



Season of Epiphany
Morning Worship
January 16, 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

386 YEARS

ON THE WAY

1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 2

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Ebony West, *Ministerial Intern*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Director of Music*
Don Johnson, *liturgist*
Joanne Paul and Stephen Weller, *for the Stewardship Committee*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image & Imagination, [via Zoom](#)
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
12:00 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour (or immediately following Morning Worship)
7:30 p.m. Night Song, [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

La Chéron

Armand-Louis Couperin

*HYMN 247

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

*GREETING

Don Johnson

L: Come, hoppers and seekers, builders and dreamers,
come to the dawning of God's light:

C: the light of healing; the light of mercy and grace.

L: Gather, one and all, across screens and devices, across time and space.

C: Come be at peace in this place where all belong.

L: Come, children of light: the world needs what we have come to find.

**C: We will sing the light together, pray the light together,
do the works of light together for the world God loves.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Don Johnson and Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Deep River

Spiritual

Paul Sawyer, baritone

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Now let us pray for the pardon and healing we need:

**All: God of Justice, you have given light to the world through Jesus Christ,
but seeking comfort in privilege and power,
distracting ourselves with wealth and possessions,
exploiting the earth and all of Your sacred creation, we are led away from You.
Whenever we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.
Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision,
restore our hope and trust in you.
May the great cloud of witnesses that come before us,
help us see with our hearts and imaginations,
and bear witness to Your Light, illuminating justice, righteousness and peace.
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

Ebony West

READING

John 2:1-12

SERMON

Jaz Buchanan

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Guardame las vacas (1538)

Luis de Narvaéz

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

PRAYERS FOR 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.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Joanne Paul and Stephen Weller

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**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 464**

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Ciaccona

Bernardo Storace

247

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word



1. Bless-ed Je - sus, at your word we are gath - ered all to hear you;
 2. Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part! Light of light, from God pro - ceed - ing,



let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and praise you;
 o - pen now our minds and hearts, help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing;



by your teach - ings sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
 hear the songs we now are rais - ing; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - ing.



CLOSING HYMN

464 Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

1. Take my life, and let it be con-se-crat-ed, Lord, to thee;
 2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long-er mine;
 4. Take my love: my Lord I pour at thy feet its treas-ure store;

take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
 take my feet, and let them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy-al throne.
 take my-self, and I will be ev-er, on-ly, all for thee.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the health and healing of all in our community, as well as family, friends, and roommates, who have tested positive for Covid as part of the Omicron surge.
- We pray for Kerry Maloney as she grieves the loss of her beloved husband Jim Roche, who died recently of heart failure and pneumonia.
- We pray for John Schultz's brother-in-law Robert Hill, who is in hospital recovering from a heart attack, a stroke, and Covid.
- We pray for Gail Breeze, who is recovering from surgery to remove skin cancer this past Thursday.
- We pray for Marian Smith, who is recovering from eye surgery this past Wednesday.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Amy Matias's mother Linda, 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. As alternatives to makeshift shelters are made available, we call upon leaders and citizens to respect the dignity and humanity of those seeking assistance. We pray for options appropriate for their needs and capacities, not performative gestures aimed at masking ongoing neglect and indifference.
- 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 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. We pray with and for anxious hearts, and especially for educators, healthcare and other essential workers as we face the surge of Omicron.
- We pray for restored hope when we feel helpless. We pray for strength when we feel paralyzed. When the climate crisis moves us to despair, help us to hear the words, "fear not." We pray for the courage to follow Jesus's way of compassion, mercy and justice, so that we may care for all of God's creation and steward the earth faithfully.
- 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

How We Are Gathering Amidst the Omicron Surge *Livestream Only For January*

Given extremely high case counts and hospital overcrowding due to the Omicron surge, our Sunday services will be offered via livestream only through January 30, at least. With the exception of our homeless ministries, OWL class, and youth group, all other church meetings and events will be remote as well through January. Our in-person Church School classes (Godly Play, Middlers, Bible 101) are postponed until we return to Hybrid Worship. We are eager to reconvene for Hybrid Worship again as soon as possible. Until then, we pray you stay healthy and safe and know God's love, presence and strength wherever you are.



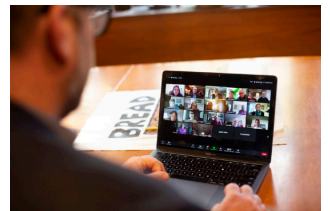
Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image and Imagination Sundays through February 20, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Today, [via Zoom](#)

During the season of Epiphany, we will ponder word images found in scripture and in the visual art of many times and places, imagining how images might inform and even direct us, especially as we work towards becoming an anti-racist church. Each Sunday we will meet virtually to consider a different reading and group of images. Some may wish to join in discussion and exploration, while others may like to use the time to create their own artwork. Drop in to any session! Your imaginations are welcome and will be stretched!

[Zoom](#) Coffee Hour, Today at 12:00 p.m.

Immediately following worship, join us for a time of connection, sharing of joys and concerns, and Q & A about all things First Church. Bring your own coffee or beverage of choice!



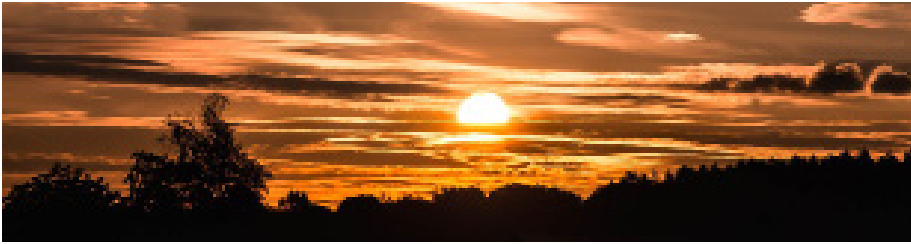
Night Song

Sundays at 7:30 p.m., [via livestream](#)

Night Song is a weekly, hour-long meditation featuring sublime choral music and transformational instrumental accompaniment in our quiet, candle-lit sanctuary. At this time, Night Song is offered via livestream only.

Learn more about Night Song [here](#).

SEASON OF 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](#).

Space to Listen:

Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke with Brent Coffin

Tuesdays, January 11 - February 22 (excepting January 18)

7:30 - 8:45 a.m., via Zoom

In this new series of small group sessions via Zoom, Brent Coffin will lead us in reflecting upon the Gospel of Luke as the narrative of Jesus in relation to the narratives of our own lives. We typically read the Gospel in small pieces, just as we live our lives in the intensity of each day. While necessarily living in the day, we can lose sight of the ongoing themes woven in and throughout our lives. What if we approached the Gospel with an eye to the unfolding themes of the whole story? Could this exploration help us to consider our own lives as unfolding narratives? This is untraveled terrain, so we'll begin with six weeks to see where the road takes us. A time of informal check-in will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m., followed by framing remarks from Brent, with space for intimate small group listening and sharing to follow. Questions? Contact [Brent Coffin](#).



Women's Community Book Club

Tuesday, January 18, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

The Women's Community Book Club gathers in January to discuss Rachel Held Evans' new book, *Whole-Hearted Faith*, a collection of essays collected after her untimely death by her husband and a close friend. Even if you have never joined us, please feel welcome; we'd love to have you!

Questions? Contact [Alex Steinert-Evoy](#).

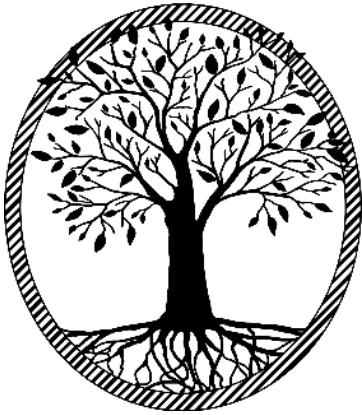


WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and
spiritual practice in community



SEASON OF EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



Call to Return 3.0:

Spiritual Ecology and Racial Justice with Carlyle Stewart

Beginning this Wednesday, January 19 through February 23

7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

At First Church, many of us are aware of the impacts of climate change on the planet. White Supremacist culture has not only contributed to racial disparities among people, but has also shaped how we relate to the environment. Spiritual Ecology is an emerging field in religion, conservation, and academia that explores the spiritual element to all issues related to conservation, environmentalism, and earth stewardship. It also proposes that we

develop a more cooperative relationship with the earth instead of an exploitative one. Unfortunately the Christian tradition has not developed a strong enough ethic around care for the planet, its resources, and its people. We can learn a great deal about life and God by understanding relationships in the natural world, and developing a more intimate relationship with the land; which is our greatest teacher, as well as the blessing we receive from God on a daily basis.

In this series we will explore how another form of returning to God is reacquainting ourselves with the original blessing of the earth and confronting the values that have allowed us to neglect it. This series will be an opportunity for people to learn more about Spiritual Ecology, and our responsibility as Christians to be stewards of the planet and its resources.

Questions? Contact [Carlyle Stewart](#).

An Invitation to Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

You are warmly invited to First Church's weekly Bible study!

Ten or eleven of your friends meet on Thursday evenings via

Zoom to drink in the Scriptures and have them water our

lives. On January 2, we only just began our New Year's delve

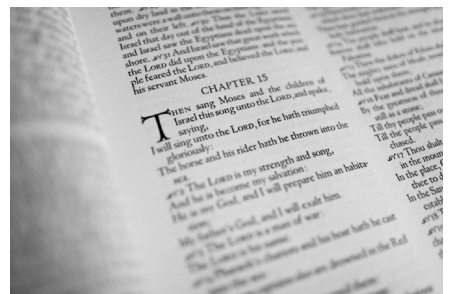
into Exodus, looking into the origins of our faith in Israel's

liberation, so you'll be in on the ground floor. No previous

experience or point of view required; we're all amateurs in the best sense! No attendance com-

mitment is required, either. Access the Zoom link to each week's session via the events calendar

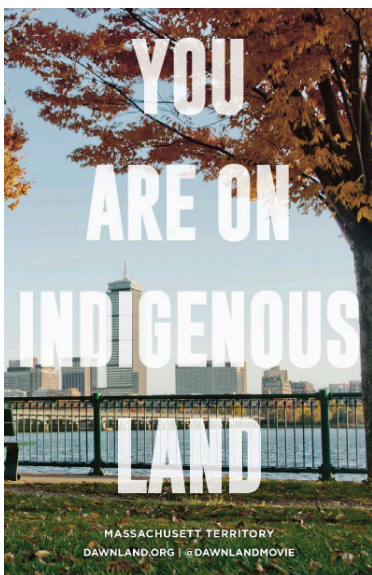
on the First Church website. Questions? Contact [Carter West](#).



SEASON OF EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH

Aging With Grace and Dying Well Small Group Starting Soon (day/time based on group consensus)

Join us for a six-part series in which we will offer each other companionship and spiritual resources for encountering the end of life. In this Epiphany season, let's wrestle with the big questions together as we let God's presence and this community hold us. Let's learn together how we can find dignity, courage, grace, hope, and peace in our aging and in our dying. We will offer spiritual readings, time for conversation, and reflection, along with a few practical resources for end-of-life planning. Please email [Lexi](#) or [Dan](#) if you are interested in participating, and we'll be in touch with possible times that work best.



First Church Land Acknowledgment

At our Fall Congregational Meeting, church leaders introduced a [First Church Land Acknowledgment](#) and offered suggestions for its use. We hope the congregation will affirm a version of this statement at our Annual Meeting on January 30, and we are eager to hear any thoughts you may have.

Please contact [Dan Smith](#) or [Hilary Hopkins](#) with any comments or questions.

OUTSIDE/INSIDE: HOUSING JUSTICE NOW

Saturday, February 5, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., via livestream

Join First Church Homeless Ministries for our 2022 Annual Appeal, featuring guest speaker [Dr. Danielle Allen](#), acclaimed political theorist, longtime democracy advocate, and author of *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality*.

This is our chance to celebrate the work of Homeless Ministries and invite the support of our wider community. Details coming soon!



CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING



**Notice is hereby given
that the Annual Meeting
of First Church in Cambridge,
Congregational, United Church of Christ,
will be held in its 386th year
at 12:00 p.m.,
Sunday the 30th of January, 2022,
by ZOOM conference:**

1. To approve the minutes of Congregational Meetings held in 2021.
2. To receive and act upon the 2021 reports of the Staff, Officers, Executive Council, Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups of the Church.
3. To affirm a [First Church Land Acknowledgement](#), as presented at the Fall 2021 Congregational Meeting.
4. To introduce the 50th Anniversary Celebration of our Frobenius Organ and related Appeal.
5. To hear and discuss a report about our [Reparations Fund](#).
6. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council,

Chris Reynolds, Clerk
Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 10, 2021

Each year on the final Sunday of January, we gather as a church community for our Annual Meeting. The meeting consists of the standard components of any corporation, like approving the annual reports of officers, committee chairs, and staff, as well as minutes of previous congregational meetings over the past year.

But First Church's Annual Meeting is much more than mundane business! We celebrate our leaders moving on from their terms of service, and we welcome new folks onto committees and into positions of leadership throughout our community. We discuss important ideas and initiatives bubbling up from within First Church, often in response to where God is calling us now.

This year, we will take-up consideration of our Land Acknowledgement, as presented at our Fall Congregational Meeting. We will hear about plans for our Frobenius organ's 50th anniversary celebration and refurbishment. We will also hear an update on our efforts towards being an antiracist church and our Reparations fund. Please join us as we celebrate and learn about our ministries and discern together where God is leading us next!

THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, January 17 - Church Office & Building Closed for MLK Day

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

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

Tuesday, January 18

6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Club, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, January 19

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Call To Return 3.0, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice, via Zoom

Thursday, January 20

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

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

Friday, January 21

9:00 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

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

Sunday, January 23

9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image and Imagination, via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via livestream

12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room

3:00 p.m. Youth Group: Ice Skating, meet at First Church

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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