



Hybrid Morning Worship
October 31, 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, October 31, 2021

Preaching Today	Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
Assisting in Worship	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
	Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i>
	Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i>
	Don Johnson, <i>liturgist</i>
	Moana Bentin, <i>Deacon</i>
	Nate Jones, <i>Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair</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.	Breakfast Reception for Rev. Lexi Boudreaux, church lawn
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.	Children's Worship with Sarah, Library
12:00 p.m.	After-Church on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
1:00 p.m.	Mitch Snyder Awards Ceremony, via livestream
1:15 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) Student Meetup, playground
1:15 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Orientation, Sage Hall
2:15 p.m.	Youth Group: Pumpkin Carving, church 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. 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

Allein Gott in die Höh sei Ehr'

J. S. Bach

*HYMN C-6

Psalm 100

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

*GREETING

Sarah Higginbotham

L: Siblings in the Spirit from North, South, East and West,
gather now, and know the goodness of God's love!

C: **From generation to generation,
we gather in God's strength and presence!**

L: Gather, and receive the Spirit's grace, solace and healing.

C: **Gather, and know the gifts of this community of belonging and becoming!**

L: Let the Spirit hold our sins and our sorrow, our hopes and our joy.

C: **Let us open our hearts now, open our souls now,
and let us worship, giving God all thanks, glory, and praise!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham and Don Johnson

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Please sing or hum quietly.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*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 for Children's Worship in the Library.

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Ruth 1:1-18

SERMON

Jaz Buchanan

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. ALEXANDRA BOUDREAUX

INTRODUCTION

Dan Smith and Moana Bentin

VOWS

Lexi: I welcome God's call to bring us together in covenant for this designated-term, and so near as God shall give me grace, I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the office of Transitional Minister according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the gospel among you:

I will pray for you, listen to you, encourage and challenge you

as we work in mutual ministry towards the goals you have discerned together.

**C: And we, the people of First Church in Cambridge,
receive you as a servant of God.**

**We pledge our partnership as we live into our collective ministry
in Christ's name and work towards the goals set before us
during this season of ministry.**

Lexi: May God bless us and lead us as we together embark on this season of ministry.

BLESSING

**All: Gracious God, be with us now as we enter into this new season.
Strengthen the bonds of our covenant as we work and serve in your name.
Bless us and guide us as we dream dreams about our future,
so that we might be prepared for the next stage in this congregation's life.
Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us
in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others,
through Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

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

Nate Jones



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

Brother James' Air

arr. Gordon Jacob

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 353

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Exactly What You Would Expect On This Date
(*a.k.a. Toccata and Fugue in d minor*)

J.S. Bach

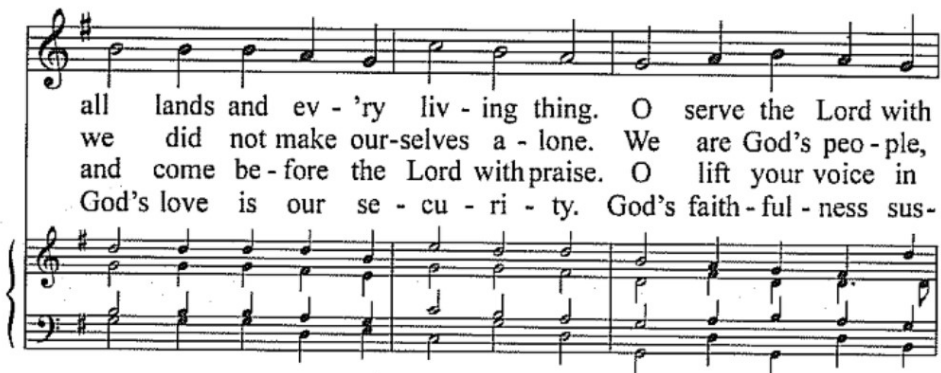
OPENING HYMN

C-6

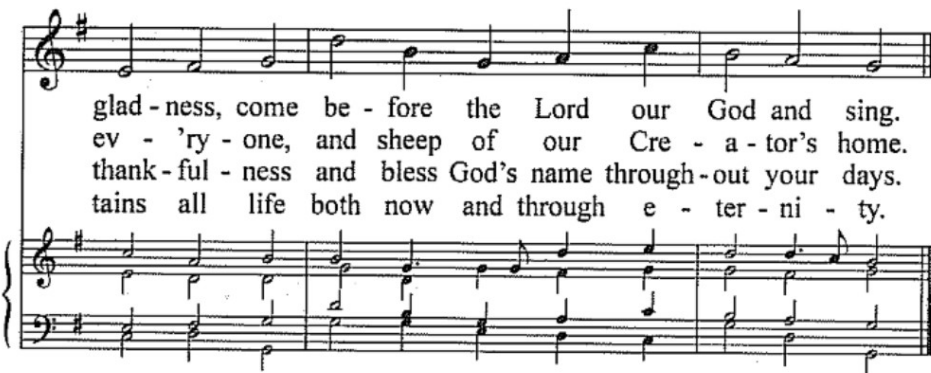
Psalm 100



1. O make a joy - ful noise to God,
 2. Know that the Lord God made us all,
 3. O en - ter, then, God's gates with thanks,
 4. Be - cause the Lord our God is good,



all lands and ev - 'ry liv - ing thing. O serve the Lord with
 we did not make our-selves a - lone. We are God's peo - ple,
 and come be - fore the Lord with praise. O lift your voice in
 God's love is our se - cu - ri - ty. God's faith - ful - ness sus -



glad - ness, come be - fore the Lord our God and sing.
 ev - 'ry - one, and sheep of our Cre - a - tor's home.
 thank - ful - ness and bless God's name through - out your days.
 tains all life both now and through e - ter - ni - ty.


WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: Setting by John Dowland



OLD HUNDREDTH

-Hymn Insert 1-



353 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



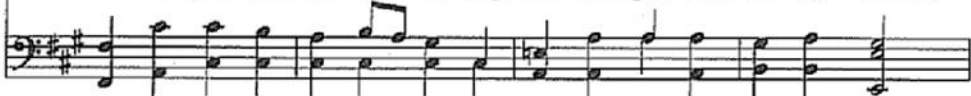

1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life

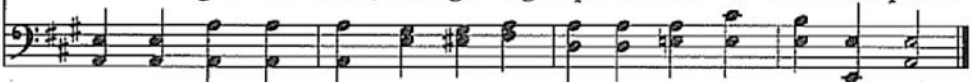
we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace,
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-ers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

e-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new pow'r and strength for ac-tion, make us part-ners, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray with joyful thanksgiving for the recent birth of Peggy and Mike Stevens's twin grandsons Luca Wolf Ertel and George Carl Ertel, and for their parents Katie and Noah Ertel and big sister Isabel.
- We pray for Abby Shuman and her family as they mourn the loss of Abby's mother Jeri, who died of heart failure on Monday night.
- We pray for First Church Sexton Kimel Williams and his family. Kimel's sister Janet died recently, and the family continues to grieve the loss of Kimel's nephew Jesse Eason, who died recently from Covid-19.
- We pray for First Church Sexton George Williams, who is recovering from eye surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; 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 impacted by the rapidly deteriorating crisis at "Mass and Cass" in Boston, especially this week for those whose makeshift tents and homes have been uprooted by the City of Boston. We pray for creative and compassionate solutions that honor the dignity of all.
- 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 the 17 missionaries that are being held hostage for a ransom by gang members in Haiti.
- We pray for the family and community of Ahmaud Arbery as the trial for those accused of his murder begins in Georgia. We pray that our nation may continue to face the legacy of systemic racism that pervades our society and endangers Black lives.
- 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 the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference in Glasgow and for a renewed collective commitment that faithfully stewards our planet and all of God's creation.
- 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Breakfast Reception for Rev. Lexi Boudreaux Sunday, October 31 at 9:45 a.m., church lawn

Wahoo, Lexi is ordained! It happened last Sunday afternoon in a joyful service at her home church of United Parish in Brookline, where she was surrounded by family and friends, by members of UP and FCC, and by the love of the Holy Spirit, which was most definitely in the house! Today we celebrate Lexi's Installation as our Transitional Minister. Please join us for a special pre-service breakfast on the lawn at 9:45 in honor of these joyous occasions in Lexi's life and in our life together! Go Rev. Boudreaux!



You can find the [Zoom link](#) on our calendar.

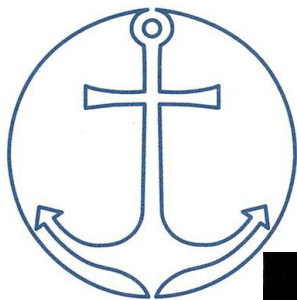
How We Are Gathering in October

Welcome back! And...welcome forward!

On Sunday, September 12, our annual Regathering Sunday, First Church flung wide its doors and resumed offering in-person worship to all. It was a joy-filled reunion and a chance to begin to experience our hybrid worshipping community in new ways. We are in-person, and we continue to live-stream indefinitely. Some of us are now coming to church. Some of us are choosing to join online. Some of us are taking it week-to-week. And many of you provided valuable feedback on your experiences in our Fall Regathering Survey. [See details of our Sunday Schedule for October 10, 17, 24, and 31 and read highlights from the survey.](#)



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



**First Church Shelter presents the 2021 Mitch Snyder Awards
Sunday, October 31, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Awards Ceremony via livestream,
Invitation-Only Reception in Margaret Jewett Hall**

The First Church Shelter will present the 2021 Mitch Snyder Awards in a brief ceremony to be livestreamed from the Sanctuary of First Church in Cambridge. This year's recipients are:



- Ms. Tehya Johnson, *Boston Healthcare for the Homeless*
- The Tuesday Meal Program, *First Parish in Cambridge*
- Mr. Joe Finn, *Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance*
- The Harvard Square Meals Program, *Cambridge*
- The University Lutheran Church, *Cambridge*

The ceremony will be followed by an invitation-only reception (due to Covid) in Margaret Jewett Hall.

Our Whole Lives: Student Meetup and Parent Orientation

Sunday, October 31 at 1:15 p.m.

Church Playground and Sage Hall

After delaying the start of Our Whole Lives (OWL) to observe and respond to Covid

concerns this fall, First Church in Cambridge and

Old South Church will launch the 2021-22 OWL program for 8th and 9th graders with a student meetup and a parent orientation meeting today. Students will participate in a “get to know you” session with facilitators, who will introduce OWL values and goals for learning. Parents will meet with Sarah Higginbotham and her OSC colleague for a required orientation to the curriculum. Weekly OWL sessions for students will begin on Sunday, January 9, 2022, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. If you have questions about OWL at First Church, please [contact Sarah](#).



Youth Group: Pumpkin Carving

Sunday, October 31 at 2:15 p.m.

Church Lawn

The Youth Group will be meeting on the lawn to carve and paint pumpkins in celebration of All Souls Day and Halloween. Come in costume and bring your favorite kind of candy to share! Questions? Contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#).

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

First Worship on the Lawn: All Saints Sunday Sunday, November 7 at 9:45 a.m.

Come celebrate All Saints Sunday at a 30-minute casual, family-friendly service for all, and especially for those who aren't yet ready to worship inside. We'll be joined by First Church's Saint Puppets, as we remember all those in the "communion of saints." We'll celebrate Communion and enjoy the sounds of our All Saints Band. Look for us under the blue tent by the Yellowwood tree!



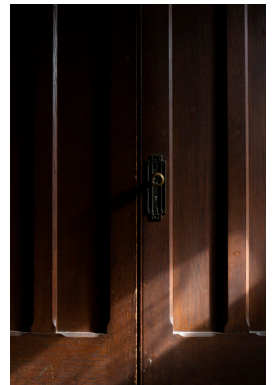
Peter Sykes's 35th Anniversary as First Church Music Director Sunday, November 7

On November 7, we will celebrate Peter Sykes's 35th anniversary as Music Director at First Church in Cambridge. In addition to offering Peter a blessing in worship and hearing him play the piece with which he auditioned for the job(!), we will host an in-person cake reception in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship (please plan to keep your masks on, except for when you are taking bites or sipping!). In advance of our Sunday celebration, plan to join us for a **B.Y.O.B. Zoom at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 4**, where we will share stories and extend to Peter our thanks for the extraordinary gifts First Church has received from his presence among us for 35 years.

Welcoming Ministry Mini-Retreat Sunday, November 7, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

First Church Lawn or MJH (if weather requires)

Would you like to help us think more intentionally about how to welcome all into our midst? Please join us for a mini-retreat to check in about how our Welcoming Ministry is going at First Church. Help us consider how we can have fresh eyes to see and open hearts to carry Jesus' radical welcome to every body—that's people of every race, class, sexual orientation, gender, age, ability and political affiliation—every body! How do we continue to live out this commitment in community? If you would like to join the conversation, please RSVP to Lexi Boudreaux. [Read more](#)



FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



Meet with the Environmental Stew Crew!
Sunday, November 14 at 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
Whether you have been on the Environmental Stewardship committee for years or you just have the slightest interest in exploring the relationship between Christianity and climate crisis work, come join us! We will be asking the big questions: What is God calling us to do as a church right now? Knowing this all can feel awfully overwhelming;

how can our faith give us the strength, energy, and courage to keep going? For more info, contact Jaz: jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org

Service of Ordination for Domenik Ackermann

Sunday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Hybrid: Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge cordially invites you to the Service of Ordination for First Church member Domenik Ackermann. In a unanimous vote, Domenik was called by West Parish Church in Andover to be their Associate Minister for Education. Let us celebrate together with Dom as he becomes an ordained clergyperson in the United Church of Christ. There will be a cookie reception outside after the service, weather-permitting. [Read more](#)



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 nps.gov

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.](#)



image from cctvcambridge.org

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.](#)

STEWARDSHIP 2022



Are you ready to put out
into the deep water?
November is Stewardship season.

Save these dates:

Wednesday, November 10

7:00 p.m.

“Faith & Money”

a creative Bible study on Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, November 14

11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Stewardship Sunday

Hybrid Worship

2022 Budget Q&A

Sunday, November 21

11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Pledge Dedication Sunday

Hybrid Worship

Chowder Reception

Fall Congregational Meeting

Watch for our weekly Stewardship emails!



SCAN ME

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.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, November 1

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. GBIO Core Team, via Zoom

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

Tuesday, November 2

- 4:00 p.m. Monthy FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. "Exploring Our Relationship with the Bible" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, November 3

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, November 4

- 5:00 p.m. 35th Anniversary Celebration Zoom for Peter Sykes, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom

Friday, November 5

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall and the church lawn

Saturday, November 6

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, church lawn

Sunday, November 7 - All Saints Sunday - Daylight Savings Time Ends

- 9:45 a.m. First Worship on the Lawn: All Saints Sunday
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship in the Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Children's Worship with Sarah, Library
- 12:00 p.m. Cake Reception for Peter Sykes, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. "Art Symbolizes Faith" Display, MJH
- 1:30 p.m. Welcoming Ministry Mini-Retreat, church lawn
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song in the Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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