



*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

Season of Pentecost
June 25, 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

June 25, 2023

Preaching Today	Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher, <i>Community Minister in Latin America</i>
Liturgist	Robb Morgan
Assisting in Worship	Gail Breeze, <i>offering Ministry Moment</i> Justin Brueggeman, <i>guest musician</i> Karen McArthur, <i>Minister of Stewardship & Finance</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i> Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Psalm 95 collage by Audrey Bellinger <i>All Psalm collages can be viewed in a digital gallery on our website.</i>

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m.	Reparations Conversation, Part 2, Harter Room and via Zoom
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
12:15 p.m.	Special Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary and via livestream and Zoom
12:30 p.m.	Lemonade on the Lawn

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

Canon in A minor

Robert Schumann

*HYMN C-25

Let There Be Life In This House

*GREETING

Robb Morgan

- 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

Robb Morgan and Dan Smith

ANTHEM

Al Espiritu Santo

A. Gravier

*You revealed and taught the church the truth,
and your benign doctrine transmits us mercy.
Illuminate divine light with your grace the heart,
be always our guide, our relief in affliction.*

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 the Earth.
Embolden us, we pray, with the power of your Spirit,
so that we may grow and breathe in faith.
In your one and in your many names, 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 373**

We Are Your People

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Genesis 21:8-21

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Karen McArthur

L: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

**C: Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God;**

L: be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.

**C: Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O God, I lift up my soul.**

L: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

**C: Give ear, O God, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.**

L: In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.

**C: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.**

L: All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O God,
and shall glorify your name.

**C: For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.**

L: Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your maidservant.

**C: Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, God, have helped me and comforted me.**

READING

Matthew 10:24-39

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

MINISTRY MOMENT

Gail Breeze

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

Pescador de Hombres

Cesareo Gabarain

*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 415

When We Are Living (Pues Si Vivimos)

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY

Fantasia in G minor, BWV 542

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

Let There Be Life in This House C-25

1. Let there be life in this house,
 2. Let there be life in this house,
 3. Let there be life in this house,
 4. Let there be life in this house,

poured from the riches of God; treasure in so many
 tender and truthful and real; life of belonging, res-
 life of the Spirit and fire; sisters and brothers new-
 life of the Body divine, kindly and passionate,

ves-sels of clay, given for sharing, not hiding a way:
 pect-ed and free, hon-ored for all God declares us to be:
 born from above, daring to love because we have been loved:
 ear-thy and odd, we are the Church, be-loved of God:

Let there be life in this house!
 Let there be life in this house!
 Let there be life in this house!
 Let there be life in this house!

WORDS: Kate Layzer
 MUSIC: Peter Sykes


For First Church in Cambridge on the tenth anniversary
 of its declaring itself an Open and Affirming Church

373


We Are Your People



1. We are your peo - ple, Spir - it of grace, you dare to
 2. Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed, may we dis -
 3. Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live clos - er than
 4. Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see in all life's
 5. Give, as we ven - ture jus - tice and care (peace - ful, re -
 6. Spir - it, u - nite us, make us, by grace, will - ing and

make us, to all our neigh - bors, Christ's liv - ing voice, hands and face.
 2. cov - er gifts in each oth - er, will - ing to lead and be led.
 neigh - bors, o - pen to stran - gers, a - ble to clash and for - give.
 4. chang - ing where you are lead - ing, where our best ef - forts should be.
 sist - ing, wait - ing or risk - ing) wis - dom to know when and where.
 6. read - y, Christ's liv - ing bod - y, lov - ing the whole hu - man race.



WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973, rev. 1994
 MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker, 1986

MEETING HOUSE
 54.557

Author Brian Wren titled this hymn 'The church taking stock of itself.' The tune MEETING HOUSE was written for this text.

Words © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Co.
 Music © 1998 Margaret R. Tucker

CLOSING HYMN

415

When We Are Living
(Pues Si Vivimos)



1. When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2. Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.
 3. 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
 4. A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find
 *5. Sha - lom to you now, sha - lom, my friends.
 (1.) *Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra É! vi - vi - mos*



and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.
 Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing.
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace,
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind,
 May God's full mer - cies bless you, my friends,
y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra É! mo - ri - mos.



Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 When we are giv - ing, or when re - ceiv - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 but when we help them, or when we feed them,
 in all your liv - ing, and through your lov - ing,
Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,

Refrain



(1.-4.) we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 (5.) Christ be your sha - lom, Christ be your sha - lom.
 (1.) *so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.*

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Norman and Peggy Bendroth and their family as they mourn the loss of Norm's mother Carolyn.
- We pray for Carter West, who continues to struggle with Parkinsonism and will soon be transitioning to an assisted living residence near to where his partner Julie lives.
- We pray for Jennifer Petrallia as she grieves the loss of her uncle David Moran, who died recently.
- 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 is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing slow-progressing ALS; 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 all those impacted by the tragic sinking of a ship carrying 500 migrants in the Mediterranean Sea.
- We continue to pray for all those in global regions impacted by the violence of war, including Sudan and Ukraine, and 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. We continue to pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- 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

Reparations Conversations, Part 2

Today, 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

We are pleased to welcome Community Minister in Latin America Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher as our guest preacher today. 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.

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



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Summer Worship & Building Hours

Through the months of July and August, Hybrid Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m., with Pick-Up Choir at 9:00 a.m. Church School-aged children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. The Nursery continues to be staffed by our regular caregivers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Night Song, our evening service, will return in September after a summer hiatus.



During the summer, the church building hours are reduced. On most weekdays the building will close at 7:00 p.m. On most Saturdays the building will close at 4 p.m. and on most Sundays at 2 p.m. Closing times may vary if there are previously scheduled events taking place. If you have questions about the summer building schedule, please contact [Director of Operations Kirsten Manville](#).



GBIO Housing Justice Action TOMORROW, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
(arrive by 6:30 p.m.; food vendors available from 6:00 p.m.)
Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Ave., Boston

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. [Register here!](#)

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.](#)



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Summer Sign-Ups with Lexi Boudreaux

As we prepare for Lexi's term as Transitional Minister to end and for us all to say a real goodbye at the end of August, Lexi would love to connect with as many First Church folks as she can before the summer is over. To schedule a time with Lexi over the summer to say goodbye or to talk about what a good goodbye looks like—to laugh or cry about change, to wrap up a shared project, or to ask any lingering questions— please follow this link and suggest a time and place: <https://calendly.com/lexiboudreaux>

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, July 2.*** Questions or concerns? Please contact Steve Weller or Stefanie Haug, our 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.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



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:

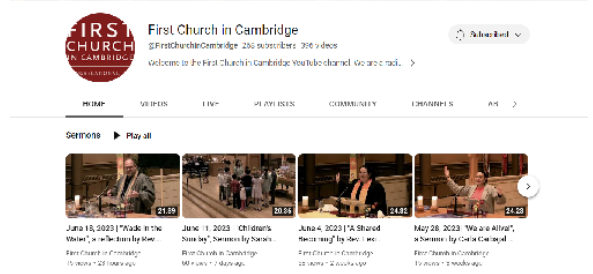
Beth Loomis, Mary Robinson, Dave Kidder, Jenny Stuart, and Gail Breeze

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

Find it on the First Church YouTube Channel

It has been a busy end-of-year season at First Church! Our recent worship services have been full of celebratory moments, meaningful prayers, beautiful music, and inspired preaching. Did you know that you can find all of our Sunday services on our First Church YouTube channel? In addition to the full orders of worship, you can find shorter videos with the readings and sermon of the day. Be sure to check out all our offerings, especially when you miss a Sunday, or want to return to a special moment.

Go to: youtube.com/@FirstChurchinCambridge



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Harvard Square Faith Communities and the Legacy of Slavery: Landscape of Slavery Tours

Sunday, July 16 at 12:00 p.m.

OR Sunday, August 13 at 12:00 p.m.

Gellert Garden at Radcliffe, 10 Garden St.

(Meet at the fountain near the corner of Garden St. and Appian Way, between First Church and Christ Church.)

Drawing from the work of the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery Initiative, this six-stop tour engages with the local geography of African and Indigenous enslavement in words, silence, and stillness. Join us as we learn about those who were wrongly oppressed, enslaved, and buried here, but whose dignity and humanity we aim to acknowledge and honor during this exploration.



Please wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sunscreen, and grab a bite between our 10:00 a.m. worship services and the noon tour. The tour is almost 2 hours.

Read about the tour in our Latest News archive: ["I Could Take This Tour 100 Times"](#)



Save the Date:

**All-Church Fall Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center
Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1**

Join us on the Cape for a weekend of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. Take advantage of scheduled large group gatherings, small group sessions, supervised play/crafting time for kids, worship, group games, and more. Or, opt for a quiet walk on the beach, bird-watching at the marsh, or whatever your soul needs. Arrive on Friday evening,

September 29, and stay through midday on Sunday, October 1, for the full event; or come for a portion of the weekend, for just one night, or even a daytrip on Saturday. More details about the retreat theme and logistics will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars now!

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 26

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. GBIO Housing Justice Action, Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Ave., Boston

Wednesday, June 28

- 12:00 p.m. Wednesday Lunch Check-In with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal Distribution Program, Tower Room
- 6:00 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, June 29

- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, via Zoom

Friday, June 30

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

Sunday, July 2 - Summer Worship moves to 10:00 a.m. for July & August

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:00 p.m. Lemonade on the Lawn

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

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

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

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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