



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

Psalm 113:3

Season of Epiphany
January 22, 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 22, 2023

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Emma Brodey, *liturgist*
Chris Reynolds, *First Church Clerk*
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

9:30 a.m. The First Church Embroidery Project, 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, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
12:15 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](#)

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

Lebhaft (Sonata II)

Paul Hindemith

*HYMN 18

Praise to the Living God

*GREETING

Emma Brodey

- L: Siblings in the Spirit, come into this place of mercy and rest!
C: Come, you who thirst for a deeper life and a fairer world.
L: Come, you who hunger for justice, and you who seek healing.
C: Here, God offers grace and peace to us and to the world!
L: Here, God offers light for a new horizon and hope for a new dawn!
**C: Then let us sing the light together, pray the light together,
and do the works of light together for the world God loves.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Sweet Morning

Sacred Harp

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.
**All: Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,
but we have preferred to live in darkness.
Your justice protects the weak and vulnerable,
yet we seek privilege and power.
Your righteousness redeems the poor and needy,
yet we seek wealth and possessions.
Your peace upholds the oppressed and defenseless,
yet we seek the security of weapons and walls.
Forgive us, and lead us to true repentance,
that we may trust you in all things;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

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 426

I've Got Peace Like a River

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

1 Corinthians 1:10-18
New Living Translation (NLT)

SERMON

Carla Carbajal

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Chris Reynolds

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

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



Pledge for 2023

OFFERTORY

Almighty and Everlasting God

Orlando Gibbons

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 4**

Come, Living God, When Least Expected

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Ruhig bewegt (Sonata II)

Hindemith



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, 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

18

Praise to the Living God

1. Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, whose
 2. Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, whose
 3. Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, who
 4. Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, per -
 who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; and
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, may

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

WORDS: Curtis Beach, 1966, alt.
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
 SMD

PEACE HYMN

426

I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4. I've got faith like an an- chor, I've got faith like an

1.
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my
 foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in - a my

2.
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in - a my soul.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER
 77.10 D

Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river' from Isaiah 48:18. The New Testament also provided imagery for this song in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22).

CLOSING HYMN

4 Come, Living God, When Least Expected

1. Come, liv - ing God, when least ex - spect - ed, when minds are
 2. Come now, as once you came to Mo - ses with - in the
 3. Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us as viv - id

dull and hearts are cold, through sharp - ning word and warm af - fec - tion
 bush a - live with flame; or to E - li - jah on the moun - tain,
 truth and liv - ing Lord, ex - plod - ing doubt and dis - il - lu - sion

re - veal - ing truth as yet un - told. Break from the tomb in which we
 by si - lence press - ing home your claim. So, let our minds be sharp to
 to scat - ter hope and joy a - broad. And we will share his ra - diant

hide you to speak a - gain in start - ling ways; break through the
 read you in sight or sound or print - ed page, and let us
 bright - ness, and, blaz - ing through the dread of night, il - lu - mi -

words in which we bind you to res - ur - rect our life - less praise.
 greet you in our neigh - bors, in ar - dent youth or mel - low age.
 nate by love and rea - son, for those in dark - ness, faith's de - light.

WORDS: Alan Gaunt, 1991

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, *Cinquante psaumes en francois*, 1543, rev. 1551

The tune is from the 1543 Geneva Psalter, the earliest of psalters prepared by Louis Bourgeois for reformer John Calvin.

RENDEZ À DIEU

98.98 D

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COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Abby Shuman, who is recovering at home after a bad car accident last week.
- We pray for Larry Evans and his family as they grieve the loss of his wife, long-time member Bev Evans, who died last Thursday following a long struggle with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for Barb Hume as she recovers from scheduled foot surgery this past Thursday.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins, who is home recovering after being hospitalized for congestive heart failure.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who is recovering from recent aortic valve replacement surgery.
- We celebrate with Marc and Sally O'Brien upon the birth of their grandson Arden Obraar, born to Stephanie O'Brien and Matt Schaar, on December 31, 2022.
- We pray for loved ones of John J. Williams III, a recent First Church Shelter guest who died last week, and we pray for Shelter staff and guests who are grieving.
- We pray for Friday Café volunteer Arnie Bearak, his wife Adena, and their family as they grieve the death of their son Jordan on Monday.
- 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 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 families and loved ones of 72 people on board Yeti Airlines flight 691, who died in a plane crash in Nepal last Sunday.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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.
- 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.



In Memoriam

A memorial service for longtime First Church member Beverly Evans will take place on Sunday, February 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow. Bev died on Thursday, January 12, 2023, following a struggle with Alzheimer's.

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



The First Church Embroidery Project

**Today, 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.

Building the Beloved Community: Multigenerational Introduction to Embroidery

Today, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall
Last week, leaders shared a brief overview of where we've been and where we are now in our 10-year journey towards racial justice! If you missed it, we have hand-outs to capture some of the conversation. Today, we have a



hands-on experience for you to engage in this work. Join Sarah Fujiwara, Sarah Higginbotham, and others to learn skills to participate in our emerging fabric art project that will embroider names of enslaved persons connected to our history with threads of memory and hope. No experience is necessary; bring your open spirit and willingness to learn.



Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Sage Hall

7th and 8th graders meet for OWL, a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum produced by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 9th and 10th graders continues today with a session entitled "Living in a Religiously Diverse World."

EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

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.



Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Thursday, January 26, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

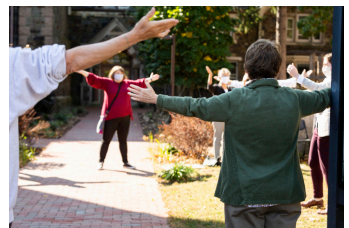
Cambridge Common Restaurant

Join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for casual fellowship a couple times a month. Our “Faith on Tap” series takes place at a rotating series of Cambridge/Somerville /Boston bars and is open to anyone in the age group, whether you’re just exploring First Church, or have been here a while and are looking to meet some new folks. Our next get-together is at Cambridge Common. Let Phil know to expect you, and sign up for the YA Mailing List by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.

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!



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

EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In

Sunday, February 5, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

This past Fall, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) adopted a multi-faceted, statewide Housing Justice Campaign focused on public housing, affordable rental and homeownership opportunity, and housing access. We define Housing Justice as the ability for all people to have safe, healthy, and clean places to live in their communities. We are seeking to improve housing access and quality for groups that have been unfairly denied it and to support financing, zoning, and ownership policies that help to close racial and class disparities in the housing market. Join members of First Church's GBIO Core Team after worship on February 5 for a GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In, where we will learn more about how we and members of our community are affected by our region's housing crisis, and learn more about how we can support GBIO's work. A light lunch will be provided.



Adult Formation: The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs

Sundays, February 12 & 19, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room & via Zoom

Join Ministerial Interns Carla Arevalo Carbajal and Ahmaad Edmund for a new series about the life of Harriet A. Jacobs, an African American woman enslaved in the U.S. who harnessed her spiritual power to navigate her way to freedom. The series aims to provide participants with a closer connection to the divine power found in unlikely circumstances.

Antiracism and healing work is not an easy or simple journey; Romans 8:22-25 gives us a language where "the labor pains" of creation can reflect the labor pains experienced in social justice and healing. Harriet will become a guiding force that will encourage and teach us how, in our labor pains, to push for new life and healing. Stay tuned for a Faith & Life Group offering on Harriet Jacobs following in Lent.

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!





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, January 23

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

Tuesday, January 24

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

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

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

Wednesday, January 25

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

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

Thursday, January 26

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

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

Friday, January 27

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, January 29

9:30 a.m. New Year, New Connections, MJH

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH

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

12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting and Luncheon, MJH and via Zoom

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

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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