



Hybrid Summer Worship
August 7, 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

August 7, 2022

Preaching Today	Matt Carriker, <i>Pastor and Spiritual Director, Agape Spiritual Community</i>
Leading Worship	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship & Arts</i> Beth Spaulding, <i>Deacon</i> Issa Bibbins and Tiffany Colston, <i>guest musicians</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

- 10:00 a.m. Hybrid Summer Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshments on Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 2:00 p.m. Young Adults: Get Together at Casey's, home of Casey Marsh

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: 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 407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*GREETING

Beth Spaulding

- L: Beloved, wherever you are on your journey of life and faith,
C: gather in this sacred time and space.
L: Come, just as you are, beautifully and wonderfully made.
C: Gather in our Creator's steadfast love that endures forever.
L: Come, all who seek rest and Sabbath,
C: gather in Christ who will give you renewal.
L: Come, all who yearn for justice, hope and peace.
C: Gather in the presence of the Spirit who guides us now.
L: Come, let us give thanks and worship God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Beth Spaulding and Dan Smith

ANTHEM

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Together, let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:
**All: Before you, O God, and before one another,
we confess the times when our words and actions
separated us from your greatest commandment
to love you, our neighbor, and ourselves.
God, tend to all the places within us that need healing and peace,
and fill us with your hope, strength, and wisdom.
In Jesus' name we pray. 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

GREETING OF PEACE

***HYMN 194**

Come and Fill Our Hearts

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Sarah Higginbotham

READING

Luke 12:32-34

READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

SERMON

Matt Carrier

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

SHARING THE FEAST

***INVITATION AND PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God 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 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 come forward and receive the elements at one of the stations, and then proceed back to your seats.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –
for 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,
the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 443

Seek Ye First

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

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 to the right.



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 mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount 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

NETTLETON
 87.87D

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.

Come and Fill Our Hearts

194



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.



Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu - ia!



WORDS and MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community, 1991

CONFITEMINI DOMINO
00 01

Seek Ye First

443

Descant

Al - - le - - lu - - ia, al - -

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and

le - - lu - - ia, al - - le - -

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

lu - - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for patience, strength and healing for James Ross, who has been in the hospital since last Friday for the unexpected onset of pain and lack of mobility. He is undergoing tests and awaiting diagnosis.
- We pray for John McCarty's father Jim, who is in the hospital recovering from a stroke.
- We pray for Perry Neubauer, who is recovering at home after long-awaited kidney stone surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; a current First Church Shelter guest; and friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O'Donovan.
- We pray for all who are facing severe, dangerous heat, droughts, and fires in Massachusetts, across the U.S., in Europe, and around the world.
- We pray for the people of Eastern Kentucky as they continue to recover from devastating flooding and mourn the loss of at least 30 lives.
- We pray for all those impacted by mass shootings and other incidents of gun violence that are occurring much too frequently in our nation. We pray for an end to this violence and the fear it instills.
- We pray for justice and peace as white supremacist hate groups target marginalized groups in more frequent protests in the city of Boston and around New England.
- We pray for all who have been affected by the monkeypox outbreak around the world, and for our public health officials, that they might mitigate the harm done to our public and individual health. We pray that all may access medical care without shame.
- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, and all those who care about them. We also pray for compassion, wisdom, grace, and courage, as the public discourse around abortion may cause each of us to wrestle with our own thoughts and feelings surrounding the complexities of this issue.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and for people in war-torn areas around the world. We pray for all troops and civilians, and for bordering countries receiving refugees.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19—those experiencing symptoms, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those awaiting vaccines and boosters. We pray with and for anxious hearts, especially for educators, healthcare personnel, and other essential workers.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for all transgender and gender non-conforming people who are experiencing hostility, discrimination, and violence across the country, in connection with the increased number of legislative actions that negatively impact their civil rights.
- We pray with hope at the news of possible climate action included in recently negotiated legislation in the Senate. Endow our political leaders and all of us with the strength and courage needed for ongoing climate and environmental justice.
- 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.



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 to the left 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:



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Welcome to our Guest Preacher and our Guest Musicians:

Rev. Matt Carriker, and Issa Bibbins and Tiffany Colston

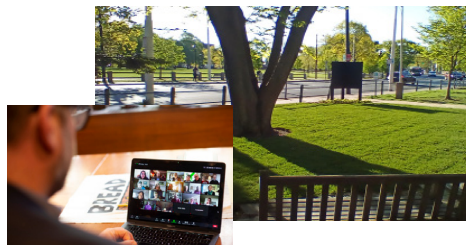
Today, we welcome Rev. Matt Carriker, founding Pastor of Agape Spiritual Community in Waltham, a newer church “start-up.” Matt is an ordained United Church of Christ minister, author, spiritual coach, and retreat leader, who has been leading Agape since it was formed in 2014. Agape describes itself as:

a community of contemplatives in action, with devotional, heart-centered music and worship that fills our spiritual cups. As a pluralistic Christian congregation, Agape is centered on Jesus, while living into the affirmation that God is still speaking, and affirming that there is beauty, wisdom, and life found in all religions rooted in love.

First Church has supported Agape’s efforts through our Missions and Social Justice Committee and also voted to join with Matt and Agape in endorsing a UCC Synod Resolution in 2021 encouraging our denomination to become a church of contemplatives in action, with deeper roots for our justice ministries in the ancient spiritual practices our tradition offers. Matt will be preaching today and sharing a taste of Agape’s worship and life together. In addition, we warmly welcome our dear friend, Issa Bibbins, and his friend Tiffany Colston, who will be offering music for today’s service.

**Refreshments on the Lawn and [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
Today at 11:00 a.m.**

Join us after church today for coffee, lemonade, and refreshments on the front lawn! For those joining online, Zoom Coffee Hour will launch at the end of worship.



Pastoral Care Cards this Summer

During the summer months, we invite you to support our Pastoral Care ministry by writing a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer list. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or “get well soon” wishes. Look for the “card table” at Coffee Hour each Sunday, where you’ll find the weekly list of pastoral care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, and a Church Directory with addresses. We have also included stamps and return address labels.

Please affix to the completed cards and place them in one of the mailboxes on Garden St. as you leave (corner of Garden and Mason or corner of Garden and Berkeley). If you’d like to write cards from home, use the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the “Quick Links” on the [Members & Friends page](#) of our website. Many thanks in advance for sharing in this important ministry of outreach and care.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Summer Hours

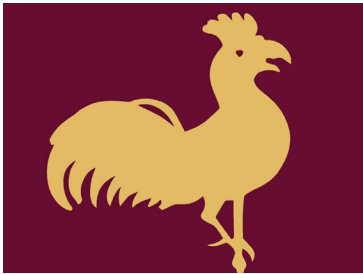
Through the months of July and August, **Hybrid Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.**, with pick-up choir meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Over the summer, church school-aged children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. The Nursery continues to be staffed by our regular caregivers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

During the summer, the church building closes at 2:00 p.m. from Thursday through Sunday. The building is open for regular hours Monday through Wednesday. A Sexton is in the building when it is open.

Leadership Retreat Summary & Opportunities to Offer Input

In early June, 35 members of our Executive Council, Board of Deacons, and Staff met for an after-church leadership retreat. We tried to take stock of where we've been since Covid and where we are now. We invited leaders to share both celebrations and questions around several key areas of our life together. Imagine Margaret Jewett Hall set up around 5 newsprint stations with lots of colorful scribbles under these topics:



- Hybrid Worship and Community
- Our Financial Life
- Our Staffing Model
- Becoming an Antiracist Church
- Everything Else!

And now, we'd love to hear from you!

For a **summary of our celebrations and questions**, please [click here](#).

For a chance to **add your own celebrations and questions**, please [click here](#).

If you are interested in **joining a summer gathering where we can share in conversation about all of the above**, please [sign up here](#).

After a time of being apart for so long, the retreat and these ongoing exercises are helping us to orient and share a common sense of where we are! Stay tuned for more opportunities this fall, as we continue to celebrate and deepen our discernment about where God is leading us next.

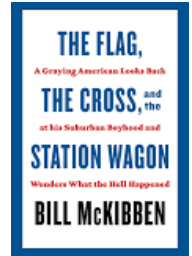
SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Summer Book Reading Group

The Flag, the Cross and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at His Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened
by Bill McKibben

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m., August 2 - 16, and Wednesday, August 31

Please email Dan Smith (dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org)
to RSVP and receive Zoom info.



Neighborhood Prayer Walk

Saturday, August 13, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Deacons invite you to a walk around our neighborhood of Cambridge, this time to the neighborhood of Lechmere! We will gather for a brief Deacon-led prayer before we take an easy stroll. Meet at the independently owned [coffee shop Curio](#) and walk together to the **Lechmere Canal Park** to enjoy coffees and their signature waffle sandwiches, or any snack of your choosing! Contact [Beth Spaulding](#) or [Lexi Boudreaux](#) if you have any questions or want to let us know that you already are planning on coming!

A Post Roe v. Wade Faith Gathering

Monday, August 22, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Join us for a facilitated conversation that welcomes different ideas and perspectives on how to make sense of a post Roe v. Wade nation in the context of our faith. Please email Jaz Buchanan (jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org) or Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) to RSVP and receive the Zoom invitation.



Summer Healing Service, August 21

This summer we offer a return of our healing services. In these services, we have an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands, and—for those who wish—anointing with oil, an ancient Christian practice now being revived across the ecumenical spectrum of churches. At the time of the sermon, we offer instead a brief introduction to the ritual and then invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time of silence for individual prayers.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Young Adults: Get Together at Casey's

TODAY, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Home of Casey Marsh

Join the Young Adults after church today at Casey Marsh's home in Arlington! We'll play some frisbee, have a few drinks, and catch up. Text Phil Jones if you can make it: 585-610-7919.



And put these upcoming events on your calendar...



Young Adults: Faith on Tap
Wednesday, August 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Druid, Inman Square

Young Adults: Sunset Stroll & Ice Cream
Sunday, August 21, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Meet @ Lizzie's, Harvard Square



First Church Returns to Craigville for our All-Church Fall Retreat

Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2

After two pandemic cancellations (as well as the "year off" we took in 2019), First Church is returning to [Craigville Retreat Center](#) for our beloved All-Church Fall Retreat! All are welcome to join us for a weekend of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. Take advantage of scheduled large group gatherings, small group sessions, supervised play/crafting time for kids, worship, group games, and more. Or, opt for a quiet walk on the beach, bird-watching at the marsh, or whatever your soul needs. Arrive on Friday evening, September 30, and stay through midday on Sunday, October 2, for the full event; or come for a portion of the weekend, for just one night or for a daytrip on Saturday. [Register now](#) to reserve your spot! Lodging and meals, plus all our First Church programming, are included; see the [registration form](#) for details.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Tuesday, August 9

5:00 p.m. Summer Book Group: *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon*, via Zoom

Thursday, August 11

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

Friday, August 12

9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Tower Room and Lawn

Saturday, August 13

8:00 a.m. Buildings & Grounds Work Day

11:00 a.m. Neighborhood Prayer Walk, meet at Curio Coffee & Wine, 441 Cambridge St.

Sunday, August 14

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Summer Worship

Dan Smith, preaching

11:00 a.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour

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

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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