



Season of Epiphany
Hybrid Morning Worship
February 6, 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 6, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Ebony West, *Ministerial Intern*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Issa Bibbins and Vaughan Bradley-Willemann, *guest musicians*
Laurie Williams, *vocalist*
Dean Eaton, *Deacon*
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. 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
- 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, 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

For those participating at home, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion. All are welcome at the Table!

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 314

As We Gather at Your Table

*GREETING

Dean Eaton

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, 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

Dean Eaton and Dan Smith

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,
as we journey through holy darkness with you,
discovering your light in unexpected corners,
illuminating justice, righteousness, and peace.**

Amen.

**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.*

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

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to meet Jaz at the Children's Book Corner for Church School. On this first Sunday of the month, they will gather in MJH for pastoral care activities and then return to the Sanctuary for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ebony West

READING

Luke 5:1-11

HOMILY

Dan Smith

MUSICAL MEDITATION

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

Traditional

Issa Bibbons, piano; Sarah Higginbotham and Laurie Williams, vocalists

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

- L: Dear friends, come now to the Welcome Table!
C: Taste and see that God is good!
L: Drink together the Cup of Joy.
C: Filled to the brim with hope.
L: Jesus loves you. Come, eat the feast he has made for you.

*PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- L: How good it is to praise you, Holy One.
Your beauty ushers in the dawn,
and in your light we see light—
**C: justice for the nations, mercy for the broken-hearted,
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak, and forgiveness for the sinner.**
L: You reveal your love in joy and sorrow,
and we know your wonder even in the shadow of death.
C: All your creatures behold your works and testify to your faithfulness.
L: And so we too, fragile lamps in your holy house, raise our hearts in praise.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,
his daring love, his open table.
(Silence)
L: We remember that he called us friends.
C: He told us everything you placed in his heart.
L: We remember that he gave us peace.
C: A peace no one else can give.
L: We remember that he did not leave us bereft.
C: He sent us a Helper – the Spirit who dwells in our hearts!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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.

***SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are invited to partake of this feast. Please take now and eat; or if you are in the sanctuary, please exit your pew to the right and approach one of the stations in the front or back to receive the elements. Please step away from the server before lowering your mask to consume the elements. You may leave your empty bread cup and juice glass on the tray before returning to your pew from the left.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let Us Break Bread Together

Spiritual

Issa Bibbons, piano; Vaughan Bradley-Willemann, violin

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, for the gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
and the will to serve you all the days of our lives.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 102**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

OPENING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

314

1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997
 Carl P. Daw, Jr., an Episcopal priest and prolific hymn-text
 writer, has recently become full-time Executive Director of
 the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada.

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.
 Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

CLOSING HYMN

102 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; lead me on through death's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; st. 1, tr. Peter Williams, 1771; sts. 2,3, tr. William Williams, 1772, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

Williams, an evangelist with the Calvinistic Methodist Church of Wales, wrote more than eight hundred hymns in Welsh.

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.877

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for James Ross and for his mother Doris Ross, who is recovering from a recent hospitalization in Alabama.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday night for several diagnostic procedures.
- 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'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 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 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 this 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 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.

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

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

How We Are Gathering *Resuming Hybrid Worship Today*

With Omicron now in retreat, we are ready to resume Hybrid Worship. 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:

- 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.

We will continue to offer our 9:30 a.m. Formation sessions via Zoom, but our after-worship programs will be presented in a hybrid format, both in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom.



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!



Voting Rights Forum

Today 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



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.

Music Director Peter Sykes is away this week, performing in the "[Great Organists at Stetson](#)" series at Stetson University near Orlando, Florida.



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.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

GBIO Core Team/Orientation

Monday, February 7, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

Get to know the Greater Boston Interfaith

Organization! Fresh off a busy 2021 and a major win in Boston, we're inviting people who might

want to dig into GBIO for the first time to more of a mixer. We'll get a quick update on our platform of housing, criminal justice and mental health care reform, and then we'll have break-out groups to share what calls us to act for social justice, where we feel called, and how we came to feel that. We'll talk about what we can do with that energy to change the world around us (easier said than done, but doable!) Join the meeting [here](#).



Greater Boston
Interfaith Organization

Check out this video to see how far we've come: [GBIO 2021 Year in Review](#).

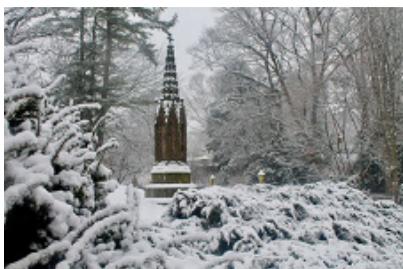


image: mountauburn.org

Young Adults: Walk in Mt. Auburn Cemetery

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

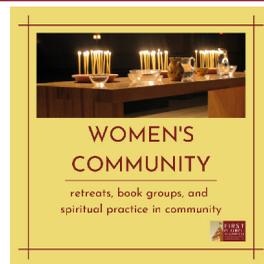
meet at Mt. Auburn St. entrance

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.

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



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.)

REGISTER FOR FAITH & LIFE GROUPS

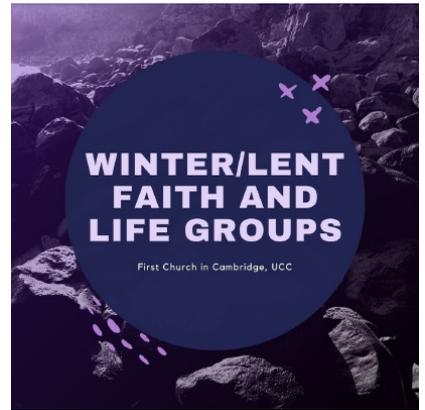
Registration is now open
for our latest round of Faith & Life Groups!

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](#)



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, February 7

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. GBIO Core Team/Orientation, via Zoom

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

Tuesday, February 8

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, February 9 - Last Day to Register for Faith & Life Groups

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Sextons' Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Call To Return 3.0, via Zoom

Thursday, February 10

- 5:00 p.m. EcoFaith Book Study Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

Friday, February 11

- 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 13

- 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: Classes for PreK - 7th graders
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 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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