



Season of Epiphany
Hybrid Morning Worship
February 13, 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, February 13, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Gandhi Solanki, *liturgist*
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](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:00 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 1:00 p.m. Young Adults: Walk in Mt. Auburn Cemetery
- 1:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and [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

Christus, der ist mein Leben

Johann Pachelbel

***HYMN 18**

Praise to the Living God

***GREETING**

Gandhi Solanki

- L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, let us gather in prayer and song.
C: Come, one and all, in person and online, across time and space.
L: Here may God's presence embolden us with strength and courage.
C: Here may God's light show us the path toward healing and justice.
L: Here may God's glory kindle sustaining hope and faith in each of our hearts.
C: Come, let us worship God in all of her holy mysteries and revelations.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Send Forth Thy Light

Mily Balakirev

*Send forth thy light, send forth thy truth, and let them lead me to thy holy hill.
My soul shall praise the Lord in heaven whose glory yet I will sing,
who is my hope of my salvation, and my God.
Send forth thy light, send forth thy truth, and let them lead me to thy holy hill,
even unto thy holy hill. —Psalm 43:3,5*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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, (cont'd. on next page)**

**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.*

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

GREETING OF PEACE

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-3rd grade) and Middler (4/5th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Bible 101 (6/7th grade) students can meet their teachers in the Narthex. Caregivers can find their children in Hastings Common after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 6:17-26

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

*HYMN 295

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jaz Buchanan

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

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 445

Be Thou My Vision

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Toccata

Johann Pachelbel

First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.



OPENING HYMN

18

Praise to the Living God

1. Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, whose
 2. Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, whose
 3. Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, who
 4. Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane,
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, per -
 who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; and
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, may

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

WORDS: Curtis Beach, 1966, alt.
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
 SMD

Like many English Anglican organists and composers, George Elvey received his early training as a cathedral choir boy.

Words © 1966 Estate of Curtis Beach

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

295

1. O Christ, the Word in - car - nate, O wis - dom from on high,
 2. Your peo - ple hold this trea - sure from you, its source di - vine,
 3. O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold,

O truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O light of our dark sky,
 a light that to all a - ges through - out the earth will shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and tem - pest, still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, cloud and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Be Thou My Vision

445

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my Re - deem - er, my love thou hast won;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Rul - er of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Ancient Irish, tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody, harm. David Evans, *Revised Church Hymnary*, 1927

SLANE
 10 10.9 10

The original Irish text dates from c. A.D. 700. SLANE is an ancient ballad tune named for the hill where St. Patrick lit Easter fires.

Harm. © 1927, by permission
 of Oxford University Press

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for James Ross and for his mother Doris Ross, who was re-hospitalized this past week in Alabama.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who was re-admitted to the hospital this week for diagnostic procedures.
- We pray for Dean Eaton who has been undergoing a series of cardiac procedures.
- We pray for Beth Spaulding's father Bob, who is recovering from surgery for spinal stenosis.
- We pray for Nancy O'Connell and for her husband Steve, who is recovering at home from spinal 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 all impacted by the rash of bomb threats to historically Black colleges and universities that forced at least 12 schools to close down their campuses in the first week of Black History Month.
- We pray for honest diplomacy, an end to military escalation, and a peaceful resolution to stabilize the looming international crisis in Ukraine.
- 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.
- 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.

[Join the First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

IN MEMORIAM The First Church Shelter was saddened to learn of the passing of TM, a guest of the Shelter for nearly two years who had secured and enjoyed his own place for a number of months. TM had many health challenges that were hard to manage while unhoused, so having access to the Shelter while waiting for housing was greatly appreciated.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



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.

Hop on the Coffee Hour [Zoom](#) immediately following the service 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!

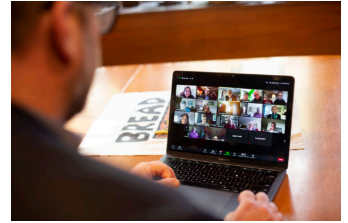


image: mountauburn.org

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.

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., Sanctuary and [via 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](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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](#)



WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and
spiritual practice in community



Newcomers Meet and Greet

**Sunday, February 20, 12:00 - 12:45 p.m.,
Hastings Common**

Those feeling new to First Church or interested in meeting (in person!) someone new to our community are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship in Hastings Common (the open space between the Sanctuary side door and the Kitchen). Some of what you can expect: friendly faces smiling with their eyes atop their masks, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation.

Welcoming Ministry Team Meeting

**Sunday, February 20, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.,
The Landing and [via Zoom](#)**

A group of First Church members are meeting to think about how we practice extravagant welcome in our community, join new members in covenant, and integrate new members into our life together. If you are interested in adding your voice to the conversation, please come to our meeting, either via Zoom or gathered around the large-screen computer in the Landing. (Formerly the Choir Room, the Landing is found just above the church office.)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Are you interested in meeting people who are new to First Church?

Do you feel called to help newer folks learn the ropes and to be a point person for their questions?

Sign up to be a First Friend!

You will become a part of a list of people who are willing to be matched with someone who fills out a [virtual visitor card](#) to help get them acquainted with our church.

Maybe you invite them to sit with you during worship, take a walk and get a cup of coffee, or talk with them over the phone. However you choose to connect is up to you!

[Sign up](#) to guide people who are new to First Church as one of their first contacts in our church community! Please fill out [this form](#); you will be contacted if and when you are a match. Questions? Contact [Lexi Boudreaux](#).



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:





Thank you so much to all who attended Homeless Ministries' 2022 livestream appeal with special guest Danielle Allen—and a special thanks to all who took the opportunity to make a donation to our work.

We're pleased to report that we have raised over \$11,000!



If you didn't get a chance to attend the appeal, and would like to experience some of it, it's available now on YouTube. (If you skip the first 10 minutes of pre-event slides, the recording is just over 50 minutes long.) This is a great chance to experience the fresh voice and vision of Dr. Danielle Allen—who, besides being a brilliant scholar, also happens to be running for governor—though she didn't address us in that role. [Watch the recording here](#), and enjoy a little bleak midwinter inspiration.

You can still donate [here](#)—thank you for your generosity!

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

This Lent, join us as we explore what it means to hold Jesus at the center of our faith and lives!

- How might focusing on Jesus' life and teachings ground and clarify our conversations about how we hold the anger, despair, loneliness, division, and grief of these times?
- How might focusing on *his* story help us to feel more centered, as we come through this pandemic together and live and shape *our* stories?



Each week, we'll offer a different scripture and related theme of daily living, along with several opportunities for weekly prayer and reflection.

SUNDAYS IN LENT

Contemplative Prayer

9:30 - 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Hybrid Worship

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary & livestream

Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center

12:15 - 1:15 p.m., MJH and via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Midweek Contemplative Prayer

8:00 - 8:30 a.m., via Zoom

Midweek Small Group: Hanging out with God

5:30 - 6:15 p.m., via Zoom

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, February 14

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

Tuesday, February 15

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

3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace & Dying Well, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, February 16

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

5:45 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, via Zoom

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

8:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice, via Zoom

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

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

Thursday, February 17

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

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

Friday, February 18

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

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

Sunday, February 20

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

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH

12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

12:00 p.m. Newcomers Meet & Greet, Hastings Common

12:45 p.m. Welcoming Ministry Team Meeting, The Landing and via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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