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Season of Epiphany  
Morning Worship  
January 9, 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 9, 2022

### Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*  
Peter Sykes, *Director of Music*  
Lindsay Miller, *liturgist*  
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

**Bulletin Cover Image** Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

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### 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)
- 2:00 p.m. Young Adults: Ice Skating, Kendall Square, Cambridge
- 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](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)

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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

Christ Our Lord Came To the Jordan

J. S. Bach

### \*HYMN 407

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

### \*GREETING

Lindsay Miller

L: Sisters and brothers, siblings all, peace be with you!

**C: God's peace be with us all!**

L: Come now, everyone! Drink from the water of life,

**C: the water of God's compassion!**

L: Come now, everyone! Bathe in the river of peace,

**C: the river of God's grace!**

L: Come now, everyone! Hear God's voice declare:

**C: "You are my delight! You belong to me!"**

L: And let us praise our God!

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### ANTHEM

My God, My Portion

Trad, arr. James Hopkins

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: God in Christ, with you at our side,  
we confess our failings—**

**what we have done, and what we have failed to do.**

**By your baptism in the Jordan, wash us in mercy**

**and mend the harm we have done to ourselves, our neighbor, and our world.**

**Help us to live knee-deep in grace, our hearts alive to our truest names—**

**beloved daughters, cherished sons, siblings in the spirit! Amen.**

### DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*\*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.*

## 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

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### SERMON

Dan Smith

#### MUSICAL MEDITATION

Prelude in C Major

J.S. Bach

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

### PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Jaz Buchanan

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**

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 228**

O Holy Dove of God Descending

**\*BENEDICTION**

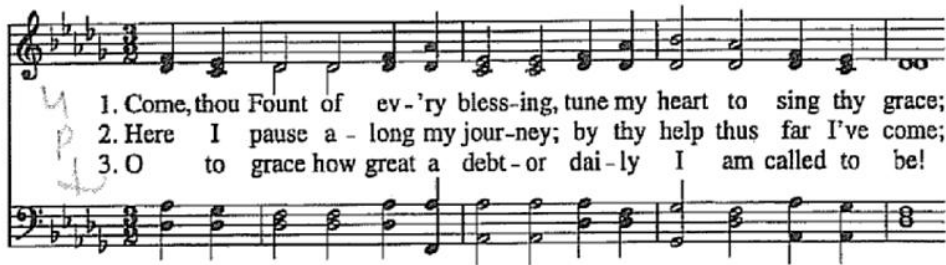
**VOLUNTARY**

Allegro vivace

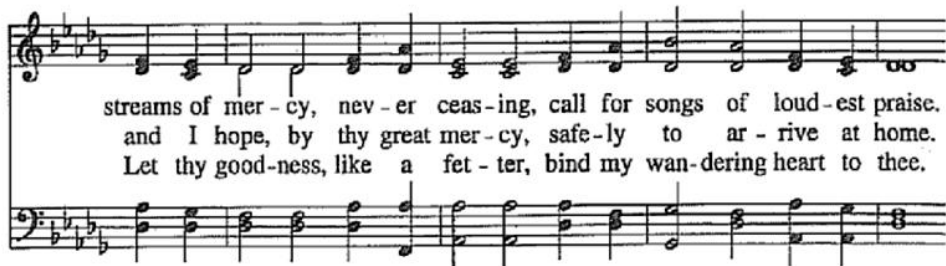
Felix Mendelssohn

OPENING HYMN

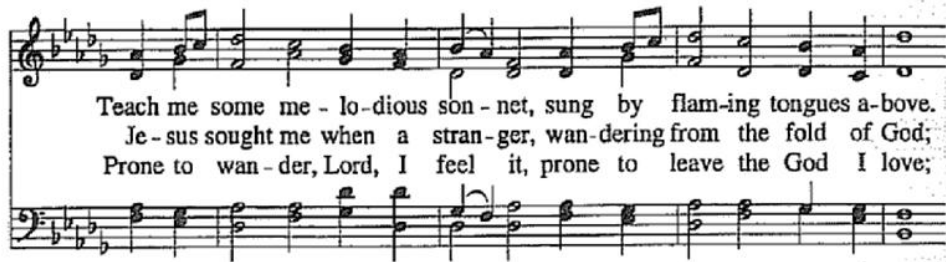
407 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



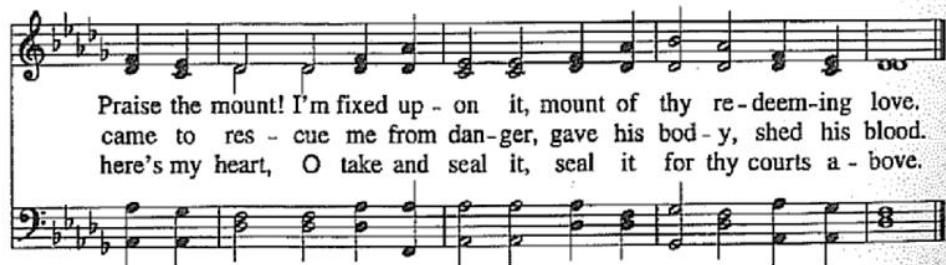
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the moun - t! I'm fixed up - on it, moun - t of thy re - deem - ing love.  
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.  
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

Robinson, an English barber, became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and, later, a Baptist minister. His text has been sung to this American folk tune since 1813.

NETTLETON  
87.87D

# O Holy Dove of God Descending

228

*Unison*



1. O ho-ly Dove of God de-scend-ing, you are the love that knows no end-ing,
2. O ho-ly Wind of God now blow-ing, you are the seed that God is sow-ing,
3. O ho-ly Rain of God now fall - ing, you make the Word of God en-thrall-ing,
4. O ho-ly Flame of God now burn-ing, you are the power of Christ re-turn - ing,



all of our shat - tered dreams you're mend - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.  
 you are the life that starts us grow - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.  
 you are the in - ner voice now call - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.  
 you are the an - swer to our yearn - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.



WORDS and MUSIC: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976

Playwright and hymnal editor Bryan Leech is a pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

LOIS  
99.96

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## 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 last Saturday of heart failure and pneumonia.
- We pray for sexton George Williams, whose nephew Jacobey Williams died recently 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. 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.
- 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

### How We Are Gathering Amidst the Omicron Surge *Livestream Only Through January 16*

Given extremely high case counts and hospital overcrowding due to the Omicron surge, our Sunday services will be offered via livestream only on January 9 and 16, at least. With the exception of our homeless ministries, all other church meetings and events will be remote as well through at least January 17. Our in-person Church School classes (Godly Play, Middlers, Bible 101, and OWL) are postponed until Sunday, January 23. 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, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Beginning 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!

### Young Adults: Ice Skating

Today, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Kendall Square, Cambridge

Outdoor ice skating after church at Skate@Canal District Kendall! 20- and 30-somethings are invited to meet at 300 Athenaeum Street, Cambridge, at 2:00 p.m. Skate rentals available, as is hot chocolate!



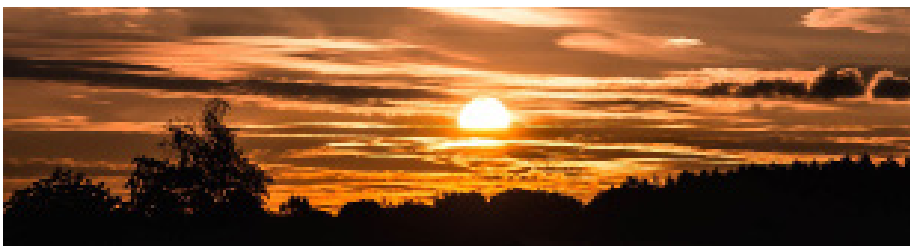
### Night Song Returns

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

Following their holiday break, Night Song returns this Sunday evening via our livestream. Night Song is a weekly, hour-long meditation featuring sublime choral music and transformational instrumental accompaniment in our quiet, candle-lit sanctuary.

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

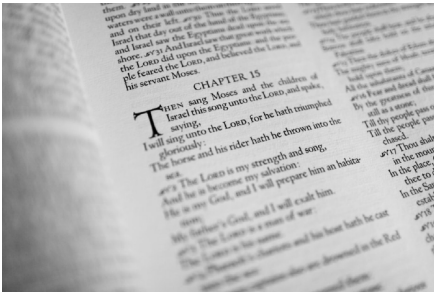
In this new series of small group sessions via Zoom, Brent Coffin will lead us in reflecting upon the Gospel of Luke as the narrative of Jesus in relation to the narratives of our own lives. We typically read the Gospel in small pieces, just as we live our lives in the intensity of each day. While necessarily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



### Call for Winter Faith & Life Group Leaders by January 12

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). ***Deadline for proposals is Wednesday, January 12.*** [Contact Lexi Boudreaux](#) to discuss your idea.

# SEASON OF EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



## 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

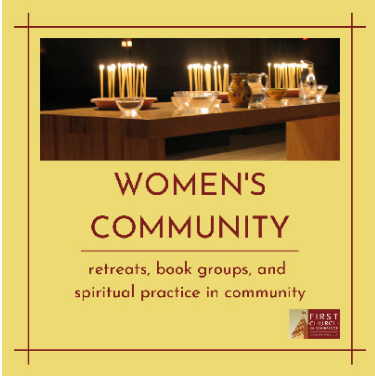
experience or point of view required; we're all amateurs in the best sense! No attendance commitment is required, either. Access the Zoom link to each week's session via the events calendar on the First Church website. Questions? Contact [Carter West](#).

## 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-Evov](#).



## Ageing 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.

## SEASON OF EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



### Call to Return 3.0:

#### Spiritual Ecology and Racial Justice with Carlyle Stewart

Wednesdays, January 19 to 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.

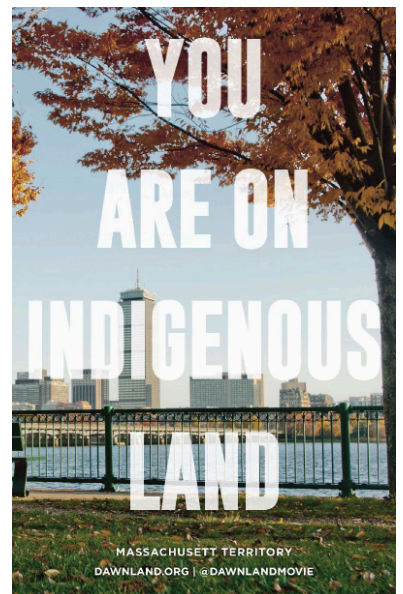
In this series we will explore how another form of returning to God is reacquainting ourselves with the original blessing of the earth and confronting the values that have allowed us to neglect it. This series will be an opportunity for people to learn more about Spiritual Ecology, and our responsibility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

Questions? Contact [Carlyle Stewart](#).

### 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.



SEASON OF EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH



**New Year, New Earth Stewardship Web Page!**

First Church’s Earth Stewardship group invites you to check out their [new website page](#) for the latest advocacy actions you can take and for upcoming faith and climate crisis events in the New England area. Find the page by hovering over “Justice” in the top menu bar and then clicking on “Earth Stewardship.” As an example of what you can find on the Earth Stewardship page, check out these details on an upcoming webinar...



**UCC Webinar: Getting Congress to Act: Strategies, Tactics, and Vision for 2022**

**Wednesday, January 12 at 1:00 p.m., [Register here](#)**

This webinar will focus on how people of faith can best organize themselves to place pressure on Congress to act in 2022. For insight and guidance, we will turn to three panelists with local and national experience as organizers... [Read more](#)



**SCAN ME**

**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.

You can scan these codes to connect with First Church via social media:





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, January 10

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

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

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

## Tuesday, January 11

- 7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

## Wednesday, January 12

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:30 p.m. Investments Committee, via Zoom

## Thursday, January 13

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

## Friday, January 14

- 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 16

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image and Imagination, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
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