



Christmastide
Morning Worship
January 2, 2022

**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, January 2, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Director of Music*
Moana Bentin, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

Today's Programs and Events

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
12:00 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour

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

We invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion. All are welcome at the Table!

VOLUNTARY

The Old Year Is Past

J.S. Bach

*HYMN 164

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lexi Boudreaux

L: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light!

C: Glory streams from heaven afar! Alleluia!

L: The Daystar shines upon us!

C: The darkness cannot put it out!

The Christ Candle is lit.

L: The light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Moana Bentin

L: Let us pray:

C: Praise to you, O God, for the light of Jesus!

L: Praise to you, O Christ, for the mystery of love,

C: the dawn of hope,

L: the gift of faith!

**C: Praise to you, O God,
who finds us in the shadows of night
and shines a human face to light our way. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Kate Layzer

SILENCE

**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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: **Holy God, we confess**

**that we move too quickly to the next thing,
busy with lists of things to do, places to go, and people to see.**

We are done with the old year and ready for this new one.

On this ninth day of Christmas, slow us down.

Let us linger in this Christmastide

and at the threshold of a New Year,

glad for the gift of Jesus,

grateful for the simple pleasures of life,

and focused on how we treat ourselves and others.

Let these brightening days fill us with your love,

that we may see your world illuminated anew. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

Share this good news wherever you are! Send it back to us! Share it with a neighbor! Send it to the world!

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

John 1:1-9, 10-18

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already



Pledge for 2022

***DOXOLOGY**

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SHARING THE FEAST

***INVITATION**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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.**

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 414**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

In Thee Is Gladness

J.S. Bach

Young Adults: Ice Skating

Next Sunday, January 9, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Kendall Square, Cambridge

Outdoor ice skating after church at Skate@Canal District Kendall!

Meet at 300 Athenaeum Street, Cambridge, at 2:00 p.m.

Skate rentals available, as is hot chocolate!



Call for Winter Faith & Life Group Leaders by January 12

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in person this Winter? Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). Contact Lexi Boudreaux to discuss your idea for leading a Faith & Life Group. ***Deadline for proposals is Wednesday, January 12.***

EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



As we come into a new year together, and yet another year of pandemic, our tradition offers the season of Epiphany. It's a time to hold and share the light of Christ from Christmas and to pray and reflect together about how God's love and light are being revealed in us and in our world! We have several offerings to help keep us connected to each other and to our tradition amidst these anxious and weary times. Join us for one or all of the following opportunities, as we wonder together about how God is showing up, and lighting up, our lives and world, through beauty, image and art, through scripture, in relationship with one another, and in our deep connection to all of creation. Find more information about our Epiphany offerings [here](#).



Epiphany Prayer Service and Walk

This Thursday, January 6, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Church Lawn & Cambridge Common



Multigenerational Formation:

A Season of Image and Imagination

Sundays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Beginning Next Sunday, January 9, via Zoom



Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke with Brent Coffin

Tuesdays, January 11 - February 22 (excepting Jan 18)
7:30 - 8:45 a.m., via Zoom



Aging with Grace and Dying Well

Tuesdays, January 25 - March 1
3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom



Call to Return 3.0:

Spiritual Ecology and Racial Justice with Carlyle Stewart

Wednesdays, January 19 - February 23
7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

OPENING HYMN

164 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

1, 5. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3. Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our path - way and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts heav'n - ly fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him, in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor. *(repeat stanza 1)*

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1811, alt.
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. FCC, 1997

WALKER
 11 10.11 10

Here a text by an English Anglican bishop is set to an American Appalachian tune. The dactylic meter of one strong, then two weak pulses, makes it 'dance.'

Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

414

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 love's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to show and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - f'rence
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings -

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, January 3

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom

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

Tuesday, January 4

- 4:00 p.m. First Church Professional Caregivers' Call, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, January 5

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, January 6 - Epiphany

- 6:00 p.m. Epiphany Service and Walk, Church Lawn & Cambridge Common
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

Friday, January 7

- 9:00 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, front lobby
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall and the church lawn

Saturday, January 8

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, location TBD

Sunday, January 9

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image and Imagination
- 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. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 2:00 p.m. Young Adults: Ice Skating, Kendall Square
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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