

Season of Regathering October 23, 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 1636-2022

October 23, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Rev. James Ross, Minister for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, SNECUCC

Dan Smith, Senior Minister Carla Carbajal, Ministerial Intern Ahmaad Edmund. Ministerial Intern

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Owen Duke, liturgist

Hilary Hopkins, for the Food Pantry

Lee Prouty, tech support

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, First Church youth

Today's Programs and Events

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) 10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common

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

11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 Classes

12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH and via Zoom

12:15 p.m. Church Staffing and Finance Forum, MJH and <u>via Zoom</u>
1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Old South Church

1:30 p.m. Youth Group: Scary Movie and Caramel Apple-Making, 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 a visitor card found on the small clipboard in the pews or 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 <u>contact information</u> 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 All Glory Be to God on High J. S. Bach

*HYMN 360 I Love to Tell the Story

*GREETING Owen Duke

L: Siblings in the Spirit, come in, and know the goodness of God's love!

C: Enter into this sanctuary of rest and healing.

L: Come in, and know this community of justice and joy.

C: Come in, and hear stories of hope and challenge;

drink of God's beauty and mercy!

L: Friends, gather and regather, from near and far, enter anew into this space of wonder and grace,

All: and let us give our hearts to God's praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM Psalm 108 Patricia Van Ness

Wake up my spirit, awake lute and harp, I myself will waken dawn. Your lovingkindness is greater than the heavens, and your faithfulness. Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, your glory over all the earth. Alleluia.

CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SUNG PRAYER

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you!

(sing twice through)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

^{*}You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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.

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

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Luke 18:9-14

SERMON James Ross

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dan Smith

MINISTRY MOMENT FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Hilary Hopkins

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Carla Carbajal and Ahmaad Edmund

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

OFFERTORY

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace St. Francis/David White

Lord, make us servants of your peace; where there is hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one. Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console, nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand. May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly, for in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.

*DOXOLOGY

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 352 Go Forth for God

*LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR JIM BROWN

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Thuma Mina

Hymn 344

1. (Send me, Lord.)

3. (Fill me, Lord.) Fill me, Jesus...

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,

4. (Thuma mina.)

send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

Thuma mina, thuma mina,

2. (Lead me, Lord.) **Lead me, Jesus...** thuma mina, somandla.

VOLUNTARY

All Glory be to God on High

J. S. Bach

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.

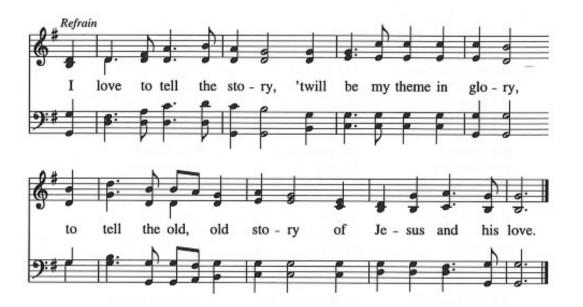


You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment here or by scanning the QR code to the right.

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OPENING HYMN



PEACE HYMN



CLOSING HYMN



WORDS: John Raphael Peacey, 1975

MUSIC: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

English Anglican Canon Peacey began writing hymn texts after retirement in 1966. He based this text on Paul's letter to the Romans (12:9-21).

OLD 124th 10 10.10 10.10

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COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for First Church Sexton George Williams. George is grieving the loss of his mother Mattie Williams, who died this past Tuesday.
- We pray for Ann Riker, who fell last week, had surgery for a broken hip, and is recovering in a rehab hospital.
- We pray for Facilities Manager Lee Prouty's partner Phil, who was treated for severe anemia this week.
- We pray for First Church Sexton Kimel Williams's wife Robin, who is preparing for breast cancer surgery.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who is facing ongoing health challenges.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Anita Anger; Lyman Morrill, Ann Riker's brother; 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; and friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O'Donovan.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression is on the rise in local communities, and as antisemitic rhetoric espoused by public figures continues to appear in social media and some political campaigns around the country.
- We pray for all those grieving the loss of life and the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian, as well as for the people of Puerto Rico as they continue to recover from Hurricane Fiona.
- We pray for the people of Haiti, where water, food, and fuel shortages are leading to widespread protests, violence, and civil unrest.
- We pray for the people of Iran, especially women, as anti-government protests continue, sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who was arrested by the Guidance Patrol because of an "improper hijab."
- We pray for the people of Pakistan, where recent devastating flooding has led to widespread loss of housing, food, and safe living conditions.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, and all those who care about them, especially as threats of a national abortion ban loom.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine as they experience increased attacks in an ongoing war and for the Russian men drafted quickly to continue the attacks.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19, especially as case counts rise in our area.
- 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

A memorial service for longtime, beloved First Church member Pauline Fennel will take place on All Saints Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream with a reception to follow. Pauline died on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, following a year-long struggle with cancer.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Rev. James Ross, Guest Preacher

We are so pleased to welcome Rev. James Ross as our guest preacher today. James currently serves as the Minister for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Southern New England Conference UCC. He is also a First Church member, having recently joined in November 2021. James lived most recently in St. Louis, where he was Pastor at Pilgrim Congregational

United Church of Christ. He previously lived and served congregations in Washington, D.C. A former journalist, James also worked in organizational and political communications, and as an advocate for sentencing reform and racial, economic, and queer justice. We are thrilled that James will be leading us and breaking open God's holy word for us!

Coffee Hour in Margaret Jewett Hall and <u>via Zoom</u>, Today at 12:00 p.m. Join us in person or online for social connection and conversation.

Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

Please help us make worship as delicious as it is spiritually sustaining! For Coffee Hour each week, we are looking for 2-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks, such as cheese & crackers or fruit. In general, the church has a "No Nuts" policy; a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies would be



appreciated. Please leave food donations on the kitchen island. Thank you for providing sustenance for our gathered community!



Church Staffing and Finance Forum

Today, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall and <u>via Zoom</u> Join church leaders for an important after-worship conversation about our church's finances and future staffing plans. Given Covid, we're just now coming through a highly unusual stretch, in terms of our demands and opportunities related to our staff and budget.

We are now needing a clear-eyed assessment and realignment of where we are and where we are going in our ministry. We welcome, need, and value your input and insight in this moment of challenge and opportunity!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders
Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Old South Church, Boston
7th and 8th graders meet for OWL, a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum produced by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association.



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Youth Group:

Scary Movie and Caramel Apple-Making - Bring a friend! Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room

Bring a friend to join the Youth Group to watch a Halloween movie while decorating caramel apples! Bringing other projects to work on while watching the movie together is welcome.

Night Song
Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream
Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset...

Read more about Night Song.



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH



Young Adults Night at the Parsonage Wednesday, October 26, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. 44 Garden St., Cambridge

First Church is home to a small community of 20- and 30-somethings, some who are settling into their longtime church home, some who're here for a season or a semester. Whether you're looking for some spiritual connection, or just some new friends,

the Young Adults group is a good place to start. We gather for fellowship a couple times each month, and folks are encouraged to drop in as able. Join us on Wednesday, when we'll get to know each other at the home of Senior Minister Dan Smith. Snacks and beverages provided, just bring yourself!

An Invitation to Covenant Dinner

Saturday, October 29, 6:00 p.m., Home of Bill Hsiao, Cambridge

Would you like to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends and fellow congregants, and take a moment to reflect on what it means to be part of the church community? Would you like to share conversation, food, and drink with interesting people over a potluck



dinner? Winnie Yip of the Stewardship Committee invites you to a Covenant Dinner, hosted at the home of Bill Hsiao in Cambridge. Please RSVP to Winnie at: wyip@hsph.harvard.edu. We look forward to breaking bread together!

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Interested in Joining First Church on Sunday, October 30? Have you been thinking about exploring membership at First Church in Cambridge? Do you have a growing sense that First Church is where you belong?

Membership at First Church involves joining the church through covenantal promises to be an active member of our community of faith and gives you the opportunity to vote at congregational meetings. If you would like to join



the church during Sunday Morning Worship on October 30, please submit your information and an introductory bio today. New Member Registration form here:

https://forms.gle/hT8NJnrEPqpwyDk19



Celebration of Longtime Members Joining Sunday, October 30

In Hybrid Morning Worship on Sunday, October 30, we will welcome new members to our covenant community and recognize those who have been members for many decades! Join us for this special celebration that will feature new friends and those who have been in covenant and worshiping with us for 50, 60, and even 70-plus years

(can you guess who they are?). We have some ideas, but if you know you joined First Church before 1982, please be in touch with Dan Smith. What a gift it will be to give thanks to God for guiding our community from generation to generation, from strength to strength!

A Multigenerational Embroidery Project

Inspired by our Juneteenth service in which we read aloud the names of persons enslaved by First Church members who are on our 17th and 18th century membership rolls, we are embarking on a project to embroider these names in a piece of fabric art that will be displayed in our building and



lifted up by our community as a public witness to First Church's legacy of slavery. We hope to include many First Church folks of all ages in stitching the names and learning the stories of Black people connected to First Church and the Cambridge community, including Tony and Cuba Vassal, ancestors of the Lloyd family. The list of names will also include blank spaces, reflecting those whose names have been lost to history, or whose names were changed by their enslavers. Opportunities to learn about and participate in the project begin with the Church School on their Creative Arts Sunday, October 30; more information to follow.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

Harvard Square Faith Communities and the Legacy of Slavery: Landscape of Slavery Tours, Sunday, October 30 at 3:00 p.m. The Sunken Garden at Radcliffe, 10 Garden St.

Drawing from the <u>Report of the Presidential Committee on the</u> <u>Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery</u>, this six-stop tour engages with the local geography of African and Indigenous enslavement in words, silence and stillness. Join us as we learn about those who



were wrongly oppressed, enslaved, and buried here, but whose dignity and humanity we aim to acknowledge and honor during this exploration.



First Church Shelter presents the 2022 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards Next Sunday, October 30, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall

The Shelter Oversight Committee hopes you will make time to attend this year's Doris Beauvais Luncheon on Sunday, October 30, at 12:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall. The event commemorates and recommends the leadership and example of the late Doris Beauvais, a First Church member who, 35 years ago, played a crucial role

in the First Church community's decision to open and support a shelter for homeless adults. The luncheon will be free; donations to support First Church Homeless Ministries will be gratefully accepted. See the list of 2022 Mitch Snyder Award recipients here.

CISC Update: GoFundMe Campaign

Beginning in January 2017, the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (of which First Church was a founding member) was an active network of volunteers walking alongside a family living in sanctuary at a time of great need. Many First Church members supported Diana and her family, and we celebrated with joy as they moved out of sanctuary in December 2021. CISC is taking a



pause to evaluate what could be next for the organization, but we are delighted to share an opportunity to continue financially supporting Diana and her family. A few months ago, CISC we nt through the meticulous process of evaluating how to best support Diana in this new time in her family's life. You can support Diana directly by donating to her **GoFundMe page**, a safe and secure way for Diana to receive funds from this community. All of the money goes directly to her, allowing Diana to have independence and control over any donated funds.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH



All Saints Sunday, November 6

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives, devotion, and example of members and friends of our congregation who died in the last year, as well as their immediate family members (parents, spouses, siblings). With help from our larger-than-life puppet saints which have been a First Church tradition for many years, we also commemorate all God's holy ones, known and

unknown to us, who have now entered God's joy. Our tradition teaches that a saint is anyone who is called and gifted by the Spirit to carry out a ministry of grace and reconciliation in the world, and who is responding generously. And so we also give thanks for the faithful lives of the living saints. Our celebration will culminate in our first "communion-in-the-round" since Covid! Everyone is welcome in this circle, even if you are here for the first time. If you use a wheelchair or a walker, a ramp on the north transept side leads to the the chancel. Although we warmly welcome everyone to the circle, anyone who prefers to remain in the pews should also feel free to do so. We will serve communion to you wherever you are!

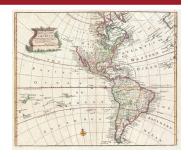
Adult Formation: The Doctrine of Discovery Sundays, November 13 & 20, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

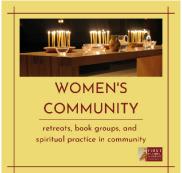
Harter Room and via Zoom

The Christian Formation Committee invites you to a two-part series on the Doctrine of Discovery.

November 13: Session 1

What exactly is the "Doctrine of Discovery?" Did you ever hear of Johnson v. McIntosh? What is "Manifest Destiny?"... Read more

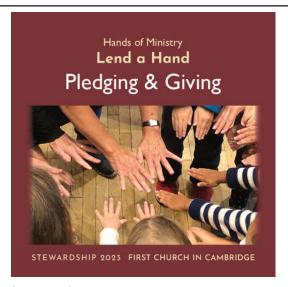




Women's Community Book Club Tuesday, November 15, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

All First Church people who identify as women are invited to join us for a discussion of *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. We promise to have a thoughtful and lively discussion of Erdrich's newest novel. If you have trouble finding the book, let us know, and we will do our best to find one for you.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



Please save the following dates and times to participate in our Stewardship campaign events.

Adult Formation:

How to Tell the Truth about Money October 30, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Join the Stewardship Committee for an engaging conversation on telling the truth about money here at First Church.

Adult Formation: Faith & Money November 6, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Treasurer Rich Goode and Minister of Stewardship & Finance Karen McArthur present the 2023 budget and discuss the "how" and "why" of First Church's budgetary decisions.

Stewards and Saints Luncheon November 6, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Stay for a delicious meal of soups, stews, and bread to celebrate our saints and the beginning of our 2023 Stewardship season.

Pledge Dedication Sunday November 20, 11:00 a.m.

Be a part of the body of Christ, and see it thrive through gifts and pledges on this Sunday of celebration and generosity.

Fall Congregational Meeting November 20, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.



Monday, October 24

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

7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

Tuesday, October 25

7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom

10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room

1:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Metaphors for God, via Zoom

8:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Prophetic Voices of the 20th Century, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 26

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

6:30 p.m. Young Adults: Gathering at the Parsonage, 44 Garden St. 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: 1619 Project Discussion Group, via Zoom

Thursday, October 27

10:00 a.m. Faith & Life Group: Fall Revelations, Harter Room

5:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom 6:00 p.m Drop-in Bible Study, via Zoom

Friday, October 28

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

Saturday, October 29

6:00 p.m. Covenant Dinner, Home of Bill Hsiao



Sunday, October 30

9:30 a.m. New Members Breakfast, church lawn

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Membership & Joining Sunday,

Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, Landing12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour in Hastings Common and via Zoom

12:30 p.m. Doris Beauvais Luncheon and Mitch Snyder Awards, MJH1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Old South Church

1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Harter Room

3:00 p.m. Harvard Square Faith Communities and the Legacy of Slavery:

Landscape of Slavery Tours, The Sunken Garden at Radcliffe, 10 Garden St.

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

See our <u>Events Calendar</u> for Zoom links and details.

Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC 11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138