



*From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of God is to be praised.*

Psalm 113:3

Season of Epiphany
January 15, 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
387 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 3

January 15, 2023

Leading Worship

Jean Dany Joachim, *Poet-in-Residence*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Karl Smith, Fred Brown, Tom Wylie, Toni Bee, Evans Paul, Larissa Janninton, Regine Michelle Jean-Charles, and Tom Laughlin, *guest poets*
Chris Reynolds, *First Church Clerk*
Joanne Paul, *for the Stewardship Committee*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image

Psalm 113 Collage by Audrey Bellinger
This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in Margaret Jewett Hall and in a [digital gallery](#) on our website.

Today's Programs and Events

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: MLK Project, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common
- 12:30 p.m. Building the Beloved Community - Where Are We Now?
Where Do We Go From Here?, MJH and [via Zoom](#)
- 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 [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

VOLUNTARY

Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler

R. Nathaniel Dett

*HYMN 439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

*GREETING

Ahmaad Edmund

L: Come, hoppers and seekers, builders and dreamers,
come to the dawning of God's light:

C: the light of healing; the light of mercy and grace.

L: Gather, one and all, across screens and devices, across time and space.

C: Come be at peace in this place where all belong.

L: Come, children of light:
the world needs what we have come to find.

**C: We will sing the light together, pray the light together,
do the works of light together for the world God loves.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Ahmaad Edmund and Dan Smith

ANTHEM

Some Day (Beams of Heaven As I Go) Charles A. Tindley (1906)

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for wisdom, courage and strength:

**C: God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.
Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision,
increase our trust in you.**

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

**Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming,
restore our hope.**

**May the witness of our brother Martin encourage us
to be dreamers for Jesus' sake. 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

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

I'm On My Way

I'm on my way (**I'm on my way**)
to the Freedom Land (**to the Freedom Land**)
I'm on my way (**I'm on my way**)
to the Freedom Land (**to the Freedom Land**)
I'm on my way (**I'm on my way**)
to the Freedom Land (**to the Freedom Land**)
Oh, glory hallelujah (**oh, glory hallelujah**)
I'm on my way (**I'm on my way**)

Go and tell my brother/sister/sibling... come and go with me....

I'm on my way... and I won't turn back...

I'm on my way... to the Freedom Land...

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to an All-Church-School creative workshop in honor of MLK Day in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can meet their children in Margaret Jewett Hall or at Coffee Hour in Hastings Common after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Isaiah 61:1-4

POEMS, MEDITATIONS, AND SILENCE Karl Smith, Fred Brown, Tom Wylie, Toni Bee, Evans Paul, Regine Michelle Jean-Charles, Jean Dany Joachim, Larissa Janninton, and Tom Laughlin

*HYMN 470

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Chris Reynolds

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

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 UPDATE AND INVITATION TO OFFERING

Joanne Paul



Give by Text



Give Online



Pledge for 2023

OFFERTORY

Steal Away

Spiritual, arr. J. D. Riding

*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.

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 467

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
(4 verses: live, work, pray, sing)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Little Melody

Florence Price



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.

OPENING HYMN

439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Fine

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

1. Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, Out of God's
2. O Jor - dan riv - er is chil - ly and cold, it chills the
3. O I have heart - ache and I have woe, and I have

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me,
bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train
trou - ble here be - low. But while God leads me,

to Refrain

it looked so fine, I asked my Lord if all were mine.
up - on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back. O ev - ery
I'll nev - er fear, for I am shel - tered by God's care.

470

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al - most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

WORDS and MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

PRECIOUS LORD
66.9D

CLOSING HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 467

I'm gon-na live so God can use me

1. I'm gon-na live (I'm gon-na live so) God can use (God can

me

use me) an - y - time, Lord, and an - y - where. (yes, an - y -

yes, an - y - time,

I'm gon-na live so God can use me

where.) I'm gon-na live (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me

an - y - time, Lord, and an - y - where. (yes an - y - where.)

(4 verses: live, work, pray, sing)

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Abby Shuman, who is recovering from home after a bad car accident on Thursday morning.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins, who was hospitalized last weekend for congestive heart failure and is now recovering.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who is recovering from aortic valve replacement surgery this past Wednesday.
- We pray with joy and thanksgiving for Antoni Bloomer Buchanan, born on January 1. Baby Antoni and his mothers Jaz and Jackie are all doing well.
- We pray for Bruce Hoppe and his family as they grieve the loss of his mother Pat Hoppe, who died on January 1.
- We pray for Allison Korn, who is recovering from ankle surgery to repair torn ligaments.
- We pray for Mellisha Culpepper, her wife Sophia, and their children Francesca, Angelo, Gloria and Silvana as they grieve the loss of Mellisha's mother, Daphne Stinette Culpepper, who died on December 17.
- We pray for Devin Hansen's dear childhood friend Anita, who is in the hospital recovering from emergency heart surgery.
- We pray for Poppy & Brent Coffin as they continue loving & living with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Anita Anger; Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; 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 the family of Sayed Arif Faisal, a 20-year-old Cambridge resident who was killed by Cambridge Police on January 4, and for all affected by police violence, and for the entire Cambridge community as it holds this tragedy in different ways.
- We pray for all affected by gun violence and by mass shootings that occur with too much frequency in our country.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression continues to appear with alarming frequency in our communities and around our nation.
- We pray for the people of Haiti, where water, food, and fuel shortages have led to widespread protests, violence, and civil unrest. We continue to pray for all areas in the world experiencing natural disasters and their aftermath.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the people of Iran, Afghanistan, and Peru, where anti-government protests have led to violence.
- We pray for our country and for those most affected by changes in 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 and stand in hope and solidarity as they continue to resist unjust and unlawful Russian invasions. We pray for all soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, Russia, and surrounding areas, as well as all global regions impacted by the violence of war.
- We continue to pray for all who are affected by COVID-19, and we pray for healthcare professionals as they navigate caring for children and the elderly through a winter season with heavy rates of RSV and the flu, in addition to increasing cases of 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.

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.

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

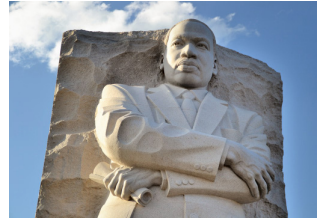


TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

MLK Poetry Service

Today 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 celebrate 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!



Music Notes for Today's Service



Florence Beatrice Price was an African-American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1887, Price was educated at the New England Conservatory of Music, and was active in Chicago from 1927 until her death in 1953. Price is noted as the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra.

Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933), composer of today's anthem, was called "The Father of Gospel." A Methodist minister in Philadelphia and published composer, his many hymns were influential, acting particularly as inspiration to Thomas Dorsey, composer of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand."

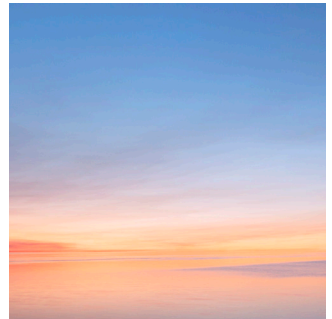
Building the Beloved Community:

Where Are We Now? Where Do We Go From Here?

Today and January 22, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.,

Margaret Jewett Hall 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 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?"



EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



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.](#)

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.



Scan the QR code to see the digital gallery.

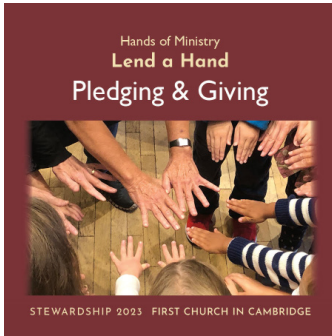
The First Church Embroidery Project

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.



EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



Stewardship Campaign Update

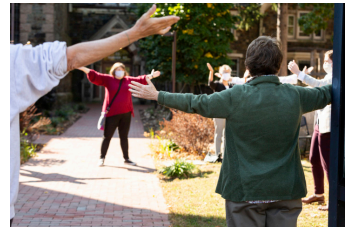
Thank you to all who have [made a financial pledge for 2023](#)! As of this week, we have received pledges of \$532,909, which is 76% of the way to our goal of \$705,000. Collectively, those who have pledged have increased 15% over their last year's pledge, bringing our goal of a balanced budget within reach. If you haven't already, please [pledge online](#) this week or by [emailing Karen McArthur](#).

Thank you for your generosity!

New Year, New Connections

Sunday, January 29, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Are you entering the new year with a desire to get to know more people in the First Church community in a lighthearted and no-pressure way? Join us for a movement-based 9:30 Formation Hour in MJH that will help you get to know your neighbor! All ages and abilities are most welcome!



Interested in Joining First Church on January 29?

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. In addition to engaging in the life and ministries of the church, members are given the opportunity to vote at congregational meetings. Our next Joining Sunday is coming up on January 29. The deadline for submitting your information and a short introductory bio to be included in the bulletin is Wednesday, January 18. [Register here](#). New members are invited to gather in Hastings Common at 10:00 a.m. on January 29 to receive their flowers and name tags, and to get any questions answered before worship begins.

New Year, New Way to Contact You?

As we turn the calendar to a new year, First Church seeks to update our membership database with new information about YOU, including updated contact info like a new email address, phone number, or physical address. In the coming weeks, you should receive an email from First Church providing you with the information we have for you on file. The message will include instructions for accessing our online directory, where you can make changes to your profile and see your giving history to First Church. We sincerely appreciate your help in keeping our records in order!



ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday, January 29, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.,

Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom

Come, one and all, to the 388th Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge following Hybrid Morning Worship. A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting, where we will celebrate another very full year of ministry. We will thank one another for gifts shared and celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders. We will also receive a financial update. Join us for this centuries-old tradition of meeting, prayer, and song!

The Fellowship Committee plans to offer a meal of lasagna (meat and vegetarian), eggplant parmesan (vegetarian), bean salad and green salad (vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free), and pasta with choice of sauce. The committee invites volunteers to help set up the hall, to assemble and heat the food, and to clean up and figure out what to do with the leftovers. For more details of the kind of help welcomed, and to sign up, [click here](#) or email: fellowship@firstchurchcambridge.org.



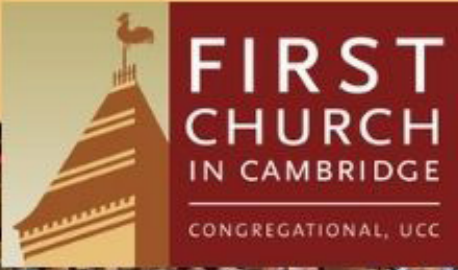
Call to Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting
of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ,
will be held in its 387th year
at 12:30 p.m., Sunday the 29th of January, 2023,
in person in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom conference:

1. To approve the minutes of Congregational Meetings held in 2022;
2. To receive and act upon the 2022 reports of the Staff, Officers, Executive Council, Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups of the Church;
3. To receive a financial update for 2022 and 2023;
4. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council,

Chris Reynolds, Clerk
Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 15, 2023



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, January 16 - Church Office & Building Closed for MLK Holiday

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

Tuesday, January 17

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

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

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

Wednesday, January 18

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

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

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

Thursday, January 19

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

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

Friday, January 20

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, January 22

9:30 a.m. Building the Beloved Community - Embroidery Project Update, Harter Room and via Zoom

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, MJH

12:30 p.m. Multigenerational Introduction to Embroidery, MJH

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

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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