



*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

Children's Sunday
June 11, 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

June 11, 2023

Preaching Today

Sarah Higginbotham, *Creative Worship & Arts Director*

Liturgists

Raven McCarty and John Whaley

Assisting in Worship

Phil LaFollett, *reading the Call to Congregational Meeting*

Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*

Lindsay Ludwig McNamara, *Godly Play teacher*

Lisa McCarty, *Godly Play teacher*

Lee Prouty, *tech support*

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

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

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

12:15 p.m. Indoor Picnic and First Church Musicale, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

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

Voluntary in D minor, Op. 5, no. 8

John Stanley

*HYMN 29

Rejoice, O Pure in Heart

*GREETING

Raven McCarty

L: Let us gather with God to sing out our praise!

**C: Praise to the One who waters the thirsty ground
and brings forth new life.**

L: Praise God, who blessed our grandparents and their grandparents.

**C: Praise to the Spirit, who pours out grace and blessing
on our children and their descendants!**

L: God is good! Grown-ups and children, sing out your praise.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

JLM

Bradley Phillips

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

John Whaley

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: Gracious God,
we have not loved you
or each other with our whole hearts.
Forgive us, we pray,
and lead us toward wholeness,
that we may be filled with your joy.
In Jesus' name, we pray. 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.

**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.*

OPENING THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Lisa McCarty

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Sarah Higginbotham

A GODLY PLAY STORY

The Great Family

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Phil LaFollett

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

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

Hebrew Children

Sacred Harp

***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 3**

God of Abraham and Sarah

***BLESSING OF 2023 GRADUATES**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

Rejoice, O Pure in Heart

1. Re - joice, O pure in heart; re - joice, give thanks and sing;
 2. Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
 3. With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 4. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, your praise to Christ now bring.
 raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
 send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.

Refrain

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
 Re - joice, re - joice,

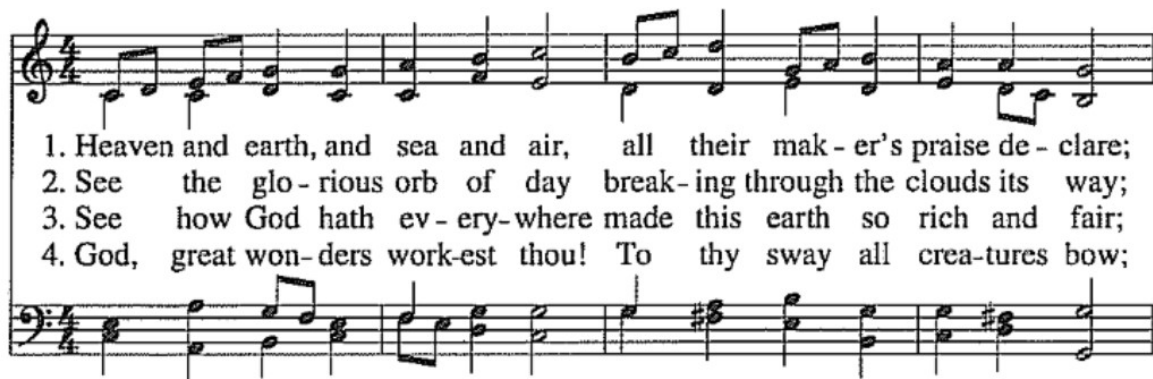
WORDS: Edward H. Plumptre, 1865, nlt.
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Messiter, 1883

MARION
 SM w. refrain

An Anglican scholar, theologian, author and preacher, Plumptre wrote this hymn for the annual choir festival at Peterborough Cathedral in England.

Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air

62



1. Heaven and earth, and sea and air, all their mak - er's praise de - clare;
 2. See the glo - rious orb of day break - ing through the clouds its way;
 3. See how God hath ev - ery - where made this earth so rich and fair;
 4. God, great won - ders work - est thou! To thy sway all crea - tures bow;



wake, my soul, a - wake and sing; now thy grate - ful prais - es bring.
 moon and stars with sil - very light praise God through the si - lent night.
 hill and vale and fruit - ful land, all things liv - ing, show God's hand.
 write thou deep - ly in my heart what I am, and what thou art.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. composite, *Church Book*, 1868, alt.
 MUSIC: Freylinghausen's *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, Halle, 1704

GOTT SEI DANK
 77.77

Pietist German Reformed professor Neander loved to compose and write while walking in a river valley, later named 'Neander Tal' in his honor.

CLOSING HYMN

God of Abraham and Sarah

3

1. God of A - bra - ham and Sar - ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;
 2. God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;
 3. God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;
 4. In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;

God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:
 God whose face is scrib - ed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:
 balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn:
 prais - ing God in ev - 'ry sea - son, let ev - 'ry key our hearts em - ploy.

up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;
 up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;
 up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;
 Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;

down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!
 down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!
 down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!
 down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

WORDS: James Gertmenian, alt., © 1986
 MUSIC: Melody, James Gertmenian, © 1986; harm. Ronald Huntington, alt., © 1986

CONSTANTINE
 87.87D

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- In this season of graduations, we celebrate all those who are marking academic milestones this year.
- We pray with thanksgiving for Emma Brodey and Owen Duke, who were married on Saturday, June 3.
- We pray for Sally O'Brien, who underwent a brain procedure to address her tremors and will be making an extended recovery.
- We pray for Hui-Hui Hu, who is recovering from brain surgery to address a hearing issue.
- We pray for Kathy Williams, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- We pray for Gaylen Morgan, who has been struggling with dizziness and hearing loss, and is awaiting vestibular surgery.
- We pray for Devin Hansen's father Charles Spring, who will be undergoing hip replacement surgery on Monday, June 12.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with slow-progressing ALS.
- 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 pray for the congregation of the First Congregational Church in Spencer, MA, whose church building was completely destroyed by a fire sparked by lightning last weekend.
- 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 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 all impacted by severe wildfires in Canada, resulting in smoke and poor air quality throughout the Northeast and Midwest. We continue to 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



The First Church Musicale

Today at 12:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

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. Come enjoy the entertainment; there will be sing-alongs, too!

Debt Retirement Appeal

In late May, First Church members received an invitation from church leaders to make a special contribution toward the long-term financial health of our community. Our goal is to raise \$450,000 over the next three years, an amount that will allow us to pay-off two major loans, one from our 2016 building renovations and the other for the 2020 installation of our energy efficient boilers. A successful appeal would restore approximately \$80,000 to our annual operating budget. This is one of several strategies the church is pursuing to set our church on a strong financial footing for the future. ***We hope you will give prayerful consideration to this effort and respond, if you are able, by June 30.*** Please know that any amount and level of participation helps, and we are so grateful for all of your ongoing financial support. [Read the initial invitation letter here.](#)



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 Collection Policy.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council,
Chris Reynolds, Clerk

In Memoriam

A memorial service for beloved First Church member Hilary Hopkins will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, beginning with an organ concert and followed by a reception at noon.

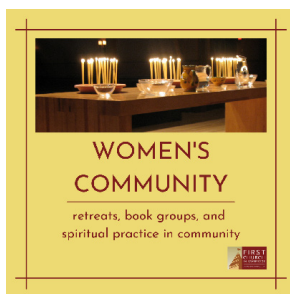
UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek **Film Screening & Discussion**

Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., MJH

Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek follows the painful, but inspiring journey of Derrick Christopher Evans, a Boston teacher who moves home to coastal Mississippi when the graves of his ancestors are bulldozed to make way for the sprawling city of Gulfport. Over a decade, Derrick and his neighbors stand up to corporations and politicians and face Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil disaster in their struggle for self-determination and justice. Last fall, Derrick was an inaugural grant recipient of the [Bob Moses](#)

[Fund for Education & Organizing](#), a partnership between Cambridge Community Foundation and the Moses Family. His experience building a movement offers lessons for Cambridge as we seek to further equity and justice in our own community. We're pleased to welcome Derrick alongside documentarian Leah Mahan for a screening of the one-hour documentary, followed by conversation with Dr. Janet Moses, Cambridge resident and long-time community builder. [Register here to attend](#). We hope you'll join us for this engaging event!



Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, June 20, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Please join us for our final book before we break for the summer. Because we were unanimously intrigued by Claire Keegan's writing, we have decided to read her novella next. *Foster* is the story of a small girl sent to live with foster parents on a farm in rural Ireland without knowing when she will return home. The unfamiliar kindness she experiences is tempered by an uncertainty about her future. We hope you will be able to join us.

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.



CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH

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.



Juneteenth at Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters Sunday, June 18, beginning at 4:00 p.m., 105 Brattle St.

Gather for Juneteenth to honor those who endured slavery and seized freedom on Brattle Street before the American Revolution, their living descendants, and the long history of Black freedom activism in Cambridge and beyond. This event will feature an outdoor community gathering on the Longfellow House lawn from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. with music, poetry, art, speeches, and family activities, followed by a screening of the award-winning 2022 documentary *Descendant* next door at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy at 6:15 p.m.



[Learn more here.](#)



Textile & Text: Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry, June 19-21 Congregational Library, 14 Beacon St., Boston

You are invited to visit a powerful quilt exhibition memorializing the words of George Floyd, on display for three days beginning on Juneteenth at the Congregational Library. The Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry was formed by nine New Hampshire United Church of Christ congregations, who came together in response to the senseless killing of George Floyd. The exhibition prayerfully, stitch by stitch, invites us to be more deeply present with his final words. Find more information and reserve free tickets here.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Reparations Conversations, Part 2

Postponed to Sunday, June 25, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Please join us for the second of two conversations about First Church's journey thus far regarding reparations. 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 share information about efforts to engage in repair with the Indigenous communities most harmed by us and plans for learning & action opportunities in the Fall. We'll reflect on how God is calling First Church to engage in this powerful and life-changing work.



Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher, June 25

We are pleased to welcome Community Minister in Latin America Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher as our guest preacher on Sunday, June 25. Mónica is a Social Ethicist with decades of professional experience in Latin America. Currently, she teaches in the Gender, Violence, and Human Rights Graduate Specialty of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, and serves as Senior Minister of the United Church of Ecuador and Founding Director of the Ecuadorian Faith Network. From 2016-2021, she served as Coordinator of the Latin American Program of Friends Peace Teams, dedicated to trauma healing and peace-building in Central America, Colombia, and Ecuador. Based in Quito, Ecuador, Mónica travels frequently throughout Latin America and is a fierce advocate for LGBTQI+, indigenous, and women's rights. Join us during and after Morning Worship, as we continue to build this powerful connection with Mónica and her ministry!

GBIO Housing Justice Action

Monday, June 26, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (arrive @ 6:30 p.m.); location TBD

Join the biggest in-person Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) action since before the pandemic! At this critical event, we will stand alongside our closest allies and demand true, comprehensive action from Massachusetts leadership on the housing crisis. This action will demonstrate the full power of GBIO's diverse membership and show our officials that housing justice must be prioritized! First Church has promised to send 40 members to take part in this action. Even if you've never participated in a GBIO event before, now is the time! Let's turn our justice commitments into action by showing up for communities of color. Location is TBD, but we will be carpooling; watch for updates. [Register here!](#) Early registration is encouraged.



AN APPEAL FROM THE GIFTS DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE



First Church is an amazing community, and each of us makes a difference here! We each bring a wide variety of life experiences, our own unique humor and insights, and differing gifts or skills. The magic happens when we share them, asking God to help us accomplish together what none of us could accomplish alone. And—surprise!— there is deep joy in getting to know our siblings in faith better, as well as growing in faith and ministry.

Most of us have full schedules and obligations beyond this church. But think for a minute: what could you bring to the magic of this community? The folks on the Gifts Discernment Committee are the matchmakers who try to shepherd your talents and interests to the various committees that lead and enliven our church life.

We welcome a chat if you would like to imagine together some possibilities, based on the amount of time you can share. We welcome suggestions if you know someone who could bring wisdom or talent to a committee—be it Fellowship, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Formation, or maybe Missions and Social Justice, Finance, Shelter Oversight, or Deacons. More information about each of these groups can be found on our website here. Perhaps you have something altogether different in mind, such as helping to organize a particular event? If so, we'd love to hear it.

Do be in touch,

Your Gifts Discernment Committee:

Beth Loomis, Mary Robinson, Dave Kidder, Jenny Stuart, and Gail Breeze

[P.S. Learn more about Gifts Discernment and Service at First Church!](#)



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.

THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, June 12

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

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

Tuesday, June 13

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

4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, June 14

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

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

6:30 p.m. *Come Hell or High Water* Film Screening & Discussion, Margaret Jewett Hall

Thursday, June 15

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

Friday, June 16

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Saturday, June 17

10:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Hilary Hopkins, Sanctuary and via livestream

Sunday, June 18 - Juneteenth Sunday

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

12:15 p.m. Pre-Summer Farewell Reception for Lexi Boudreaux, MJH

4:00 p.m. Juneteenth at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters, 105 Brattle St.

Monday, June 19 - Church Office & Building Closed for Juneteenth

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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