

Season of Epiphany
Hybrid Morning Worship
February 27, 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 27, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Claire Hunt, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

Today's Programs and Events

- 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: Classes for PreK-7th graders
- 12:00 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Looking Ahead to Lent Forum, MJH and [via Zoom](#)
- 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

Masks will be lowered by worship leaders when speaking, at their discretion.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in G minor, WoO 10

Johannes Brahms

*HYMN 247

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

*GREETING

Claire Hunt

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

For I Am Persuaded

Mark Schweizer

*For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature
shall be able to keep me from the love of God.
And who will separate us from the love of Christ?
God's spirit dwells within us, the Spirit is life.
—Romans 8:38-39*

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.

(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.*

**Forgive us, and lead us to repent and return.
Help us to see with our hearts and our imaginations,
and to discover your light, love, and peace in unexpected places. 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.

***HYMN 302**

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 9:28-36

SERMON

Kate Layzer

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

J.S. Bach

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

*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 374

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Scherzo-Fantasia (1960)

Carl McKinley



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, 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.

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.



Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

302



1. Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to
 2. Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 3. Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you hea - vy
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty.
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care.



ORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990
 USIC: William P. Rowan, 1992, adapt.

AUSTIN
 87.87

Sylvia Dunstan, whose text was inspired by Matthew 11:28-30, was an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada. William Rowan is a Roman Catholic director of music ministries in Lansing, Michigan.

Words © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

374 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

1, 6. Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2. We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-'lers on the road;
 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;
 4. I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5. When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
 we are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
 born of all we've known to-gether of Christ's love and ag-o-ny.

repeat st. 1.

WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.
 MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; harm. FCC, 1997

Text and tune writer Gillard, who lives in New Zealand, here writes of the Christian community in which we serve and are served.

SERVANT SONG
 87.87

Words, music © 1977 Scripture in Song
 (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc.)
 Harm. ©1998 FCC Houston TX

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Rich Goode and his family as they grieve the loss of Rich's mom Doris Goode, who died recently in Ayer, MA.
- We pray for Martha Williams and her family as they grieve the loss of Martha's father Wally Williams, who died recently in Cambridge, MA.
- We continue to pray for Alice Kidder, who has been in and out of the hospital in recent weeks to diagnose and treat internal bleeding.
- We pray for Kirsten Manville and her family as they mourn the loss of her cousin Tim Butler, who died suddenly.
- 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; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Keith Peterson, brother of Friday Café volunteer Neil Peterson.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and surrounding regions amid Russian military escalation and invasion. We pray for all troops and civilians and that diplomatic measures, sanctions and peace prevail.
- We pray with relief in our hearts at the verdict in this week's trial that declared Ahmaud Arbery's murder a hate crime. We pray for all impacted by ongoing violence and threats of violence against persons of color and for all who have endured the painful experience of watching such trials and their media coverage.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19—those experiencing symptoms, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those awaiting vaccines. We pray with and for anxious hearts, and especially for educators, healthcare personnel, 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.

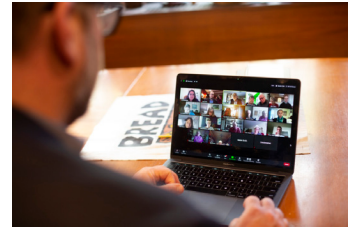
IN MEMORIAM The First Church Shelter was saddened to learn of the passing of TM, a guest of the Shelter for nearly two years who had secured and enjoyed his own place for a number of months. TM had many health challenges that were hard to manage while unhoused, so having access to the Shelter while waiting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

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

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!



Looking Ahead to Lent Forum

Today, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

MJH and [via Zoom](#)

Lent is almost upon us! What are your plans for this upcoming season of intentional prayer, study and spiritual practice? What's a bite-sized spiritual practice of giving up, letting go, or taking on that might help to center and ground your Lenten journey?

Join us for an after-worship session in which we will introduce our worship and formation plans for the Lenten season and share ideas for other individual practices we might consider.

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](#).



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.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Ash Wednesday Service

This Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

On Ash Wednesday, we reflect on our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God. Through a liturgy of readings, song, and prayer, we will gather together in the Spirit to acknowledge ashes as a sign of creation, mortality, repentance, and the Cross. Join us in person for our evening service with the imposition of ashes (a self-imposition will be offered, as well), or participate from home via our livestream. If you plan to worship at home, you may pick up a small container of ashes in Hastings Common anytime starting Sunday, February 27.



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 loneliness, anger, 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 as we live and shape *our* stories?

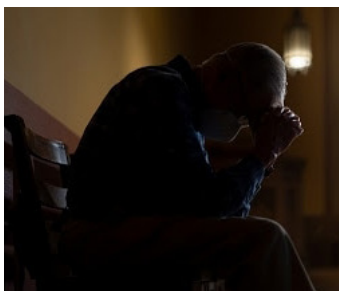
Each week, we'll offer a different scripture and related theme of daily living, along with several opportunities for weekly prayer and reflection. Themes and scriptures we'll be exploring together include:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Feb 27: | Jesus, Our Center | Introduction of our theme |
| • Mar 6: | Jesus and Solitude | Luke 4:1-11 |
| • Mar 13: | Jesus and Anger | Luke 13:31-35 |
| • Mar 20: | Jesus and Creation | Luke 13:1-9 |
| • Mar 27: | Jesus and Loss | Luke 15:1-2,11-32 |
| • Apr 3: | Jesus and Trust | John 12:1-8 |
| • Apr 10: | Jesus and Courage | Luke 19:28-40 |

Read more about [Lent at First Church](#) on our website.

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Sundays in Lent



Contemplative Prayer

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

Join us as we begin our Sundays with a time of quiet spiritual practice. We'll start with a scripture, then introduce simple guidelines for centering prayer before entering into a time of shared silence. Choir members in the building for rehearsal are invited to find a quiet place where they can connect to this offering with their own devices.



Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center

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

Join a conversation about the morning's themes. The preacher for the morning will offer a brief frame with a "living question" or two, and then we will divide into small groups for a time of sharing our faith and struggles, with Jesus as our center!

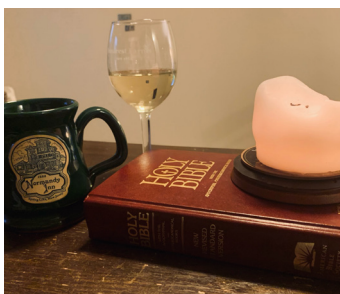
Wednesdays in Lent



Midweek Contemplative Prayer

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

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? Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan leads a time for prayer and silence (and maybe some gentle music!).



Midweek Small Group: Hanging out with God

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

Join Lexi Boudreaux and Jaz Buchanan weekly on Wednesdays during Lent for some theological reflection. We'll dive into lectionary readings for the week and consider any questions that are on our hearts with a refreshing drink (cocktail, mocktail, tea, coffee, juice - any drink of your choice!). Come just as you are—in your evening best or in some cozy pajamas—as we center ourselves and our lives in the Word of God.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 5, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person this Saturday morning for a time to gather, reflect, and rejoice. We won't be using the kitchen, so please bring your own favorite beverage and breakfast fixings.

Questions? Contact [Peter Byerly](#).



Earth Stewardship Meeting

Monday, March 7, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Join First Church's Earth Stewardship group for a meeting with [Emma Brewer-Wallin](#), the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ (SNEUCC) Minister for Environmental and Economic Justice. This gathering is an opportunity for us to learn more and discern how First Church may wish to engage in the SNEUCC's Green Congregational Challenge. All are welcome!



Young Adults: Faith on Tap Returns!

**Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.,
Bow Market, Somerville**

All young adults (post high school) are invited to come sip a warm beverage and share some fellowship at the fire pits outdoors in Bow Market, Somerville. It's a great way to meet other late-teen and 20-somethings, while enjoying a meal. Contact Phil with questions: 585-610-7919

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SNEUCC Super Saturday

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Register [here](#) by March 13

The Southern New England Conference's Super Saturday is a day filled with a variety of virtual workshops, a marketplace, and plenty of networking. Meet other people from the UCC in the New England area, worship, and attend as many or as few workshops as you like!



The theme this spring is ***A Future With Hope: Relevant, Prophetic and Transformative***, and the keynote speaker is Rev. Sarah Drummond, Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. [Super Saturday registration](#) is now open!

See all the workshop offerings [here](#).

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... [Read more](#)



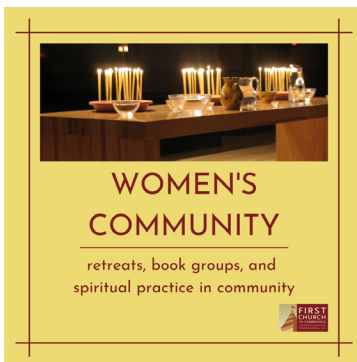
Women's Community Book Club

Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Come, one and all who identify as women, to our monthly book club. In March, we turn to non-fiction:

Love Is the Way by Episcopalian Bishop Michael Curry.

As always, if you are having trouble finding the book, please let [Susan](#), [Alex](#), or the group know, and we will do our best to get a copy to you.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, February 28

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Exploring Reparations Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Telling our White Stories" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

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

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

Tuesday, March 1

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. "Troublesome Attitudes and Antidotes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, March 2 - ASH WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary and via livestream

Thursday, March 3

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

Friday, March 4

- 9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) and the church lawn

Saturday, March 5

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

Sunday, March 6 - First Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer, 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: Pastoral Care Sunday, MJH
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center, 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, Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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