



Season of Epiphany
Morning Worship
January 30, 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 30, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Beth Spaulding, *liturgist*
Lindsay Miller, *for the First Church Archives group*
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. 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](#)

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

Psalm 36

Sweelinck

*HYMN

We Who Are Now Brought Together

*GREETING

Beth Spaulding

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, let us gather in prayer and song.

C: Come, one and all, across screens and devices, across time and space.

L: Here, gathered together, may God's glory embolden us
with strength and courage.

C: Here, may God's glory light the path towards healing and justice.

L: Here, may God's glory kindle sustaining hope and faith in each of our hearts,

C: as we glorify God and all of her holy mysteries and revelations.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Beth Spaulding and Jaz Buchanan

ANTHEM

Divine Love

E. Cunningham/P. Sykes

Beth Spaulding, soprano

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sarah Higginbotham

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: God of Glory, 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.**

Forgive us, and lead us to repent and return.

**Help us to see with our hearts and our imaginations,
as we journey through holy darkness with you,
discovering your light in unexpected corners,
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

ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBER

***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

READING

Luke 4:21-30

HOMILY

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Lindsay Miller

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

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 358

When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of Our God

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Come, Holy Spirit

J.S. Bach

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 Beth Spaulding and for her father Bob, who will be having surgery for spinal stenosis this coming Wednesday.
- We pray for Nancy O'Connell and for her husband Steve, who is in the hospital recovering from expected 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 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 we encounter worrisome or troubling feelings in the face of the climate crisis, we pray for the courage to plant seeds of God's justice, grace, and hope. We pray for divine wisdom to help nourish these seeds, so that they may grow into holy kin-doms where all God's creation may flourish.
- 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.

OPENING HYMN

We who are now brought together

Mary Luti

Peter Sykes

We who are now brought to - geth - er, e - ven we,
We who are now brought to - geth - er, Spi - rit - led,
We who are now joined to - geth - er in God's sight
We who are now joined to - geth - er in all ways

drawn by the love of our Sa - vior, ev - en he,
called and made ho - ly by Je - sus, hum - ble Head,
so near as grace may be giv - en day and night,
of - fer to you, O Cre - a - tor, praise on praise

pro - mise to walk on his path - way, faith - ful, free.
pro - mise to live by the gos - pel, as he said.
pro - mise to love one an - oth - er, God's de - light.
grate - ful - ly: one con - gre - ga - tion, all our days.

CLOSING HYMN

358 When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of Our God

1. When Je - sus came preach-ing the way of our God, with the
 2. Since Je - sus came preach-ing the way of our God, what a
 3. Still Je - sus comes preach-ing the way of our God, in a

love that has power to per-suade, the sick were made whole, both in
 change in our lives he has made! How man - y have shared in the
 world that is sick and a - fraid; the gos - pel is spread like the

bod - y and soul, and e - ven the de - mons o - beyed.
 joy of their Lord, in self - giv - ing have loved and o - beyed!
 leav - en in bread by the love that has power to per - suade.

But he need - ed a few he could trust to be true, to
 But let none of us doubt what re - li - gion's a - bout, or by
 So let none of us swerve from our mis - sion to serve that has

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1969

MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. FCC, 1997

SAMANTHRA
 ltr.

CLOSING HYMN, cont'd.

share in the work from the start: when Je - sus came preach-ing the
what it is shamed and be-trayed: do just - ly, love mer - cy, walk
made us his church from the start; may Je - sus, the light of the

way of our God, the glad gift to the hum - ble of heart.
hum - bly with God, is the rule Je - sus free - ly o - beyed.
world, send us out in the strength of the hum - ble of heart.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

How We Are Gathering Amidst the Omicron Surge

Livestream Only For January; Resuming Hybrid Worship on February 6

Given extremely high case counts and hospital overcrowding due to the Omicron surge, our Sunday services have been offered via livestream only through January. With the exception of our homeless ministries, OWL class, and youth group, all other church meetings and events have been remote as well. With Omicron now in retreat, we are ready to resume Hybrid Worship on February 6. Join us in-person or online, and let there be life in our First Church house once again!



If you choose to come in person beginning next Sunday:

- please wear a high quality mask,
- please be vaccinated and boosted, if eligible, and
- please see earlier posts on our website for more information about our Covid protocols.



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](#)

Annual Meeting

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

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!



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

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

*In addition to the written reports linked above, you may find the 2021 Financial Report [here](#).



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.

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](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Young Adults: Zoom Game Night and Gentle Blasphemy Tuesday, February 1, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)
Join other 20- and 30-somethings at First Church for our ongoing, casual faith conversation; all questions encouraged, and blasphemy permitted. We'll play a few group games, too!

Contact [Phil Jones](#) with any 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.](#)



Voting Rights Forum

Sunday, February 6 at 12:15 p.m., MJH and via Zoom

Does the rise of Christian Nationalism and the deterioration of voting rights in our country have you feeling angry or down? Join with members of the Missions & Social Justice Committee and staff for a conversation about how we can speak up and act up. We will share a few ideas for how you can engage as individuals and for how we can act together as a church, but please bring your own ideas! This will be a brainstorming session and a chance to crowd-source best practices for civic engagement.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Youth Group: Worship/Service

Sunday, February 6

12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Chapel (OWL students leave at 1:15 p.m.)

The Youth Group (8th-12th graders) gathers each first Sunday of the month for a time of worship and service to our community. We reflect on what it means to care for one another and ourselves as people of faith in this time. A short informal worship takes place from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., with a check in afterwards. Those participating in OWL transition to the Harter Room at 1:15 p.m., while the remaining folks gathered contribute to First Church's pastoral care ministry by writing cards to those on our prayer list.

GBIO Core Team Meeting

Monday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

2022 is a big year in our Commonwealth, with opportunities to bring the issues important to the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)



Greater Boston
Interfaith Organization

into races for governor, state senators, and state reps. We've already had [a big win](#) this past week with Mayor Wu's announcement that she will fulfill her promise of \$50 million for the Mildred C. Hailey apartment complex in Jamaica Plain. This is a direct response to our asks at the two GBIO Mayoral Candidates Events last fall and a clear indicator of the power we have when we show up. You're cordially invited to First Church's first-of-the-year Core Team meeting on Monday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m. We'll mingle on Zoom and share stories of why we organize with GBIO, and how we want to engage this year. Join [here](#).

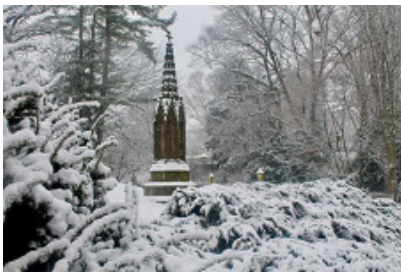


image: mountauburn.org

Young Adults: Walk in Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Sunday, February 13, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.,

meet at Mt. Auburn St. entrance

Join other 20- and 30-somethings from First Church on a stroll through one of the hidden gems of the Boston area. Even in the winter time, Mt. Auburn is full of fascinating birds, beautiful hills, and a spectacular view of Boston. Contact [Phil Jones](#) with any questions.

REGISTER FOR FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

Registration is now open
for our latest round of Faith & Life Groups!

You are invited to read the group descriptions
and register here:

<https://forms.gle/yXVYrjXqfBmRPGUA>

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, February 9.

[Learn more about Faith & Life Groups here.](#)



Lenten Morning Prayer with Jaz Buchanan

Want to explore centering prayer as a spiritual practice? Discern a word or phrase that helps you ground yourself in the love of God as you start your day? During Lent, Pastoral Associate Jaz will be leading a time for prayer and silence... [read more and register](#)

Telling our White Stories with Carter West

Living in a racially conditioned world lands us in a lot of ambiguity. White people experience both “being white,” facts of life based on perceptions of skin color, and “whiteness,” our status of privilege resulting from our historic oppression of others. The latter summons us to choose justice, but the former condition just is... [read more and register](#)

Troublesome Attitudes and Antidotes with Hilary Hopkins and Lexi Boudreaux

In this five-session Lenten group, we’ll examine attitudes and practices which limit our ability to truly see and work with each other. Drawing on the work of Tema Okun on the characteristics of White Supremacy Culture, we can try to discern how each of us embraces these characteristics, and prod gently at ways in which we can do better... [read more and register](#)

EcoFaith Book Group with Jim Brown

Join us for another fruitful round of reading and reflection as we dive deeper into the question of how we can be faithful stewards of all God’s creation. This winter season we are reading *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall... [read more and register](#)

Queer Open Mic with Ebony West

Join a new queer-friendly book club called Queer Open Mic! All are welcome, as we bring our favorite queer friendly books to a safe environment and read our favorite passages from them... [read more and register](#)

Make a Home Altar with Henry Gates

Bless your home with an art creation that is a symbol of spirituality. Henry Gates will provide brisk, structured guidance, if you provide the materials... [read more and register](#)

SEASON OF EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



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.. [Read more](#)

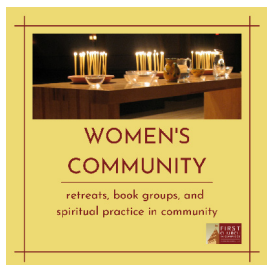


Aging With Grace and Dying Well Small Group

Tuesdays, February 8 - March 1

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

Join us for a four-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... [Read more](#)



Women's Community Book Club

Tuesday, February 15, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

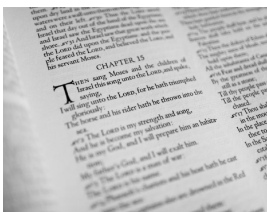
Come, all who identify as women, and join us for a discussion of *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. This novel has been described as "the long-hoped-for second novel by one of our finest writers, a hymn of praise and lamentation to the God-haunted existence that Reverend Ames loves passionately, and from which he will soon part..." [Read more](#)



Call to Return 3.0: Spiritual Ecology & 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... [Read more](#)



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! [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, January 31

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. "Exploring Reparations" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Tuesday, February 1

- 7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. First Church Professional Caregivers' Call, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults: Zoom Game Night & Gentle Blasphemy, via Zoom

Wednesday, February 2

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

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

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

Thursday, February 3

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

Friday, February 4

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

Saturday, February 5

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room
- 10:40 a.m. Funeral Service for Jim Roche, Sanctuary and via livestream (rescheduled)
- 7:00 p.m. Homeless Ministries Annual Appeal 2022, via livestream

Sunday, February 6

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image and Imagination, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Voting Rights Forum, MJH and via Zoom
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group: Worship/Service, Chapel
- 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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