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Christmastide  
January 1, 2023

**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

### January 1, 2023

**Preaching Today** Kate Layzer, *Minister for Street Outreach*  
**Leading Worship** Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Adam Weiss, *Deacon*

**Bulletin Cover Image** Carina Nebula, photographed by the James Webb telescope  
*this image and many more may be found at: [webb.nasa.gov](http://webb.nasa.gov)*

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### Today's Programs and Events

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common

### 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](http://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](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

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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**

Little Partita for Epiphany

James Woodman

**\*HYMN 167**

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

**\*GREETING**

Adam Weiss

L: Sisters and brothers, siblings all, grace and peace to you from God!

**C: And to the whole world, God's peace, love and light!**

L: Arise, and show forth the glory of God!

**C: Our light is come! God's spirit shines forth in Jesus the child!**

L: Then let us gather, and sing God's praise!

**C: With you, God, our feast is abundant!**

L: Our drink flows from the rivers of your delight.

**C: With you, is the fountain of life!**

**ALL: In your light, we see light!**

**All glory and honor be yours,  
almighty and everlasting One!**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CONFESSING**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**SILENCE**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

**All: Holy God, in your light we see light.**

**And so, too, we see the veils of our ignorance and pride,  
the ways we treat ourselves and others without your mercy, love, or justice.**

**Let the brightness of your morning burn through our fog of aimlessness and sin  
and put a new vision in our hearts.**

**Teach us to see your world illumined anew, as with the eyes of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

*\*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.*

**\*GREETING OF PEACE**

*We invite you to greet each other with a hug or handshake. If you prefer to maintain social distance, please put your hands together or fold your arms to share the peace.*

**\*HYMN C-26**

Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning

**OPENING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

**RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 98

L: O sing a new song to God  
who has done marvelous things,

**C: whose right hand and holy arm  
have brought victory.**

L: God has made salvation known;  
and shown divine justice to the nations

**C: and has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.**

L: All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

**C: Make a joyful noise to the Holy One, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

L: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before God, the ruler of all.**

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.

**C: Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy**

L: at the presence of God,  
who is coming to judge the earth.

**C: The Holy One will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

**READING**

Revelation 21

**SERMON**

Kate Layzer

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist

J. S. Bach

### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

To God, all glorious heav'nly light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God, the Spirit, now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.

## SHARING THE FEAST

### \*GATHERING

### \*PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- L: How good it is to praise you, Morning Star!  
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. Amen.

### REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

- L: Now, O God, we remember Jesus, our brother.  
(*silence*)
- L: He took his place among sinners, although he had nothing to repent.
- C: He was baptized with them, God's Child and Delight.**
- L: We remember that he called disciples and ministered to all.
- C: He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the poor.**
- L: We remember that he died between thieves, and was buried in a borrowed grave.
- C: We believe that you raised him. He lives even now, the Light of the World.**

- L: How wonderfully he fed us! Loaves and fish for the multitude, wine for a wedding in Cana, living water for the woman at the well, breakfast for disciples on the shore!
- C: Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.**
- L: He took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it, saying:  
“This is my body, surrendered for you!”
- C: And when the supper was over, he took a cup filled with wine. He gave you thanks for it and passed it to his friends, saying: This is my life-blood poured out for you, and for everyone, so that sins might be forgiven.**
- L: He told us, “Do this and remember me!”

## 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 BREAD AND CUP

*All who seek to follow Jesus’ way of justice, compassion and love to partake of this feast. Please know that grape juice is in the cups and the bread is gluten-free. Please come forward and be served in stations (bring your bulletin!), then gather in a circle around the Table.*

### \*THANKSGIVING

- L: Let us give thanks!
- All: Thank you, God, 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 life that never ends.  
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

# GOING FORTH

\*HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come

(see below)

\*BENEDICTION

167

## Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1. A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2. A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3. A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

# OPENING HYMN

## 164 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

1, 5. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
 3. Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our path - way and lend us your aid.  
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts heav'n - ly fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him, in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor. *(repeat stanza 1)*

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1811, alt.  
 MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. FCC, 1997

WALKER  
11 10.11 10



PEACE HYMN

C-26 Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning

1. Lord, your grace shines like the mor - ning, sweet - ly  
 2. Bit - ter is our long night's dream - ing, muf - fled  
 3. You are mer - cy, you are heal - ing, though, save  
 4. Praise to you, O God most pa - tient! in our

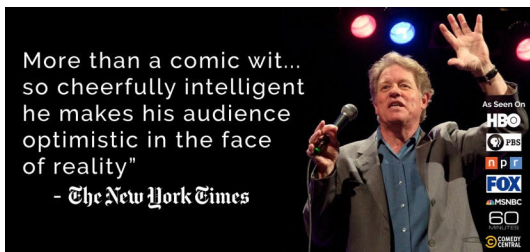
pierc - ing our deep night; comes up - on us with - out  
 in a cloth of pain; shut in where no light comes -  
 dark, we noth - ing see; new day breaks, your love re -  
 dark - ness you see light; sor - row turns to ju - bi -

warn - ing; sor - row yields be - fore your light.  
 stream - ing, till we wake to you a - gain.  
 veal - ing: hope in what is yet to be.  
 la - tion in your ev - er - last - ing sight!

WORDS: Kate Layzer  
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For the dedication of a new central chancel window,  
 Spring 1994

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



### Jimmy Tingle's Humor For Humanity Holiday Shows LAST SHOW: TODAY at 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Help us raise spirits, funds and awareness for First Church Homeless Ministries with Jimmy Tingle's Humor for Humanity Holiday Shows! We are excited to announce that the Jimmy Tingle Live! Humor for Humanity profit sharing series is coming to First

Church in Cambridge. For every ticket sold using the **First Church code** at checkout, \$10 will be donated to **First Church Homeless Ministries**. Additional donations to Homeless Ministries and other organizations can be made at checkout as well. And, opening the December 30 show with a few songs will be singer/songwriter Kirsten Manville, also known as First Church's Director of Operations! [Get more information and purchase tickets.](#)

### Harvard Square Poetry Stroll: LAST DAY TODAY December 10, 2022 - January 1, 2023

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site announces the third annual [Harvard Square Holiday Poetry Stroll](#) in partnership with Mass Poetry and the Harvard Square Business Association. Short works by local poets are on view at outdoor locations around the Square, including at First Church in Cambridge. Many of this year's poems were selected in conjunction with Mass Poetry's [The Hard Work of Hope](#) series, which featured "poems from our community that offer moments of reprieve and inspiration in these difficult and confusing times." Please enjoy the self-guided outdoor Holiday Poetry Stroll with your friends or loved ones. There is no designated start or end point for this experience. [Check out the map](#) for this year's poems and locations, and the opportunity to create your own poetry.

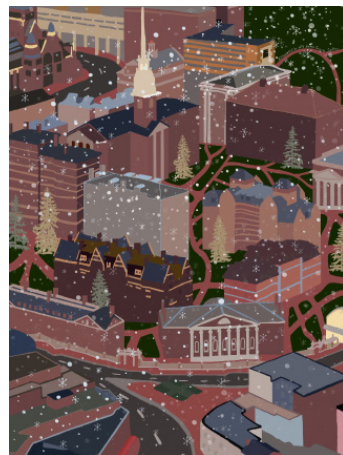


Illustration by Grace Coffey (NPS)

### 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 left.



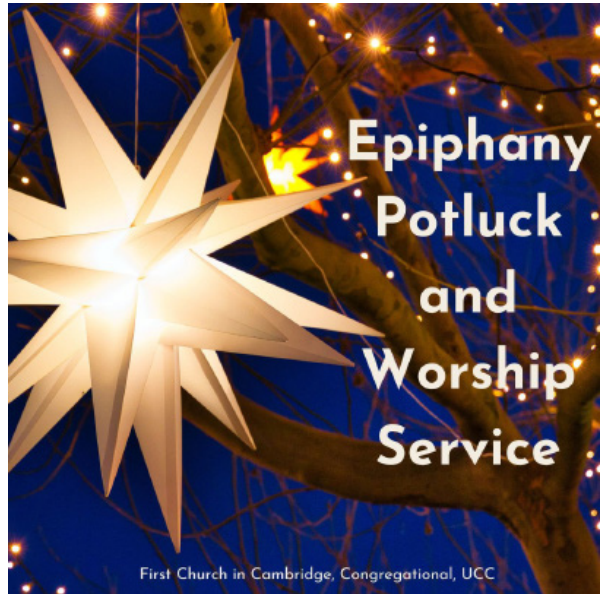
## EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH

**Epiphany Potluck and Service**  
**Friday, January 6, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Margaret Jewett Hall and Sanctuary**

Epiphany (“manifestation”) is a Christian feast so ancient that it predates Christmas. It celebrates God’s self-revelation in Jesus. It is a season of light shining in darkness, a time when the wise leave their books to seek a child, wine brims from clay water jars, and the voice of God rings in our ears: “You are my beloved, my child, my delight!”

We will celebrate Epiphany on Friday, January 6, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner in Margaret Jewett Hall. The meal will be potluck through and through: you are invited to bring either a main dish casserole (last names beginning with A-H), a salad or side dish (last names beginning with I-M), dessert (N-R), or drinks (S-Z). After our feast and a brief gathering ritual in the Chapel, we will set off together on a candlelight journey through the darkness until we arrive at the Sanctuary and circle it with light. Under the dome in the chancel, we will renew our own baptismal promises, ending with a joyful “sprinkling” of all present. This event is for all ages, so gather up friends, neighbors, kids, and come share the light!



**Art Exhibit: “I and Thou: Epiphany”**

**Friday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Margaret Jewett Hall**

First Church member and artist Henry Gates displays seven ages of life and seven sacraments correlated in seven altars for the I-THOU: Epiphany. At critical junctions over our lifetime, we call upon God for guidance. Each of these spectral colors cues us to these transitions. Come visit these altars at our Epiphany Potluck and Service to reflect upon a lifetime of yourself and God.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### Our Immigrant Neighbors: The Next Phase

Sunday, January 8, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

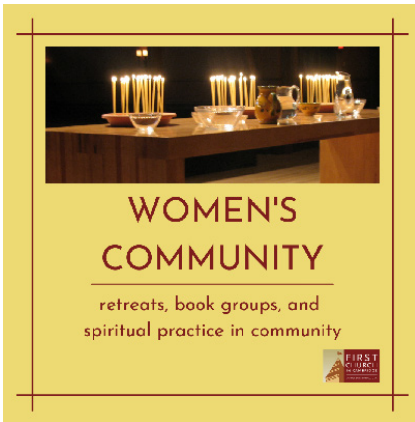
Please join other Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC) congregants for an online event that will feature representatives from the following local organizations that support immigrants to give us an update on their work and opportunities to get involved. Organizations include: Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN), ArCS (the local cluster of the Refugee Immigration Ministry), and Immigrant Family Supporting Services Institute (IFSI).



### Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, January 10, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Our next book selection is [Hamnet](#) by Maggie O'Farrell. Published in 2020, it should be available at libraries and is now out in paperback, but do let [Alex](#) or [Susan](#) know if you have trouble getting a copy. Looking ahead with a sneak peek to our February selection, we plan to read [The Personal Librarian](#) by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Please join us!



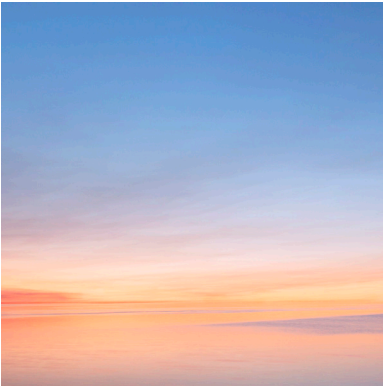
### Collage Exhibit: Reflecting on the Psalms

January - February, Margaret Jewett Hall

This Epiphany season, please come and behold *Reflecting on the Psalms*, an exhibit of 150 collages created by First Church artist Audrey Bellinger. Audrey joined our "Praying the Psalms" group led by Brent Coffin wherein participants were invited to enter into a spiritual practice of reading one psalm a day and then meeting weekly for small group discussion. *Reflecting on the Psalms* is Audrey's response to these invitations. Her collages became a spiritual practice, and they now invite us to wonder anew at each psalm and, perhaps, to take on our own practice of daily reading. In addition to being on display through the end of February, the collages are available in [a digital gallery](#) on our website, along with some simple prompts for how you might engage with the psalms and the artwork.



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



### **Building the Beloved Community: Where Are We Now? Where Do We Go From Here? Sundays, January 15 & 22, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Harter Room and via Zoom**

For the last 10-plus years, First Church has been on an extraordinary journey towards racial justice! What began as a lot of shared learning about our history and privilege and our First Church story has led us through dozens of small groups, several transformative pilgrimages to the South and to the Washington DC, Juneteenth services with descendants of enslaved persons connected to First Church, deeper relationships with local

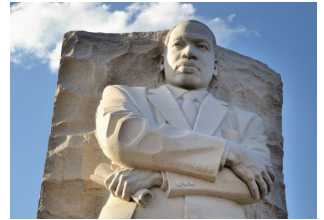
communities of color, deeper connections with Harvard around our shared legacies of slavery, a growing First Church Reparations Fund, and an emerging Embroidery Project. Come hear some of our leaders share a brief overview of where we've been and where we are now. Share your thoughts and ideas and questions. Together, let's ask ourselves and the Spirit Rev. Dr. King's famous question: "Where Do We Go From Here?"

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### **MLK Poetry Service**

**Sunday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**


We are thrilled to welcome back First Church Poet-in-Residence Jean Dany Joachim and several of his poet friends to lead us, once again, in a special service of poetry and reflection. This time, we will be celebrating together the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with particular attention to his vision for global justice and peace. As he often preached, 'injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!' Join us in worship, song, and meditation, as we hear again some of his poetic and prophetic words and turn our hearts to new poetry written for this moment!



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### **The First Church Embroidery Project**

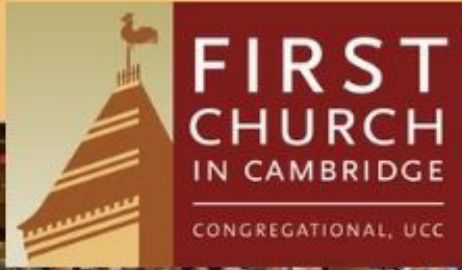
**Sunday, January 22, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room & via Zoom**



Learn about our new multigenerational embroidery project inspired by First Church's Juneteenth service. Our current plan is to embroider the 36 names of persons enslaved by First Church members who are listed in our membership records. The list of names could be expanded to include other Black persons enslaved in Cambridge and connected to First Church whose stories we are learning, such as Tony and Cuba Vassal, ancestors of the Lloyd family. Come meet members of our Embroidery Project Team, learn about the inspiration for the project, as well as the history of fabric art in social movements. Please bring your ideas and creative thinking; this is still very much a work in progress! Then join us at 12:15 p.m. for a multigenerational time of learning how to embroider.

# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, January 2 - Church Office & Building Closed for New Year's Holiday

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

## Tuesday, January 3

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

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

## Wednesday, January 4

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

7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

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

## Thursday, January 5

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

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

## Friday, January 6

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

6:00 p.m. Epiphany Potluck and Service, MJH and Sanctuary

## Saturday, January 7

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

## Sunday, January 8

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

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

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common

1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Sage Hall

1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Harter Room

4:00 p.m. Our Immigrant Neighbors: The Next Phase, via Zoom

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

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