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Advent  
Hybrid Morning Worship  
December 19, 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, December 19, 2021

<b>Leading Worship</b>	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i> Jaz Buchanan, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Director of Music</i> Phil Jones, <i>liturgist</i> Brenner family, <i>Advent Candle-Lighting</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Freddie Funck, <i>Youth Group member</i>

### Today's Programs and Events

10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Zoom</a> Coffee Hour
12:15 p.m.	All-Church Cookie Swap, MJH
1:00 p.m.	Youth Group: Christmas Gift Exchange, Library
1:15 p.m.	Young Adults: North End Stroll, Boston Public Market
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### 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](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)

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

*Masks will be lowered by worship leaders when speaking at their discretion.*

**VOLUNTARY**

In dulci jubilo

Johann Michael Bach

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Jaz Buchanan and Dan Smith

**\*GREETING**

Phil Jones

L: Siblings in Christ, God's love is already here with us,  
and yet, it's always coming our way!

**C: God's peace is already here, right in our hearts,  
and yet, it's waiting to be born anew!**

L: God's joy is already here in our worship,  
and it's just a taste of what's to come!

**C: So we gather now, in this season of wonder and waiting,**

L: finding strength in what's already here  
and in sacred mysteries, known and unknown.

**C: Prepare the way for God's already, not yet, glory!**

**ALL: Let it be revealed in Christ and in us!**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Brenner family

L: God, we light this fourth candle of Advent.  
We kindle it with love.

**C: May that love sustain us in this time,  
and guide us in our work for compassion and justice.**

**SONG**

Lexi Boudreaux

**Give me light in the darkness, light in the darkness,  
light in the darkness to sing my soul awake.**  
*(Sing twice through.)*

## CONFESSING

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**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 justice, pardon and peace:

C: **God, when we despair that we aren't there yet,  
fill the space in-between.**

**When we are weary, afraid, and longing for stability,  
give us pathways of hope and flexibility.**

**When we grow tired of waiting, forgive us, we pray,**

**and give us your vision of where we are now and where we are going.**

**We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## 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!*

## THE UNPAGEANT

## LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

## ANGEL GABRIEL'S GOOD NEWS

### \*HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came  
*For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.*

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame;  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,"  
most highly favored lady! Gloria!**

**"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations praise and honor thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold."  
Most highly favored lady! Gloria!**

## THE VISITATION

## MARY AND JOSEPH JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

## ANTHEM

Children, Go Where I Send Thee

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS

### \*HYMN

Away in a Manger  
*For everyone's safety, please sing quietly or hum.*  
**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

## ANGEL GABRIEL GREETES THE SHEPHERDS

ANTHEM Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow

## THE WISE ONES FOLLOW THE STAR

ANTHEM Behold That Star

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already



Pledge for 2022

### \*DOXOLOGY

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

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

## GOING FORTH

### \*HYMN

Joy to the World

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

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her King;**

**Let every heart prepare Him room,**

**And Heaven and nature sing,**

**And Heaven and nature sing,**

**And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods,**

**rocks, hills and plains**

**Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace,**

**And makes the nations prove**

**The glories of His righteousness,**

**And wonders of His love,**

**And wonders of His love,**

**And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

### \*BENEDICTION



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.

SCAN ME

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for sexton George Williams, whose nephew Jacobey Williams died last week at the age of 33 due to respiratory issues.
- We pray for Taj Smith, whose cousin Jamal was killed recently in a tragic bike accident.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; 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 crisis at "Mass and Cass" in Boston, especially 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 all impacted by the tornado outbreak last weekend which killed at least 88 people in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, and Mississippi.
- We pray for our nation at this time of bitter divide as more details of last January 6's insurrection at the Capitol Building are revealed.
- We pray for those grieving the loss of life and those dealing with the trauma of the school shooting in Oxford, Michigan, last week. We continue to pray for the political will to enact common sense gun legislation.
- As we mark 800,000 deaths nationwide, we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19 diagnoses and for all who are awaiting vaccines, globally and locally. We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19 and for those experiencing symptoms of long Covid.
- When we feel helpless and overwhelmed by the climate crisis, we pray for the divine wisdom, strength and courage needed to ensure that local, national, and global remediation and reparation efforts distribute power equitably and protect the most vulnerable.
- 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.*

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

*Already Here, Not Yet There*

### ADVENT 2021 AT FIRST CHURCH

#### **Advent 2021: *Already Here, Not Yet There***

This classic Advent theme seems to fit this year more than most! Indeed, we are stepping into a new season — not only Advent, but also in our mid-pandemic world. We are gathering for hybrid worship. We are already doing more with family and friends than we were a year ago. And yet, nothing feels quite the same as before...[Read more](#)

**Our Advent Candle-Lighting Song** is based on “Give Me Birds at the Dawning,” written by Betsy Binstock and arranged by Peter & Mary Alice Amidon, from *Twenty-five Anthems for Interfaith and Community Choirs* ©2016, Amidon Music Publishing. The words have been adapted to fit the Advent season.

And once again, we are featuring three **Advent Banners** with images designed by Vermont artist Janet McKenzie, thanks to a generous donation from Laurie Williams and Andrea Seek. The Deacons were pleased to support this project last year as part of our ongoing efforts to lift up historically and Biblically underrepresented images and voices of

women and persons of color. The images are entitled ***The Annunciation*** and ***The Visitation***, and ***Holy Mother of the East***.

#### **All-Church Cookie Swap**

**Today, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., MJH**

While we can't gather together for our traditional Christmas Party after worship, we can celebrate with cookies! Bake or buy 6-10 dozen of your favorite holiday cookie, and then package them by the ½ dozen (6 cookies per bag) to be offered at our first All-Church Cookie Swap. Label each bag with ingredients/allergy info before dropping them off in Margaret Jewett Hall before or just after Hybrid Worship. In your baking/buying plans, consider if you can provide gluten-free, dairy-free, or low-sugar options, and definitely label any baked goods that contain nuts. We'll organize them on tables and invite everyone to walk through from the parish building entrance to the Mason Street door, picking up treats along the way. Help spread some Christmas joy on UnPageant Sunday; the more cookies, the merrier!



#### **Youth Group: Christmas Gift Exchange**

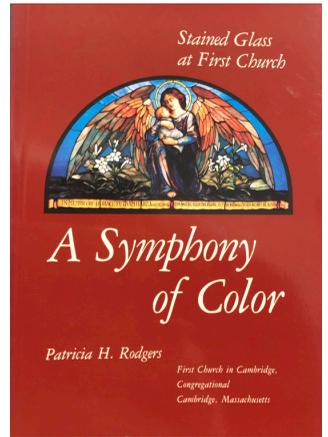
**Today, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Library**

The Youth Group is invited to the All-Church Cookie Swap today. Bake your favorite cookies and bring tupperware to collect some new cookies from other cookie swap participants in MJH. After the cookie swap, we will be meeting for a Christmas gift exchange. Gift limit to \$10.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Stained Glass Windows Books for Free

Ever wondered about the stories behind the stained glass windows at First Church? You'll find answers in *A Symphony of Color* by former First Church member Patricia Rodgers. This fascinating book is yours for free, a gift from the Archives of First Church. You can pick up your copy (or copies) at the All-Church Cookie Swap today or at other times in the coming weeks.



### Young Adults: North End Stroll

**Today at 1:15 p.m., Boston Public Market**

Walk through the North End in festive style.

We'll depart on the T together from in front

of First Church at 12:30, and rendezvous at the Boston Public Market at 1:15. We'll stroll in the snow, catch up one last time before the new year, and grab some hot chocolate from Caffe Vittoria. If you're feeling

new and between ages 18 and 35ish, this is the group for you! You'll easily find Phil out front of First Church after worship; look for the purple sweater.

### Stewardship Pledge 2022 Update

We are more than halfway to our 2022 goal of \$655,000! Thank you to all who have submitted your pledges via mail, e-mail, or online. If you haven't yet done so, you can [pledge online](#) or by emailing [Karen McArthur](#). Abundant thanks to all who make this a community of hope, peace, joy, and love.

**PLEDGING & GIVING**  
STEWARDSHIP 2022  
FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

*When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.*  
— Luke 5:6

**58%: \$377,467 pledged**  
toward our goal of **\$655,000**

*Abundant thanks!*



### Friday Café in the News

Channel 25 News was on hand at the Friday Café last week to film a segment for the evening news about Councilor Marc McGovern's annual Winter Warmth drive—using the Café as a backdrop! They got some great footage of our operation, from entrance to serving tables to clothing tables, and even our storage loft. [Check out the segment](#) for yourself, and donate to the [Winter Warmth Drive](#).

## ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

### Advent Unbound: A Companion to Pádraig Ó Tuama's *Poetry Unbound*

Looking for a resource for spiritual reflection to keep you grounded this Advent? Join us and our friends at the [SALT Project](#) for this go-at-your-own pace devotional that includes Advent scriptures tied to the popular NPR OnBeing poetry podcast featuring Pádraig Ó Tuama. Download the pdf [here](#), which offers instructions on finding the companion podcasts and scripture.



### MULTI GENERATIONAL FORMATION

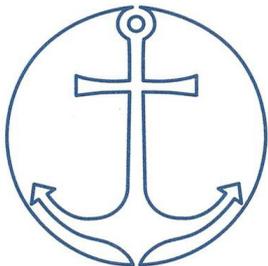
*Advent In Our Home Sanctuary*



**Advent in our Home Sanctuary: A Video Project**  
Many of us are choosing to join in-person worship, but not all of us can yet, especially many of our little ones and those caring for them. This year, Jaz Buchanan is sharing multigenerational spiritual practices throughout the four weeks of Advent on [our YouTube Channel](#). These are practices that you can incorporate right from your home sanctuary! Tune in each week, as we pause, wonder, and prepare together for the mystery of Christmas.

### Advent Season Giving and Alternative Christmas Fair

The Missions & Social Justice Committee has had another eventful year of supporting the work of non-profit organizations, both near and far. In this Advent season, we share with you a list of organizations with which First Church partners closely and who are seeking donations... [Read more](#)



### Christmas at First Church Shelter

Help provide a special Christmas for the 14 guests who will be spending the holiday with us. The Shelter Oversight Committee is soliciting donations to help purchase \$50 gift cards for each guest. You can send donations via the ["give"](#) tab of the First Church website or by mailing a check to the treasurer's office with a designation note "for Christmas FCS."

## CHRISTMAS AT FIRST CHURCH



### **Blue Christmas Worship on the Longest Night**

**Tuesday, December 21, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom**

Join us for an evening worship service on the longest night of the year to hold our grief, our sorrow, and complicated experiences amidst the Christmas season. This is a time for reflection and solace, as we continue to experience the prolonged stress and grief of the pandemic and of difficult seasons of our lives. If you have any questions about this worship service, please contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#).

### **Christmas Eve Carol Sing on the Lawn**

**Friday, December 24, 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

People of all ages are invited to this 30-minute family-friendly time of singing your favorite carols and hearing the Christmas story! We'll have a lighted Christmas tree set up on the lawn to brighten our gathering, but bring a flashlight or headlamp with you to follow along. We'll finish up with hot cocoa and tea for all.



### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols**

**Friday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 p.m.**

**Sanctuary, via livestream, and on YouTube**

Our traditional Christmas Eve service will be held in person and on our livestream. Seating in the sanctuary will be limited for safety, and we will offer overflow seating before the big screen in a cozy, decorated, Christmas-lit Margaret Jewett Hall. The service will also be available to watch on YouTube from home anytime after the livestream ends. Watch with family and friends, near or far, after dinner, at 8, 9, or midnight! [Read more](#)

### **Epiphany Prayer Service and Walk**

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

Please join us on the front lawn of First Church for a short Epiphany service, remembering our baptisms. We will then embark on a candlelit prayer walk around Cambridge Common, carrying the light of Christ for the Harvard Square community to see. If you are unable to walk with us or are cold, you are invited to a time of quiet candlelit prayer in the sanctuary. If you have any questions or would like to contribute, please contact Lexi Boudreaux.



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, December 20

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, December 21

6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship, via Zoom

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

## Wednesday, December 22

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room

## Thursday, December 23

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

6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

## Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, front lobby

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

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Carol Sing on the Lawn

5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

5:30 p.m. Sanctuary doors open

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary and via livestream

## Saturday, December 25 - Church Building Closed

11:00 a.m. Pre-Recorded Christmas Day Service Re-Premiere, via YouTube

## Sunday, December 26 - First Sunday of Christmastide

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

## Monday, December 27 - Church Office & Building Closed

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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