxtehude

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lexi Boudreaux

***HYMN C-23**

Come, All You Thirsty (verses 2 and 3 only)
For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.

***GREETING**

Jim Cairns

L: Siblings in the Spirit, wherever you are, hear God's call to come together!

C: Come, all who thirst for warmth and connection.

L: Come, all who yearn for solace and hope!

C: Come, all who are hungry for kindness and courage.

L: Come, all who are feeling strong and ready. Come, all who are feeling anxious and afraid.

C: Come, wherever you are on the journey.

L: Enter into this river of life and compassion, and let God's presence—calm, clear and deep—hold you.

C: Let God's presence carry us all in this river of Love!

WORDS OF WELCOME

BLESSING FOR ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND CAREGIVERS

Sarah Higginbotham

This is the second in a series of blessings we will be offering this season giving thanks for those for whom Covid has been a particular stress and strain.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Ebony West

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:

C: Loving God, we meet you in our quiet place to ask you to forgive us.

**Help us find our way to being our best selves,
following the example of Jesus, our brother and our friend.**

Keep us going when we struggle.

Don't let us give up when things are hard.

Show us, through your love, that we are enough. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

L: God is good,
C: all the time!
L: All the time,
C: God is good!

*GREETING OF PEACE

Staying in place and observing social distance, share this good news wherever you are! Send it back to us! Share it with a neighbor! Send it to the world!

Children from preschool to 7th grade are now invited to join Sarah and a few volunteers in Margaret Jewett Hall for an All-Church-School activity. Parents can meet their children on the outdoor playground after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Exodus 17:1-7

SERMON

Jaz Buchanan

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME OF LAYING DOWN AND LIFTING UP

Dan Smith

At this time, we ask you to take out your stone for a time of prayer and reflection.

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**

For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.

**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 416**

All My Hope on God is Founded
For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major

Dieterich Buxtehude

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH



Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand? Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the **Members & Friends** page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.

You can scan the codes below to connect with First Church via social media.

SCAN ME



OPENING HYMN

Come, All You Thirsty

C-23

verses 2 and 3

1. Come, all you thirst - y, to the riv - er,
 → 2. Come to the good, for - giv - ing riv - er,
 → 3. Come to the strong, re - new - ing riv - er,
 4. Riv - er of life, what deep com - pass - ion

here where the Word runs cool and deep.
 here where the Word runs calm and clear.
 here where the Word runs sweet and wild.
 feeds your e - ter - nal mer - cy song?

Come with the out - casts, crushed and bro - ken,
 Wash in the truth that frees the spi - rit;
 Come by God's gift, though un - de - ser - ving;
 God's own face shines in you re - flec - ted,

come, you who rage and you who weep.
 shed the ex - cus - es you hold dear.
 come be - cause God has called you Child.
 call - ing us back where we be - long.

WORDS: Kate Layzer
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes

"Then the angel showed me the river of life,
 bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God
 and from the Lamb." Rev 22.1

CLOSING HYMN

417 All My Hope on God Is Founded

1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does all my trust re-new.
 2. Day by day the al-might-y giv-er boun-teous gifts on us be-stows;
 3. Still from earth to God e-ter-nal hymns of grate-ful praise be sung,

Safe through change and chance God guides me, on-ly good and on-ly true.
 with de-light our souls are nour-ished, plea-sure leads us where we go.
 high a-bove all prais-es prais-ing for the gift of Christ the Son.

God un-known, One a-lone seeks to claim my heart as home.
 Love does stand at God's hand; joy a-waits each new com-mand.
 Hear Christ's call one and all; those who fol-low shall not fall.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, c. 1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1899, alt.
 MUSIC: Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

MICHAEL
 87.87.337

Self-taught in music composition, Howells earned a scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London where he later taught. MICHAEL is named for Howells' son who died in childhood.

Music © 1982 Novello & Co., Ltd.,
 admin. Shawnee Press, Inc.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Ida Peterson (age 2) and her moms Kelsey and Tori, as Ida recovers from a recent hospitalization and as she prepares for a rescheduled third cardiac surgery in November.
- We pray for Ken Ziebell, who is now fully recovered and at home after suffering a series of seizures and spending several days in a Neurological ICU earlier this week.
- We pray for Paula Stanley, who was re-hospitalized this past week and is now recovering from surgery at home.
- 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 students, teachers, administrators, and school staff who are returning to school amidst rising Covid cases and ongoing divisive politics around masking and vaccinations. We also pray for healthcare workers who are stretched thin by ongoing demands of the pandemic.
- We pray for all who have been impacted by Hurricane Ida; may they receive support in assessing damage and rebuilding from the wreckage. We pray for those who grieve the loss of life during this disaster.
- We pray for the people of Afghanistan, 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 Haitian immigrants at the US southern border who have experienced violent and harsh treatment from border patrol agents. We pray that the US government may find a way to lead boldly in developing compassionate policies for those seeking refuge in our country.
- We pray for the people of Texas and for all Americans in the wake of state legislation passed that limits choice in reproductive rights. We pray for the health and wellness of all pregnant people in Texas and for those who are continuing to fight for a person's right to choose what is best for their wellbeing.
- 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, for all who live in paths of storms and wildfires, and 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

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

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.

- 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.

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

In Memoriam A memorial service will be held for beloved First Church member Eric Riedel on Saturday, October 23, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with an outdoor reception to follow, weather permitting. The service will also be livestreamed. Eric, who was married to First Church member Karen Anne Zee in 2014, died peacefully by her side on January 16, 2020, in Gainesville, Florida, following a long illness.



Welcome Ministerial Intern Ebony West

We are so pleased to welcome Ebony West as a Ministerial Intern at First Church for the 2021-22 program year! Ebony is in her second year of the Master of Divinity program at Harvard Divinity School. Hailing from Orlando, Florida, she is here to pursue her calling as a military chaplain for the U.S. Army. As a ministerial intern at First Church, she will be involved with the Friday Café, the Young Adults group, worship planning, and pastoral care. Ebony comes eager to learn from and serve this amazing community. You can reach her at:

ebony@firstchurchcambridge.org

Ordination of Lexi Boudreaux

Sunday, October 24, 3:00 p.m. at United Parish in Brookline

It is with great joy that United Parish in Brookline extends to First Church a warm invitation to the Service of Ordination for our Transitional Minister Lexi Boudreaux! First Church called Lexi to this position by a unanimous vote at a Special Congregational Meeting last June, and now is the time to celebrate with Lexi as she becomes an ordained clergy person in the United Church of Christ. The service will be a hybrid one, so you may choose to attend in-person or online. More details will be forthcoming as the day approaches, but, for now, please save the date.



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Popsicle Hour Continues Into September! 12:15 p.m. on September Sundays

We are continuing our outdoor fellowship time after 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in September. Come to Popsicle Hour to connect with First Church friends, old and new.



Regathering Zoom Coffee Hour Today at 12:00 p.m., via Zoom

Whether you are out-of-town, under-the-weather, or just aren't feeling ready to be in-person yet, join us for [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour. Bring your own coffee or beverage of choice and join for a time of connection, online sharing of joys and concerns, and Q&A about all things First Church.



Newcomers Gathering Today at 12:15 p.m., on the church lawn

If you are new to First Church, are feeling a little bit new, or are interested in exploring membership, please join us for our first Newcomers Gathering of the year. We'll meet after Hybrid Worship today during Popsicle Hour on the lawn. Come with your questions and with an expectation to meet some new people. Come to learn a bit more about First Church and how you might find a sense of belonging here. [Read about our upcoming Joining Sunday on October 17.](#)

Young Adults: Brunch at Grendel's Den Today at 12:15 p.m., meet on the church lawn

The First Church Young Adults Group is back in action! We get together a few times every month for some low stakes conversation, sharing faith journeys, and hanging out. Today walk down to Grendel's Den in Harvard Square for an after-church brunch. It would be great to see you, whether you're checking out First Church for a day or have been here for a long time. All who are out of high school are welcome!



FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

A Season of Regathering, Hybrid Style September Sundays, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

This year, given ongoing Covid concerns, the regathering of our community isn't limited to the second Sunday of September! We are taking our time this month to experience new ways of being together with new guidelines for how we keep each other safe and healthy. Consider it a "Season of Regathering," as more and more of us get comfortable with hybrid experiences. We're offering a range of options, indoor and outdoor, in-person and online... [Read more, including our Covid-10 protocols](#)



Register for a Fall Faith & Life Group

It's time to sign up for fall Faith & Life Groups! Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests. If you are looking for a way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you!

- **Art Symbolizes Faith** with Henry Gates
- **EcoFaith Group** with Jim Brown and Jaz Buchanan
- **Exploring Our Relationship with the Bible** with Lexi Boudreaux
- **Group Spiritual Direction** with Alex Steinert-Evoy
- **Stroll and See Fresh Pond** with Hilary Hopkins
- **Embodied Readings** with Bruce Hoppe and Amy Matias

Read the full descriptions of each group on the signup form [here](#). Questions? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux or the leader of the group directly.

Blessing of the Animals at First Worship Sunday, October 3 at 9:45 a.m.

On the Sunday nearest to St. Francis Day, we invite you and your beloved animal companions to join us for a special Blessing of the Animals as part of our First Worship service at 9:45 on the First Church lawn. This will be a moment of gratitude for all the gifts our pets give us and a celebration of all God's creatures and creation! All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small are welcome! Pets are welcome on leash or in crates; if it's easier on you and/or your pet, you may also bring a photo to be blessed.



FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, October 2, 8:00 a.m. on the church lawn

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person this Saturday morning for a time to gather, reflect, and rejoice. We won't be using the kitchen, so please bring your own favorite beverage and breakfast fixings. We will meet outside on the lawn (chairs provided). We will be doing an extended check-in. Questions? Contact [Peter Byerly](#).



SNEUCC Super Saturday

Saturday, October 2, 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Southern New England Conference's [Super Saturday](#) is a day filled with a variety of virtual workshops, marketplace, and networking. Meet other people from the UCC in the New England area, worship, and attend as many or as few workshops as you would like! The theme this year is:

Building on God's Promises: A Time of Personal Renewal. [Super Saturday registration is now open!](#) See all the workshop offerings [here](#).

A Sneak Peek at *Bounty* and Conversation with gkisedtanamoogk (Mashpee Wampanoag) and Mishy Lesser, Ed.D.

Sunday, October 3, 2021, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

Join us for a special preview of the 9-minute documentary *Bounty*, soon to be released by the award winning Upstander Project. The film features Penobscot parents and their children celebrating their survival by reading and reacting to a government-issued bounty proclamation that promised large sums of money for colonial settlers to hunt, scalp, and murder Penobscot people. The proclamation was issued in 1755 by Lieutenant Governor Spencer Phips, Commander-in-Chief of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, and member of First Church in Cambridge who lived for many years on nearby Brattle Street.

After the film, we will be joined by two outstanding educators from the Upstander Academy, gkisedtanamoogk (Mashpee Wampanoag) and Mishy Lesser, Ed.D., for a time of conversation and learning together... [Read more](#)



FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Fall Pilgrimages with First Church

Join us this fall as we embark on holy pilgrimages in prayer, quieting our minds and expanding our hearts to hear the Word of God across time and space.



image from royallhouse.org



image from nps.gov



image from cctvcambridge.org

Royall House and Slave Quarters - Medford Sunday, October 10 at 3:00 p.m.

Join a pilgrimage to Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, inhabited by the largest slaveholding family in Massachusetts in the 18th century. The tour takes about two hours and does involve staircases in the building, but the landscape itself is mostly flat. We will meet at the museum! The museum is accessible by public transportation: the 96 bus can take you from Massachusetts Ave/Waterhouse Street to George Street/Main street (one-minute walk to the museum). Group tour tickets are \$12 per person; scholarships are available. [Sign up here](#). Contact [Jaz Buchanan](#) for more information.

Black Heritage Trail - Beacon Hill, Boston Sunday, November 14 at 3:00 p.m.

rain date: November 28 at 3:00 p.m.

[Learn more and sign up here.](#)

African American Heritage Trail - Cambridgeport Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.

rain date: December 26 at 3:00 p.m.

[Learn more and sign up here.](#)

Women's Book Group

Tuesday, October 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Please join other First Church women for a lively and thoughtful discussion of our book-of-the-month, chosen by all who are involved. We read a variety of books—contemporary, classics, fiction, non-fiction, or whatever our group wants. We are always open to suggestions. This month we have decided on [The Testament of Mary by Colm Tóibín](#) (90 pages!); we hope to see you there. Questions?

Contact Community Minister [Alex Steinert-Evoy](#)... [Read more](#)



WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and
spiritual practice in community





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, September 27

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Exploring Reparations Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, September 29

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. A Call to Return: Part 2, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Thursday, September 30

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

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

Friday, October 1

- 9:00 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) and the church lawn

Saturday, October 2

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast on Church Lawn
- 9:00 a.m. SNEUCC Super Saturday, online

Sunday, October 3

- 9:45 a.m. First Worship on the Lawn: Blessing of the Animals
- 10:15 a.m. Informal Outdoor Activities
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 10:45 a.m. Sanctuary doors open
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in the Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Popsicle Hour on the Lawn
- 12:30 p.m. A Sneak Peek at *Bounty* and Conversation, via Zoom
- 1:15 p.m. Youth Group on the Lawn
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song in the Sanctuary and via livestream

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