

Season of Stewardship November 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

1636-2022

November 13, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Lexi Boudreaux, Transitional Minister Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate Carla Carbajal, Ministerial Intern Ahmaad Edmund, Ministerial Intern

Peter Sykes, *Music Director* Caroline Newton, *liturgist*

Ami Brenner, offering a Stewardship testimony

Lee Prouty, tech support

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, First Church youth

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Doctrine of Discovery, Harter Room and via Zoom

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 <u>via livestream</u>

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, Harter Room 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: Care Packages for First Church Elders. Kitchen

3:00 p.m. Seraphim Singers Concert: In/Justice Through the Ages, Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and <u>via livestream</u>

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 <u>First Church Communications Request</u> form.

Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the FCC Website Changes form

GATHERING

The world is blue at its edges and in its depths. This blue is the light that got lost. Light at the blue end of the spectrum does not travel the whole distance from the sun to us. ... This light that does not touch us, does not travel the whole distance, the light that gets lost, gives us the beauty of the world, so much of which is in the color blue.

— Rebecca Solnit, A Field Guide to Getting Lost

VOLUNTARY	Psalm Prelude	Herbert Howells
*HYMN 54	For the Beauty of the Earth	

*GREETING Caroline Newton

L: May the peace of God be with you this morning.

C: We gather in hope, grateful for gifts received.

L: Give thanks for this community of faith and growth!

C: We gather in anticipation, eager to experience the gift of God's Word.

L: Celebrate the splendor of God's creation and the depth of God's love.

C: We gather in joy, ready to share our gifts for the common good.

L: So come, from wherever you are this day, and let us worship together.

WORDS OF WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT Peter Sykes

ANTHEM Christ Be With Me Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to guide me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in guiet, Christ in danger,

Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in care of friend and stranger.

CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Ahmaad Edmund

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:

C: God of Justice, when we settle for the way things are,

instead of the way you would have them be, forgive us. (cont'd. on next page)

^{*}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.

When we are immobilized by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you.

When we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us what your love requires.

When we walk ahead or behind, instead of with our neighbor, open our eyes to their humanity.

When we tire of the struggle, and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope and renew our courage.

In the name of Jesus, our brother, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INVITATION AND ADDRESS

Lexi Boudreaux

THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

Adam Weiss

L: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone who desires new life into the faith and family of Christ. Do you who witness this sacrament promise this child your love, support and care?

All: We do!

L: Will you help him grow in faith and witness with him to the love and mercy of Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God!

L: Do you renew your own promises to live in the freedom of Christ, and abide by his compassion for all people?

All: We do, with the help of God!

BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*PRESENTATION

*HYMN 306

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

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

Carla Carbajal

READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

SERMON

Karen McArthur

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jaz Buchanan

PRAYERS FOR 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.

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Ami Brenner

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

OFFERTORY Oculi omnium Charles Wood

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

*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 373 We Are Your People

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Thuma Mina Hymn 344

1. (Send me, Lord.)

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,

send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

4. (Thuma mina.) **Thuma mina, thuma mina, thuma mina. somandla.**

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

2. (Lead me, Lord.) **Lead me, Jesus...**

VOLUNTARY Voluntary John Stanley

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.

SCAN ME

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

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For the Beauty of the Earth

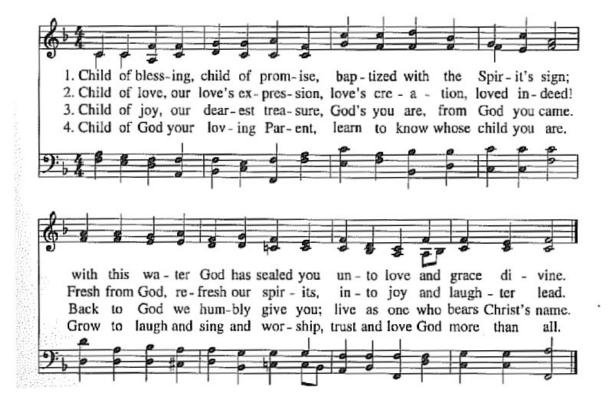


WORDS: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864, alt. MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

DIX 77.77.77

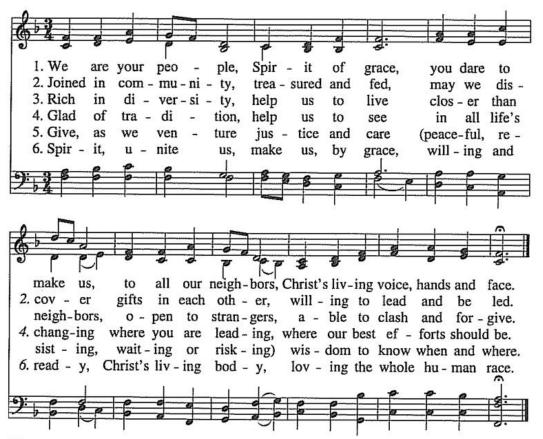
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

306



373

We Are Your People



WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973, rev. 1994 MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker, 1986

MEETING HOUSE 54,557

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray with thanksgiving for the birth of Molly Juniper Fatherly Cyr, daughter of Dewey Cyr and Will Fatherly, sister to Leah, and granddaughter to Nancy and Ed Cyr.
- We pray for First Church Sexton George Williams. George is grieving the loss of his mother Mattie Williams, who died recently.
- We pray for Facilities Manager Lee Prouty's partner Phil, who is making a treatment plan to address recent medical issues.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Anita Anger; Robin Williams, Kimel Williams's wife; 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.
- We pray for all impacted by recent deadly disasters, including the crowd surge in Seoul, South Korea, that killed over 150 people and the collapse of a suspension bridge in Gujarat, India, that killed at over 134 people.
- We pray for all those impacted by gun violence, and especially three recent shootings in Boston that left one person dead and five others wounded
- 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.
- We pray for the people of Pakistan, where recent devastating flooding has led to widespread loss of housing, food, and safe living conditions.
- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, and all those who care about them. We pray for our country in the lasting wake of changing reproductive rights: for all those struggling through the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for the integrity of our legal and judicial institutions at a time of extreme political polarization.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine as they experience increased attacks in an ongoing war, and for the Russian men drafted to continue the attacks.
- We pray for the 2022 United Nations Climate Conference (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, and for the divine wisdom and leadership needed to ensure that global reparation efforts distribute power equitably and protect the most vulnerable.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.
- 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.

Join the First Church List to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

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TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Adult Formation: The Doctrine of Discovery

Today and Sunday, November 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.

Today: Session 1

What exactly is the "Doctrine of Discovery?"

Did you ever hear of Johnson v. McIntosh?

What is "Manifest Destiny?"

How did, and how do, these rulings affect Native Americans?

We'll view a TED talk by a powerful American Indian speaker and explore some issues it raises.



We'll talk religion.

How might our theology blind us to American Indian spiritual identity?

The Promised Land: promised to whom by whom?

How can the church support a new sense of God's mission among American Indian Christians?

We'll view a video prepared by the Episcopal church, which was the first denomination to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

Coffee Hour, MJH and <u>via Zoom</u> Today at 12:00 p.m.

Join us in person or online for social connection and conversation.





Church Staffing and Finance Forum Today at 12:15 p.m Harter Room and via Zoom

If you weren't able to attend the "Faith and Money" discussion last Sunday, please join church leaders for an 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 the demands and opportunities related to our staff and budget. Our leaders have been working hard to develop near and medium term plans. Please share your input and insight as we prepare for our Fall Congregational Meeting and budget vote on Sunday, December 4.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders
Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Old South Church, Boston
AND

Youth Group: Care Packages for First Church Elders Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Kitchen/Hastings Common Join the Youth Group for baking cookies and helping write cards to people in our First Church community

who need some extra support and connection. Bring your favorite music to listen to as we assemble care packages together and bring some light and love into the world!

Seraphim Choral Concert: In/Justice Through the Ages Sunday, November 13, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary Seraphim, a choral singing group in residence here at First Church in Cambridge, invites the congregation to its upcoming concert. "In/Justice Through the Ages" will feature choral music of protest from the medieval to the current day, with works by James MacMillan, Trevor Weston, Teresa Murphy, Shruthi Rajasekar, and Teri Kowiak, with organ and percussion. You may read the



program notes here. Free in-person tickets are available to First Church members; request your tickets by email: darylbichel@aol.com. Participate in our outreach to the homeless and those living on the margins by bringing donations of clothing, food, and other items to the concert. Of importance at this concert is collecting winter wear.



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.

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

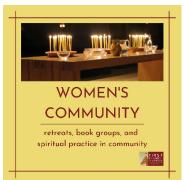
It's Time to Pledge!

Share your intentions by handing in your pledge of support for 2023. Receiving your pledges allows First Church to make faithful and prudent financial decisions. You may amend your pledge at any time if your situation changes.

- Pledge online
- Pick up a pledge card & return it during worship next Sunday
- Email bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org to ask that a pledge card be mailed to you
- Email karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org with your pledge



Our pledge total as of noon on November 20 will be an important part of Executive Council's 2023 budget recommendation.



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.

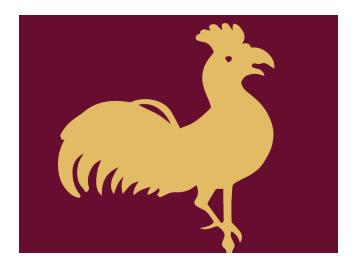
Connect with First Church on Social Media

With hundreds of subscribers, and sometimes hundreds of views of our services and sermons, our reach is growing beyond our in-person and livestream attendance! First Church's YouTube channel is home to lots of meaningful content, including sermons, music, church school lessons, testimonies, entire worship services, and more. Our Instagram is full of the beauty and wonder of moments in

the life of First Church. Subscribe to and follow our social media! If you missed our celebration of First Church's long-term members on October 30, or want to revisit parts or all of it, please be sure to check it out on our Sunday Services playlist <a href="https://example.com/here/example.co



CALL TO MEETING



Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 386th year at 12:30 p.m.,
Sunday, December 4, 2022,
in person in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom,
for the following purpose:

1. To review and vote on the proposed 2023 annual budget of the Congregation as recommended by Executive Council.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council, Christine Reynolds, *clerk*

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 right 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.



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT



Consider some of our most well-known and treasured Advent and Christmas scriptures:

Behold, a star...

Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son...

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...

Behold is a biblical way of arresting our attention, often with energetic and joyful anticipation! In essence, and often through the voices of divine messengers, it enthusiastically proclaims: "Look! "Watch!," or "Wait for it...!" Indeed, behold! This simple invitation is a gift in a world cast down with increasing anxiety and foreboding.

When we open and give ourselves to wonder, amidst it all, we leave room for God to enter in—to surprise us, to blow our minds with breathtaking views of our galaxy, to melt our hearts with awe and delight at a newborn child. This season, let's embrace this invitation together. Let's take time to pause amidst the busyness, to look up and look in, and to behold!

Behold, for God is always doing a new thing! In worship and in community, let's look, watch, and wait for it together!

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Sunday, November 27

Advent 1

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship,

Lexi Boudreaux, preaching

12:15 p.m. Advent Workshop, Margaret Jewett Hall

Sunday, December 4

Advent 2

9:30 a.m. Advent Reflection on the Psalms,

Harter Room and via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship,

Dan Smith, preaching

12:30 p.m. Fall Congregational Meeting,

Margaret Jewett Hall & via Zoom

Saturday, December 10

5:30 p.m. Women's Community Advent Dinner

Home of Alex Steinert-Evoy

Sunday, December 11

Advent 3

9:30 a.m. Advent Reflection on the Psalms,

Harter Room and via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship,

Special Music Sunday

Carlyle Stewart, preaching

12:15 p.m. Alternative Christmas Fair,

Margaret Jewett Hall

Sunday, December 18

Advent 4

9:30 a.m. Advent Reflection on the Psalms,

Harter Room and via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship,

Multigenerational UnPageant

12:15 p.m. Christmas Cookie Swap & Reception for

Jaz Buchanan, Margaret Jewett Hall

1:30 p.m. Youth Group: Christmas Gift Swap, Library

3:00 p.m. Seraphim Concert, Sanctuary



UCC NEWS



Pakistan Emergency Appeal

The situation in Pakistan is dire. This summer's monsoon season dropped nearly triple the average annual rainfall. Already, more than 33 million people have been affected and an estimated 6.4 million people will need humanitarian assistance. Nearly 1,500 people died as a result of the flooding. More than 1 million homes were severely damaged or completely destroyed. Over 17,500 schools were completely or partially damaged. The loss of livelihoods

through, for example, dead livestock and destroyed cropland is also staggering. The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs in Pakistan and the long-term recovery of those devastated by these floods. All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for "Pakistan Response." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Please donate here, or mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Pakistan Response Fund" on your check in the memo section.



Emergency Appeal for UCC Hurricanes 2022 Fund

The 2022 hurricane season started slowly – until, in the space of 10 days, two catastrophic storms slammed Florida, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Bermuda and even Canada. The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal to help with response

and recovery. The UCC "Hurricanes 2022" appeal will be used to help those impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Fiona – and storms still to come. Please consider giving generously by clicking here. If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.



A Note from Earth Stewardship

Be sure to regularly check out our <u>Earth Stewardship webpage</u> for upcoming UCC and local climate justice events!



Monday, November 14

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

Tuesday, November 15

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

11:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room

3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Group, Harter Room and via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Club, via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Encountering Faith and the Bible Anew, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Faithfully (and Queerfully) Reading Scripture, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, November 16

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

7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: 1619 Project Discussion Group, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, November 17

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

5:30 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room

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

7:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Encouragement/Support Group

for Children of Aging Parents, via Zoom

Friday, November 18

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH and Lawn



Sunday, November 20

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Doctrine of Discovery, Harter Room and via Zoom

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH

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

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Pledge Dedication Sunday, Dan Smith, preaching

Sanctuary and via livestream

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

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

12:15 p.m. Executive Council, Harter Room and via Zoom

1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Old South Church

1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Library

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