



*Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn.
I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
I will sing praises to you among the nations,
for your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.*

- Psalm 57:8-10

Eastertide
May 14, 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

May 14, 2023

Preaching Today	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
Liturgist	BBB
Assisting in Worship	Carla Carbajal, <i>Ministerial Intern</i> Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Psalm 57 collage by Audrey Bellinger <i>This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in a digital gallery.</i>

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.	Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
1:00 p.m.	Young Adults: Charles River Walk and Cleanup, meet on church lawn
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 clipboards or this "[virtual visitor card](#)" so that we might 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

Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 857-331-7136 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

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

Adoration / A Pleasant Thought

Florence Price

***HYMN 6**

Bring Many Names

***GREETING**

BBB

L: Siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

C: From God the Merciful, peace to you!

L: Together, let us praise God in the presence of Love —

C: Love divine, stronger than injustice and death!

L: Together, let us praise God in the companionship of the Risen Christ —

C: the Risen Christ, source of truth, who abides with us now!

L: Together, let us praise God in this time of worship!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Psalm 23 (Dedicated to My Mother)

Bobby McFerrin

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**All: God of Justice, when we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.**

**When we hold onto fear or are limited in vision,
increase our trust in you.**

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

**When we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming,
rise up in us and give us your strength,
restore our hope, and renew our courage.**

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

DECLARATION OF 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**

Please turn to your immediate neighbors and offer a handshake, or a hug! Or if you prefer to maintain social distance, fold your hands or arms in a sign of peace. We want everyone to be comfortable; today let there be no spiritual distance between us.

***HYMN 340**

Peace Before Us

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

John 14:15-21

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Carbajal

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.... *(silence, intercessions and the Lord’s Prayer)*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not

into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Psalm 108

Patricia Van Ness

*Wake up my spirit, awake lute and harp; I myself will waken dawn.
Your loving kindness is greater than the heavens, and your faithfulness.
Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, your glory over all the earth.
Alleluia.*

***DOXOLOGY**

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess;
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 57**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Allegretto

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 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

6

Bring Many Names

Unison

1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
 2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
 3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
 4. Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing
 5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move, say - ing no to
 6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known, joy - ful dark - ness

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
 2. won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
 4. e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:
 false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for jus - tice, giv - ing all you have:
 6. far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names!
 2. Hail and Ho - san - na! strong moth - er God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na! warm fa - ther God!
 4. Hail and Ho - san - na! old, ach - ing God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na! young, grow - ing God!
 6. Hail and Ho - san - na! _____ great, liv - ing God!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1989
 MUSIC: Carlton Young, 1989

WESTCHASE
 9 10. 11 9

In this hymn British United Reformed minister Brian Wren expands the images and names we have for God.

© 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

340

Peace Before Us

1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace be - neath our feet.
 2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us, love be - neath our feet.
 3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us, light be - neath our feet.
 4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us, Christ be - neath our feet.

Additional verses: joy, truth, hope.

WORDS: David Haas, (b.1957), alt., based on a Navaho prayer
 MUSIC: David Haas, (b.1957); harm. FCC, 1997

PRAYER FOR PEACE
 445.447

Words, music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

Peace with - in us, peace a - bove us, let all a - round us be peace.
 Love with - in us, love a - bove us, let all a - round us be love.
 Light with - in us, light a - bove us, let all a - round us be light.
 Christ with - in us, Christ a - bove us, let all a - round us be Christ.

CLOSING HYMN

57

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1. I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2. I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3. There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes your glo - ries known;

that spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 and formed us from the low-ly sod and then pro-nounced us good.
 and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from your throne,

I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;
 O how your won-ders are dis-played wher - e'er I turn my eye:
 while all that bor-rows life from you is ev - er in your care.

the moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!
 Wher - e'er I go, what - e'er I do, I find you pres-ent there.

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1715, alt.

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der Herzoglichen Wirttembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE
CMD

This text is taken from Congregationalist Watts' *Divine Songs attempted in Easy Language for the use of Children*, 1715—the first hymnal written exclusively for children.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We give thanks for mothers today, including all those who have mothered us in our lives. We pray for those whom this holiday is difficult, including those who struggle to become mothers and those who have lost or are estranged from their mothers.
- We pray for Henry Schoenfield, who is recovering at home after hospitalization for an infection.
- We pray for Ahmaad Edmund's grandmother Glenda Edmund, who is hospitalized in Delaware and struggling with cancer.
- We pray for Art Anger, who had a hemorrhagic stroke recently and is on a long road of rehabilitation and recovery.
- We pray for Karen Anne Zee's beloved aunt Shirley Smith, who had a series of strokes recently and who is in precarious health.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with a slow-progressing motor neuron disorder.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Joanne Paul; Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones'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 also pray for those in hospice care: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother
- We continue to pray for all those in global regions impacted by the violence of war, including Sudan and Ukraine.
- We pray for all whose lives are touched by our nation's raging epidemic of gun violence, especially those affected by recent mass shootings, including in Allen, TX; Henryetta OK; Cleveland, TX; and Bowdoin, ME. We pray for ongoing advocacy and efforts to create lasting change in our country's gun safety laws.
- We pray for all who are still reeling in the aftermath of the chokehold-killing of Jordan Neely on a NYC subway. We pray for an end to senseless and dehumanizing violence against unhoused persons and those with mental illness.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans siblings as they face the impact of hundreds of bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access and gender expression that have been introduced—and, in some cases, have passed into law—in state houses across the country.
- We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for peace with justice in Palestine and Israel amidst ongoing political tensions.
- We pray for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are now unable to give and receive care in their own states.
- We pray for the 14 men finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter; and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding resources and listening ears.

NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

We are very pleased to welcome the seven new members who joined our covenant and community last Sunday, May 7, 2023.

BBB was born and raised in Montreal and is of Haitian descent. He enjoys dancing, singing, and acting. He currently practices expressive arts therapies at an Arlington-based mental health facility. BBB is a proud father of a three-year-old little man. Love brought him to the United States in 2017 and keeps him in this country, in spite of unexpected twists.

Sophia Bishop-Rice was born in Barbados, West Indies. At the age of four she immigrated with her grandmother to the USA, settling in Boston. Sophia is the Executive Director of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries in Newton, MA, where the mission is to mobilize congregations and communities across economic, religious, racial, and ethnic boundaries so that, in partnership, we can work more effectively for a just and peaceful society and for spiritual growth and interfaith understanding. Sophia is also the Co-founder/Executive Director of KIT, Inc., a non-profit organization that aids justice-involved parents and children. When not working, she can be found cooking up a storm in Kathy Williams's kitchen, listening to her energizing gospel music and dancing to every beat, or as much as her knees will allow. Sophia has five sons and currently resides in Medford, MA.

Sam Caveny has lived in Somerville for the last four years with their partner Nick (see below!) and has been enjoying First Church over livestream. Sam works in marketing for a child care company. They love to read, write, and cuddle with their cat Annie.

Jack Haskell grew up attending a Congregational church in Western MA. He moved to Cambridge a few years ago to start a job after college and started attending First Church in the fall of 2019. Outside of church, Jack spends a lot of time reading and rock climbing.

Jennifer Petrallia has lived in Cambridge for over two decades, spent many years in Upstate New York, and is originally from New Jersey. Her career was in academia, and, before recently being diagnosed with a neurological disorder, she served as a long-time dean at Harvard. Jennifer also trained as a musician, loves to knit and cross stitch, and has a passion for helping animals, especially cats. Jennifer has been coming to First Church for quite some time, and she is humbled to become an official member and to help in all ways she can.

Angela Servello started coming to First Church in Fall 2021 and is an active member of the Young Adults group. Being "into" church was not on her bingo card for her twenties, but she is thrilled to have found a community as thoughtful, welcoming, and justice-oriented as First Church. Angela is originally from Attleboro, MA, and spent four years living in New Orleans, but now resides in Brighton with her partner Phil. When not at church, she can be found honing her skills as an amateur seamstress or working to improve public transportation in Greater Boston.

Nick Thompson lives in Somerville with his partner Sam (see above!) and has enjoyed being a virtual part of the First Church community. He works in analytics for a healthcare company. He loves to spoil his cat Annie and watch the Red Sox.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Young Adults: Charles River Walk and Cleanup

Sunday, May 14, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Meet on church lawn

First Church's 20- and 30-somethings are invited to join our lively and welcoming fellowship for a stroll along the Charles after worship to do some environmental stewardship and cleanup. Bags and gloves provided! Let us know you're coming! Email Phil Jones (youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) to stay in the loop for future YA get togethers.



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](#). Questions? Difficulty with the online signup? Contact Lisa DiNardo at: ladinarado@hotmail.com.

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.](#)



Register for a Spring Faith & Life Group

Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests. Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. **Registration Deadline is TODAY!** Questions? Please contact Transitional Minister [Lexi Boudreaux](#) or the leader of the group directly.

[Please sign up to participate in a faith and life group here.](#)

- **Birding at Mount Auburn Cemetery** with Marianne Jensen
- **Art in Faith** with Henry Gates
- **Reparations: Approaching the Journey with a Beginner's Mind** with Abby Shuman
- **All We Can Save Circle: A Climate Grief Small Group** with Lexi Boudreaux

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



Fabric Dyeing and Stitching Workshops

May 16 and 30, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join textile artists Sarah Fujiwara, Gail Willett and Carol Anne Grotrain for the next steps on our journey of creating *Wade in the Water: Remembering and Honoring Enslaved Africans and Native Americans at First Church in Cambridge*. At these workshops,

participants will learn about traditional fabric-dyeing methods, assist in stenciling African Adinkra symbols, and begin the embroidery of background images to which we will add the embroidered names of those we remember and honor. Space is limited; please RSVP to Sarah Fujiwara for any or all of the workshops (sarahpfujiwara@gmail.com).

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Daedalus in Harvard Square, Cambridge

First Church's Young Adults group continues their Faith on Tap series at Daedalus in Harvard Square. All are welcome! Email Phil Jones (youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org) to stay in the loop for future YA get togethers.



First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

Confirmation 2022-23



Confirmation Sunday, May 21

We look forward to celebrating our Confirmands next Sunday, May 21, when we will mark the end of their Confirmation process. Morning Worship that day will include the Rite of Confirmation, as well as the baptisms of several Confirmands. Join us to recognize their spiritual journeys and to welcome many of them into membership by covenant. Then, head to Margaret Jewett Hall for a cake reception in their honor!

Free Piano

This Yamaha upright piano, formerly found in the old Hastings Room, is free to a good home. It's in excellent condition and holds its tune well. Please speak with [Music Director Peter Sykes](#) for details.



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 marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.

LOOKING AHEAD



Pentecost is Sunday, May 28

Join us for hybrid worship on Pentecost Sunday—a day when we celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit among us through movement and song, prayer and reflection. Come wearing something red if you'd like, and celebrate the Spirit's presence in our midst. Also, plan to stay after church for a special Pentecost art exhibit by First Church member Henry Gates in Margaret Jewett Hall.

Reparations Conversations

Sundays, June 4 and 11, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Harter Room and via Zoom

Please join us for two conversations about First Church's journey thus far regarding reparations and where the Spirit may be leading us next. We'll talk about the communities most harmed by our history of church members enslaving in the congregation and our painful response to the work of abolition in previous centuries, as well as the living legacy of slavery in the forms of Jim Crow segregation, the war on drugs, redlining, and mass incarceration.

We'll update the congregation on the Reparations Fund and the work of the Collective, which is convened by First Church member Karlene Griffiths Sekou. We'll also share information about efforts to engage in repair with the Indigenous communities most harmed by us—the Wabanaki, Massachusetts (Wampanoag and Nipmuc) peoples—and plans for learning & action opportunities in the Fall. We'll talk about the spiritual practice of reparations, guided in part by the book *Reparations: A Christian Call For Repentance and Repair*, which asks what Christians are called to do regarding white supremacy's cultural theft of truth, power, and wealth, and why our engagement matters.

We'll reflect on how God is calling First Church to engage in this powerful and life-changing work.



LOOKING AHEAD

Children's Sunday Sunday, June 11

On the second Sunday of June, it is our custom to celebrate the children's formation programs of the church in a Children's Sunday worship service. We are led in liturgy by younger voices, and we recognize our 4th graders with their own Bibles as they "graduate" from Godly Play. We lift up the volunteer teachers and helpers who make our Church School run, and we take time to ask wondering questions about the stories central to our faith and practice.



The First Church Musicale

Sunday, June 11, 12:15 - 2:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

This year on Children's Sunday, we are bringing back an old favorite: The First Church Musicale! All ages are invited to gather in Margaret Jewett Hall for an indoor picnic luncheon, followed by a time of sharing our creative talents with one another. [Sign up](#) to offer a (short) performance that showcases your skills in music, theater, dance, circus, poetry, stand-up comedy, or quirky tricks.

Questions? Contact [Sarah Higginbotham](#).
Now, go start rehearsing!



Pre-Summer Farewell Reception for Lexi Sunday, June 18 at 12:15 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall

Lexi Boudreaux's term as Transitional Minister at First Church comes to an end on August 31, but not before we celebrate the remarkable gifts she has shared with us these last five years, beginning with her time as a Ministerial Intern and as a Pastoral Associate from Harvard Divinity School. Please save the date for a congregational celebration of her ministry after worship on June 18, while most of us are still gathered, leaving time throughout the summer for further goodbyes. Lexi's last Sunday with us will be August 27.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 15

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

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

Tuesday, May 16

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Fabric Dyeing & Stitching Workshop, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:30 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, May 17

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal Distribution Program, Tower Room
- 7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, May 18

- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Daedalus in Harvard Square

Friday, May 19

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Sunday, May 21 - Confirmation Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Conversation, Harter Room
- 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 Class
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour with Reception for Confirmands, MJH
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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