



*O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
For our God is a great God and great above all gods.  
In her hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are hers also.  
The sea is hers, for she made it, and the dry land, which her hands have formed.*

- Psalm 95:1, 3-5

---

Pentecost  
May 28, 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  
1636 - 2023

### May 28, 2023

**Preaching Today** Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*  
**Liturgist** Abby Shuman  
**Assisting in Worship** Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*  
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

**Bulletin Cover Image** Psalm 95 collage by Audrey Bellinger  
*All Psalm collages can be viewed in [a digital gallery](#) on our website.*

### Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Art in Faith: A Pentecost Installation, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)  
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)  
11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, church lawn  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH  
12:30 p.m. Art in Faith: A Pentecost Installation, MJH  
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](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)

### 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

Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott

J. S. Bach

### \*HYMN 218

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

### \*GREETING

Abby Shuman

- L: Beloved siblings, peace to you!  
Let us open ourselves to the Spirit who descends upon us now
- C: to make music in our hearts,**  
L: to sing God's love with our tongues,  
**C: to dance prayers in our souls,**  
L: to plant hope with our hands,  
**C: to inspire joy in everything we do.**  
L: For each of us is your Beloved.  
**C: For we are your Church.**  
**All: We lift up our hearts in worship and praise!**

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### ANTHEM

Veni, Sancte Spiritus  
*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
Vouchsafe within our souls to rest;  
Come with Thy grace and heav'nly aid  
And fill the hearts which Thou hast made.*

Chant, arr. P. Sykes

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:
- All: Loving and Gracious God,  
in our silence, we confess to you  
the burdens that weigh heavy on our hearts.  
Help us to remember that your breath and love have no limits.  
Your dwelling place is wider than we can imagine;  
it hovers over all of the Earth.  
Embolden us, we pray, with the power of your Spirit,** (cont'd. on next page)

*\*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.*

**so that we may grow and breathe in faith.  
In your one and in your many names, Amen.**

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

### **\*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 439**

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

*Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop on the front lawn. Caregivers can find the children on the outdoor playground after worship.*

## **OPENING THE WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

#### **READING**

Acts 2:1-17

#### **READING**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and God brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. God led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. God said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then the Holy One said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then God said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

L: May God's breath 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

O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit

Thomas Tallis

\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,  
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,  
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 228

O Holy Dove of God Descending

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist

Dieterich Buxtehude

OPENING HYMN

218 Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

1. Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us, come with Pen - te -  
 2. We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the grace of  
 3. Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us words of

cos - tal power; give the church a strong - er vi - sion,  
 for - mer years; for to - mor - row's un - known path - way,  
 fire and flame. Help our strug - gling voic - es praise you,

help us face each cru - cial hour. Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion,  
 hear, O God, our hum - ble prayers. In the church's pil - grim jour - ney  
 glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name. Good Cre - a - tor, Sav - ior, Spir - it,

Je - sus Christ, the Cor - ner - stone, still the church is  
 you have led us all the way; still in pres - ence  
 Three in One: what mys - ter - y! We would sing our

called to mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.  
 move be - fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.  
 loud ho - san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

# PEACE 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.

# 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

Playwright and hymnal editor Bryan Leech is a pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

LOIS  
99.96

© 1976 Fred Bock Music Co.  
Used by permission



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- In this season of graduations, we celebrate all those who are marking academic milestones this year.
- We pray for strength and courage for Hui Hui Hu, who is undergoing brain surgery on Monday, June 5, to address a hearing issue. We also hold her husband Ken and children Ian and Kira in prayer.
- We pray with grateful hearts for Art Anger, who is now recovering at home after over five weeks in acute care and rehabilitation hospitals following a hemorrhagic stroke.
- We pray for Karen Anne Zee as she mourns the loss of her beloved aunt Shirley Smith, who died recently following a series of strokes.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with slow-progressing ALS.
- We pray for Iris Eve, grandchild of Kate Judd's cousin, who is recovering from a successful surgery for Hirschsprung's disease.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: 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, especially those displaced and seeking refuge in other countries.
- We pray for all whose lives are touched by our nation's raging epidemic of gun violence. We pray for ongoing advocacy 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 and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the impact of legislation passing in many states across the country that dramatically restricts and criminalizes transgender health care access and gender expression.
- 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 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.

**[Join the First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.**

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Art in Faith: A Pentecost Installation

Sunday, May 28, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Margaret Jewett Hall

Come see the life of Jesus Christ in art; as depicted by church member Henry Gates in twenty oil paintings derived from Ghiberti in Florence and shown in Margaret Jewett Hall as a Pentecost celebration.



### “Forgotten Souls of Tory Row: Remembering the Enslaved People of Brattle Street” Bottle Tree at First Church

With gratitude to our partners at [History Cambridge](#) and the [Black Coral Inc.](#) artist collaborative, a bottle tree from

“Forgotten Souls of Tory Row: Remembering the Enslaved People of Brattle Street” will be on view on our front lawn from now through Juneteenth, June 19. The installation honors the enslaved adults and children who lived and worked on this land, as well as those whose labor on Caribbean plantations helped finance the grand homes of white Tory Row elites. The bottle tree tradition originated in West Africa and was brought to the United States by enslaved people. The tradition was passed down through generations, marking the survival of a cultural practice despite the bonds of slavery. The distinctive blue bottles were placed on trees to capture the energy, spirit, and memories of ancestors.

[Learn more and see photos from the full installation on Brattle Street.](#)

### 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.](#)



### In Memoriam

A memorial service for beloved First Church member Hilary Hopkins will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a 30-minute concert beginning at 10:00 a.m. and a reception to follow.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

### Fabric Dyeing and Stitching Workshop

May 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 last of three workshops that represent 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*.

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 (sarahpfujiwara@gmail.com).



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

a monthly gathering  
for sharing our stories and reflections



### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, June 3, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person on Saturday morning for our monthly gathering, a time to reflect and rejoice. If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: p.byerly@comcast.net

### Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays

Holding Hilary Hopkins in our hearts, First Church continues to provide contributions to the Many Helping Hands Food Pantry. The volunteer-run, donation-driven pantry offers a grocery shopping experience on the second Saturday of each month. You are invited to donate healthy snacks, hygiene products, spices, and (when possible) items bought in bulk/case, as this supports customers having a similar shopping experience.

**First Church donations can be left in the large baskets in the Narthex on the first Sunday of each month, which is next Sunday, June 4.** Questions or concerns? Please contact Steve Weller or Stefanie Haug, our new First Church food pantry liaisons.



### Support the Friday Café This Summer

The Friday Café will be serving a light lunch to our 100+ guests on summer Fridays through Labor Day. We would love some help! Please visit <https://signup.com/go/qQfTjJN> to sign up to bring 10 sandwiches, sweet treats, or servings of fruit. This is a great activity for kids, or teens looking for community service credit. Dropoff is Friday mornings. Questions? Email Kate at [fridaycafe@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:fridaycafe@firstchurchcambridge.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

### 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.



### Info Session for Special Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, June 4 at 12:30 p.m., Harter Room and via Zoom**

During an early May 9:30 Adult Formation program, members of the First Church Archives Team offered a presentation about our First Church archives, which include sermons, records, and historical documents. A few date back to the 1630's; the most valuable are held at Harvard Libraries or in safety deposit boxes. We also hold items that have no connection with First Church's own history or record. At our June 25 Special Congregational Meeting, our Assets Research Team and Archives Team will jointly recommend the deaccessioning and sale of our non-First Church related archival materials. If you missed the session in early May, or would like to learn more, please come to a "watch party" to view a

portion of the session and for background about what we will be voting on at the June 25 meeting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

### Children's 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.



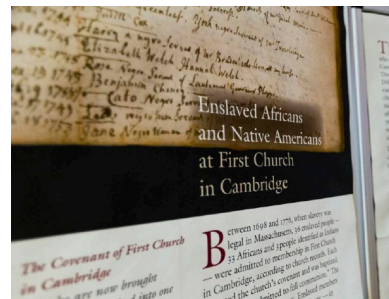
### The First Church Musicale

**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!

### Juneteenth Sunday, June 18

Our Morning Worship on June 18 will lift up themes of freedom and liberation with a special focus on Juneteenth, which commemorates the abolition of slavery. The service will feature a "first look" at our emerging community fabric art project: ***Wade in the Water: Remembering and Honoring Enslaved Persons at First Church***. We will offer a public reading of names and a commemoration of all the enslaved persons associated with First Church over the years. Members of the Lloyd family—descendants of Tony, Cuba and Darby Vassal, who are listed in our records—will be with us. Dan Smith and Egypt Lloyd will share in a reflection and time of blessing. Worship with us as we wade in the water together with generations of ancestors and descendants in this service of remembrance, repentance, relationship-building, and repair.



**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.

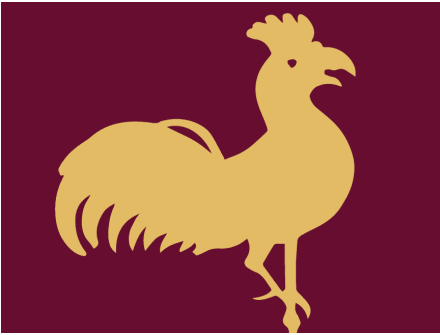
## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH

### **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.



### **Call to Special Congregational Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 388th year at 12:15 p.m., Sunday the 25th of June, 2023, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom, for the following purpose:

1. to approve the deaccessioning and sale of archival materials that are not related to First Church, in accordance with our First Church Archives Policy.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council,  
Chris Reynolds, Clerk



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## **Monday, May 29 - Church Office & Building Closed For Memorial Day**

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

## **Tuesday, May 30**

10:00 a.m. Fabric Dyeing & Stitching Workshop, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

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

## **Wednesday, May 31**

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

4:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal Distribution Program, Tower Room

## **Thursday, June 1**

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

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

## **Friday, June 2**

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

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

## **Saturday, June 3**

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

## **Sunday, June 4**

9:30 a.m. Reparations Conversation, 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: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH

12:30 p.m. Info Session for Special Congregational Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org) • [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)

 /firstchurchcambridge  /FirstChurchInCambridge  /c/FirstChurchInCambridge