

Season of Epiphany
Morning Worship
January 23, 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 23, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Carlyle Stewart, *Community Minister for Racial Justice*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Ebony West, *Ministerial Intern*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Jennifer Velazquez, *guest organist*
Marianne Jensen, *liturgist*
Chris Reynolds, *Clerk*
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 with breakout conversation about legislative advocacy
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group: Ice Skating, meet at church
- 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

Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott

Dieterich Buxtehude

*HYMN 261

The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore

*GREETING

Marianne Jensen

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

Marianne Jensen and Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Lord, Grant to Me a Quiet Mind

Arlen Clarke

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

L: Friends, hear this good news: God's love lights our way to a new dawn, and God's mercy is working in our hearts even now.
The light of Christ and the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us share this good news and greet one another now with a sign of Christ's peace.

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!

JOINING OF NEW MEMBER IN COVENANT

INVITATION AND ADDRESS

Dan Smith

PROMISES

***COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

All: We who are now brought together and united into one Church under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head, in such sort as becometh all those whom he hath redeemed and sanctified to himself, do solemnly and religiously, as in his most holy presence, promise and bind ourselves to walk in all our ways according to the rule of the Gospel, and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances, and in mutual love and respect each to other, so near as God shall give us grace.

***CLOSING PRAYER**

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Amos 4:6-8

READING

Deuteronomy 11:13-14

SERMON

Carlyle Stewart

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Chris Reynolds

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Ebony West

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



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already



Pledge for 2022

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN C-9

Psalm 148

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

arr. W. T. Allen

261

The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore

1. The sun is on the sea and shore, a new day has be - gun;
 2. Your love is ev - er in our view, like shin - ing stars by night;
 3. We do not know what grief and care each com - ing day may bring;

with morn - ing hymns we will a - dore the bless - ed Three - in - One;
 your gifts are ev - ery morn - ing new, O God of love and light;
 the heart shall find some glad - ness there, trust you in ev - 'ry - thing;

and we shall praise you ev - er more un - til the day is done.
 your mer - cy, like the heav - en's blue, fills all our daz - zled sight.
 the life that serves you ev - 'ry - where will nev - er cease to sing.

WORDS: Louis F. Benson, 1897; adapt. Austin C. Lovelace, 1991, alt.
 MUSIC: J. L. Macbeth Bain, 1915; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1934, adapt.

James Leith MacBeth Bain, called 'Brother James' by his friends, was a Scottish poet who found, lost and regained faith in God's love. He spent his last years caring for others in the slums of Liverpool.

BROTHER JAMES' AIR
 86.86.86

Word adapts. © 1991 Austin Lovelace
 Harm. © 1934 Oxford University Press

CLOSING HYMN

Psalm 148

C-9

1. O praise the Lord, praise God in all the heav'n - ly land.
 2. All heav - ens praise the Lord, and all the cloud - filled sky.
 3. Praise God from earth be - low; great fish and o - ceans deep.
 4. All moun - tains, cat - tle too, wild game and birds that fly.
 5. For God a - lone is great; great - er than earth and sky.

All an - gels praise our God, and all the sa - cred band.
 O let them praise the Lord, for God has set them high.
 Fire and hail, frost and snow, strong winds God makes to sweep.
 All lead - ers of the earth, judg - es that rule on high.
 God prais - es all the saints and strength - ens Is - rael's cry.

O give God praise; sun and moon bright, all stars of light, O give God praise!
 God made all lands; through-out all time all things sub-lime dis-play God's hand!
 O give God praise; all fruit-ful trees, all hills and ce-dars, Give God praise!
 Sing - ing the same; all wom-en, chil-dren, men, and in-fants, Praise God's name!
 With one ac - cord, let Is - ra - el and all God's peo-ple praise the Lord!

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

PROPER TUNE for PSALM 148

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We give thanks as we welcome Jean Dany Joachim as a new member of First Church; you can find Jean Dany's bio on our website: firstchurchcambridge.org/staff/jean-dany-joachim/
- We pray for Ebony West and her family as they grieve the loss of Ebony's uncle Llewellyn Langel, her grandmother's oldest son.
- We pray for Nancy O'Connell and her husband Steve, who is in the hospital recovering from unexpected spinal surgery last week.
- 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 has been moved to a long-term facility.
- We pray for Gail Breeze, who is recovering from a recent surgery to remove skin cancer.
- We pray for Marian Smith, who is recovering from recent eye surgery.
- 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 Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, TX, and all who are facing the ongoing reality of anti-Semitic rhetoric and violence.
- We pray for the nation of Tonga and all impacted by the devastating volcanic eruption and tsunami.
- 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.
- When the climate crisis moves us to despair, 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.

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 are pondering 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. [Read more](#)

[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. This week at 12:30 p.m., Alice Kidder will host a breakout conversation about important legislative initiatives at the state level concerning Indigenous Peoples and their agenda that are needing our advocacy. Alice will explain these initiatives and answer questions about how to communicate with state legislators.



Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Today, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room

8th and 9th graders from First Church, Old South Church, and the community meet for our denomination's sexuality education curriculum.

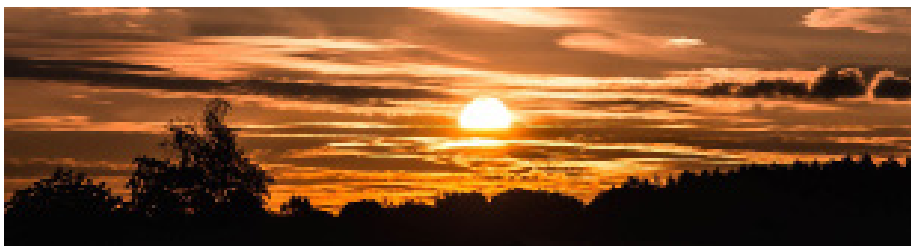
Youth Group: Ice Skating

Today at 3:00 p.m., meet at church

8th - 12th graders are heading out for a bit of ice skating together; meet at the church to depart as a group.



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

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

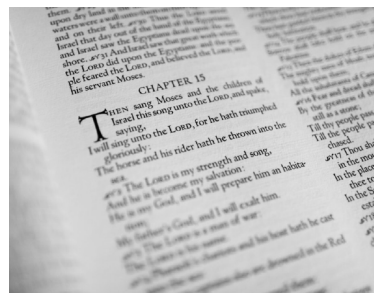
In this new series of small group sessions via Zoom, Brent Coffin leads us in reflecting upon the Gospel of Luke as the narrative of Jesus in relation to the narratives of our own lives. We typically read the Gospel in small pieces, just as we live our lives in the intensity of each day. While necessarily 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 begins 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](#).



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. No previous experience or point of view required; we're all amateurs in the best sense! No attendance commitment 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



Call to Return 3.0:

Spiritual Ecology and Racial Justice with Carlyle Stewart

Wednesdays, 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 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 is 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](#).

Aging With Grace and Dying Well Small Group

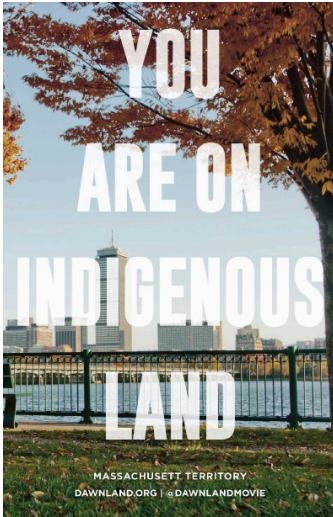
Tuesdays, February 8 - March 15

3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom

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.



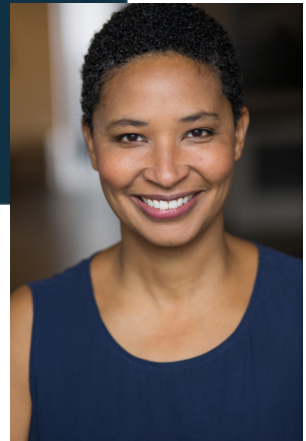
SEASON OF EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



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

Tickets: \$25

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. [Read more and purchase tickets here.](#)

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 24

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, January 25

- 7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom

Wednesday, January 26

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Call To Return 3.0, via Zoom

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

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

Thursday, January 27

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

Friday, January 28

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

Saturday, January 29

- 10:40 a.m. Funeral Service for Jim Roche, Sanctuary and via livestream

Sunday, January 30

- 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. Annual Meeting, via Zoom
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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