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Season of Epiphany  
January 8, 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 8, 2023

**Preaching Today** Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
**Leading Worship** Beth Loomis, *Community Minister*  
Phil Jones, *liturgist*  
Yoo-Kyung Kim, *guest musician*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

**Bulletin Cover Image** The galaxy cluster SMACS 0723, photographed by the James Webb telescope  
*This image and many more may be found at: [webb.nasa.gov](http://webb.nasa.gov)*

### Today's Programs and Events

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. Hybrid Community Coffee Hour, MJH, Harter Room, and [via Zoom](#)  
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](#)

### 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)

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

Andante

Jacob Arcadelt

\*HYMN 407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

\*GREETING

Phil Jones

L: Sisters and brothers, siblings all, peace be with you!

**C: God's peace be with us all!**

L: Come now, everyone! Drink from the water of life,

**C: the water of God's compassion.**

L: Come now, everyone! Bathe in the river of peace,

**C: the river of God's grace.**

L: Come now, everyone! Hear God's voice declare:

**C: "You are my delight! You belong to me!"**

L: And let us praise our God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Open the Heavens

Christopher Upton

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Now, let us pray for the pardon and healing we need:

**All: God in Christ, with you at our side, we confess our failings—**

**what we have done, and what we have failed to do.**

**By your baptism in the Jordan, wash us in mercy**

**and mend the harm we have done to ourselves,**

**our neighbor, and our world.**

**Help us to live knee-deep in grace, our hearts alive to our truest names—**

**beloved daughters, cherished sons, siblings in the spirit! 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-23**

**Come, All You Thirsty**

*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**

Matthew 3:13-17

**SERMON**

Lexi Boudreaux

**SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD**

Beth Loomis

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

**OFFERTORY**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Philipp Nicolai

**\*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 228**

O Holy Dove of God Descending

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach

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**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 [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the left.

OPENING HYMN

407 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.  
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.  
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.  
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON  
 87.87D

PEACE HYMN

Come, All You Thirsty

C-23

1. Come, all you thirst - y, to the riv - er,  
 2. Come to the good, for - giv - ing riv - er,  
 3. Come to the strong, re - new - ing riv - er,  
 4. Riv - er of life, what deep com - pass - ion

here where the Word\_ runs cool and deep.  
 here where the Word\_ runs calm and clear.  
 here where the Word\_ runs sweet and wild.  
 feeds your e - ter - nal mer - cy song?

Come with the out - casts, crushed and bro - ken,  
 Wash in the truth that frees the spi - rit;  
 Come by God's gift, though un - de - ser - ving;  
 God's own face shines in you re - flec - ted,

come, you who rage\_ and you\_ who weep.\_  
 shed the ex - cus - es you\_ hold dear.\_  
 come be - cause God\_ has called\_ you Child.\_  
 call - ing us back\_ where we\_ be - long.\_

WORDS: Kate Layzer  
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes

"Then the angel showed me the river of life,  
 bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God  
 and from the Lamb." Rev 22.1

# O Holy Dove of God Descending

228

*Unison*



1. O ho-ly Dove of God de-scend-ing, you are the love that knows no end-ing,
2. O ho-ly Wind of God now blow-ing, you are the seed that God is sow-ing,
3. O ho-ly Rain of God now fall-ing, you make the Word of God en-thrall-ing,
4. O ho-ly Flame of God now burn-ing, you are the power of Christ re-turn-ing,



all of our shat - tered dreams you're mend - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.  
 you are the life that starts us grow - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.  
 you are the in - ner voice now call - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.  
 you are the an - swer to our yearn - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.



WORDS and MUSIC: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976

LOIS  
99.96



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray with joy and thanksgiving for Antoni Bloomer Buchanan, born last Sunday, 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 Sunday, 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 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 give thanks for the increase of the Massachusetts minimum wage to \$15/hour as we pray for those living in the midst of or on the edge of poverty.
- 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, especially women, as anti-government protests continue and as the government responds with 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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

- 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.

### Monthly Hybrid Community Coffee Hours in 2023 Second Sundays, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

In 2023, we are shifting from weekly Zoom Coffee Hours to monthly Hybrid Community Coffee Hours! On the second Sunday of each month, those at home can join via Zoom, while those in person can make their way to the Harter Room for an opportunity to see your church friends' faces, share joys and concerns, or just smile and wave! Look for the Zoom info in the bulletin or on the calendar.



### 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. Today marks the beginning of the second semester, when the class meets here at First Church.

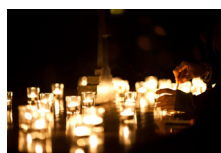
### Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 9th and 10th graders continues today with a session entitled "Reconciliation and Reparation - First Church History."

### Our Immigrant Neighbors: The Next Phase

Today, 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).



### 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.](#)

## 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.



### 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!



### WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

retreats, book groups, and  
spiritual practice in community



### Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

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



Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044EA8AE2CABFD0-fcccokies>

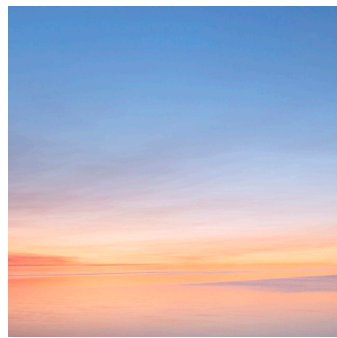
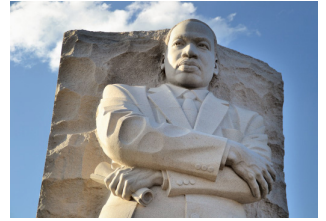
Questions? Difficulty with the online signup? Contact Lisa DiNardo at [ladinardo@hotmail.com](mailto:ladinardo@hotmail.com).

## EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

### **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!



### **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?"

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

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

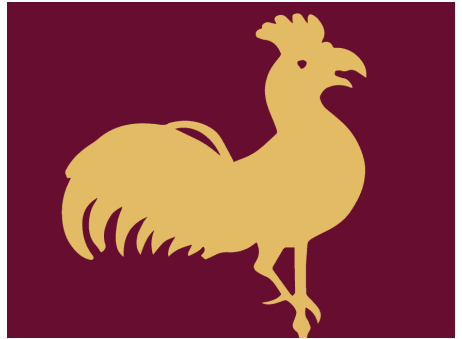
Learn about our new multigenerational embroidery project inspired by First Church's Juneteenth service. Our current plan is to embroider the 36 names of persons enslaved by First Church members who are listed in our membership records. The list of names could be expanded to include other Black persons 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.



## LOOKING AHEAD

### **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 387th 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!



### **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!

## LOOKING AHEAD

**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:





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, January 9

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, January 10

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

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

## Wednesday, January 11

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. Staff Holiday Lunch
- 6:30 p.m. Investments Committee, via Zoom

## Thursday, January 12

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

## Friday, January 13

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

## Sunday, January 15

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship - MLK Poetry Service  
Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: All-Church-School MLK Project
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Building the Beloved Community - Where Are We Now?  
Where Do We Go From Here?, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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