

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 4, 2023

# FIRST CHURCH

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.

June 4, 20231636-202Preaching Today<br/>Liturgist<br/>Assisting in WorshipLexi Boudreaux, Transitional Minister<br/>Kathy Williams<br/>Jim Cairns, offering a Ministry Moment<br/>Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach<br/>Lee Prouty, tech support<br/>Dan Smith, Senior Minister<br/>Peter Sykes, Music Director<br/>Nora Willcutts, Deacon1636-2002Bulletin Cover ImagePsalm 95 collage by Audrey Bellinger<br/>All Psalm collages can be viewed in a digital gallery on our website.

#### **Today's Programs and Events**

<u>m</u>
1

#### 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: <u>www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give</u> or by texting "\$\_" to: 1-844-996-0982.

#### **Contact a Pastor or Staff Member**

Find <u>contact information</u> 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 <u>First Church Communications Request</u> form. Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the <u>FCC Website Changes</u> form

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE congregational **387 YEARS** ON THE WAY 1636-2023

#### GATHERING

VOLUNTARY	Toccata quinta	Girolamo Frescobaldi		
*HYMN 250	Here in This Place (Gather Us In)			
*GREETING L:	Beloved siblings, peace to you! Let us open ourselves to the Spirit who descends upon us no	Kathy Williams		
C: L: C: L: C: C: All:	<ul> <li>to make music in our hearts,</li> <li>to sing God's love with our tongues,</li> <li>to dance prayers in our souls,</li> <li>to plant hope with our hands,</li> <li>to inspire joy in everything we do.</li> <li>For each of us is your Beloved.</li> <li>For we are your Church.</li> <li>We lift up our hearts in worship and praise!</li> </ul>			
WORDS OF WELCOME				
ANTHEM	For I Am Persuaded	Mark Schweizer		
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,
so that we may grow and breathe in faith.
In your one and in your many names, Amen.

#### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

#### \*GREETING OF PEACE

\*HYMN 105

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.

#### The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday in Margaret Jewett Hall. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.

#### **OPENING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTA	NDING	Kate Layzer		
READING	Genesis 1:1-2:4a			
READING	Matthew 28:16-20			
SERMON		Lexi Boudreaux		
SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER				
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Dan Smith		
MINISTRY MOMENT		Jim Cairns		
INVITATION TO OFFERIN	IG			
OFFERTORY	God Be In My Head	Henry Walford Davies		
*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.				
	SHARING THE FEAST			
*INVITATION				
PRAYER OF PREPARATIO	N			

#### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### 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.

#### \*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are invited to partake of this feast. Please take now and eat, or if you are in the sanctuary, please come forward to receive the elements at one of the stations and then proceed back to your seats.

#### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- L: Let us give thanks!
- C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

#### GOING FORTH

\*HYMN 384 We, Your People, God, Confessing

#### \*LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR BUZZ AND CONNIE GAGNEBIN

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

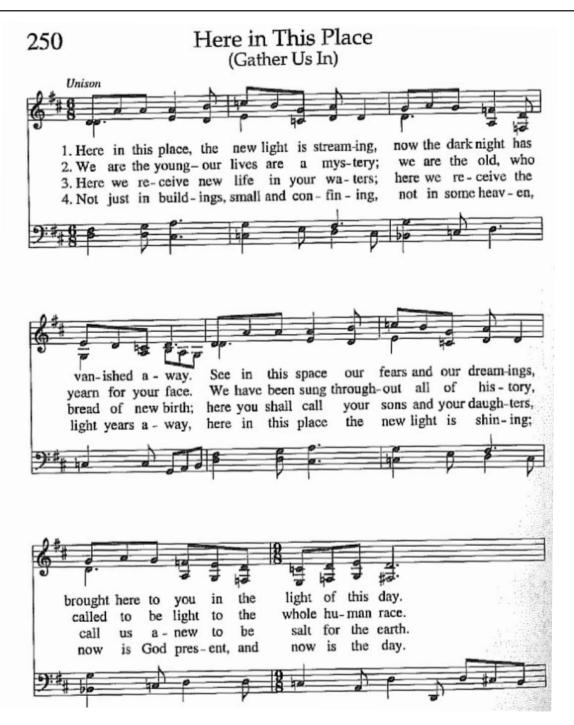
Ultimate Jude

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major

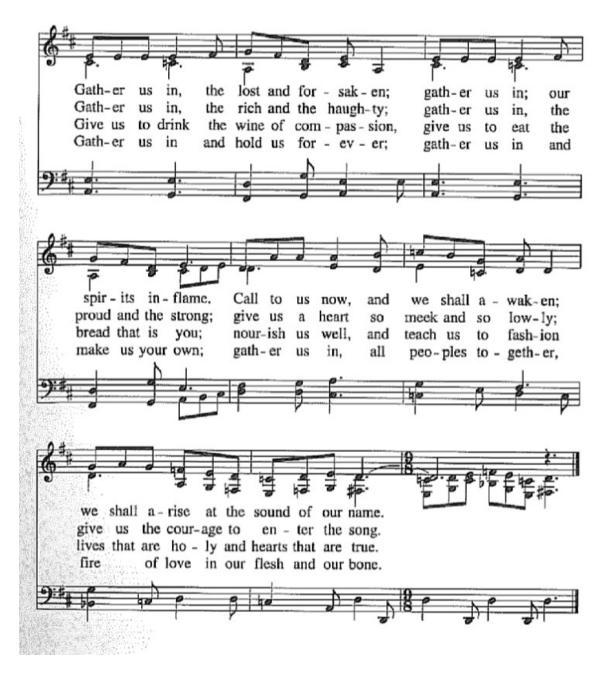
L S. Bach

Paul Sawyer



-Hymn Insert 1-

#### **OPENING HYMN**

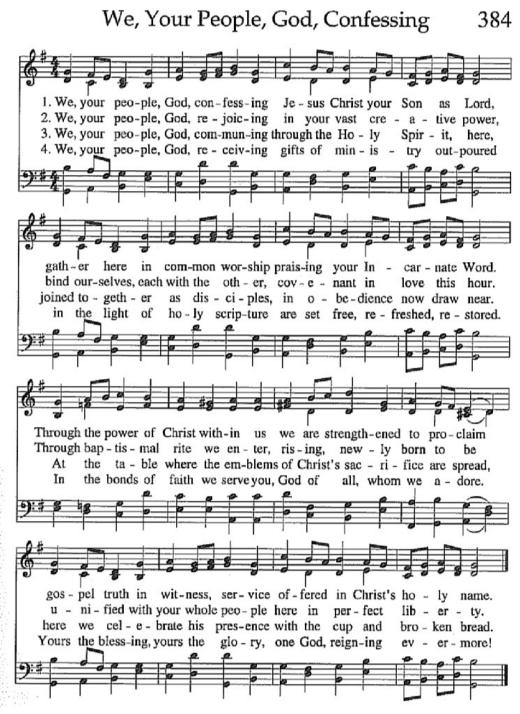


PEACE HYMN



-Hymn Insert 3-

#### **CLOSING HYMN**



<sup>-</sup>Hymn Insert 4-

#### COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- In this season of graduations, we celebrate all those who are marking academic milestones this year.
- 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 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 for Kathy Williams as she prepares for knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, June 6.
- 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 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 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 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.

#### 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.

#### **TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH**

#### Reparations Conversations Today and Sunday, June 11, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Harter Room and <u>via Zoom</u>

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, Massachussett (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.



# Today 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 today's "watch party" to view a portion of the session and for background about what we will be voting on at the June 25 meeting. You can watch the recording on your own <u>here</u>.

Night Song, Today, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and <u>via livestream</u> Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset. This evening's Night Song will be the last before their summer hiatus. Night Song will resume on Regathering Sunday, September 10.



#### EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

#### **Highlights from Recent Executive Council Meetings**

First Church's Executive Council (EC) consists of Church Officers (Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Associate Treasurer, Controller, Senior Minister and other called clergy), all members of the Board of Deacons, chairs of Standing and Gifts Discernment Committees, and a Member-at-Large. EC meets on the fourth Monday of each month (excepting July, August, and December), when they discuss and deliberate on a wide variety of issues related to church life. Here's a snapshot of what you could have "overheard" at the April and May EC meetings:

- Now that a large percentage of the congregation is meeting in person, the Deacons are working on ways to enrich healing ministries.
- Current Buildings & Grounds Committee projects include: exterior preservation of the tower and the northeast side of the Sanctuary, as well as a new safety rail for the Choir Loft.
- Council continued to deliberate about and affirmed a Debt Retirement appeal via a late spring letter that will be shared with the congregation.



- With support of the Mission & Social Justice Committee, several members of First Church have created a First Church team and are submitting an application to assist refugees through the US government's Welcome Corps program.
- Members of the Council-appointed assets research group, which includes members of our archives team, continue to research the status of our cockerel weathervane, our archival documents, and the parsonage.
- Council called for a June 25 special congregational meeting to approve the sale of non-First Church related archival materials.

#### 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.* 

#### **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

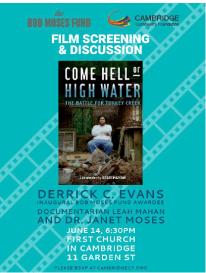
This year on Children's Sunday, we are bringing back an old favorite: The First Church Musicale! All ages are invited to gather in Margaret Jewett Hall for an indoor picnic luncheon, followed by a time of sharing our creative talents with one another. <u>Sign up</u> to offer a (short) performance that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

## *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 <u>Bob</u> <u>Moses Fund for Education & Organizing</u>, 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!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH AND BEYOND

#### 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.





# **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.

## 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. The community gathering is free and open to all; the documentary screening is also free, with firstcome, first-served seating up to 100 attendees. These events are presented in partnership with the Descendants of Tony and Cuba Vassall, History Cambridge, the Museum of African American History, Royall House and Slave Quarters, Slave Legacy History Coalition, Cambridge Black History Project, First Church in Cambridge, Christ Church Cambridge, and Black Coral, Inc. Learn more here.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST CHURCH AND BEYOND



# 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.

#### 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 peacebuilding 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!



#### 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



#### Monday, June 5

4:00 p.m.4:30 p.m.Embroidery Project Advisory Group, via ZoomContemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

See our <u>Events Calendar</u> for Zoom links and details.

Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

#### Tuesday, June 6

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

#### Wednesday, June 7

9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
12:00 p.m.	Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
4:00 p.m.	Wednesday Meal Distribution Program, Tower Room
4:00 p.m.	Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom
7:00 p.m.	Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

#### Thursday, June 8

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

#### Friday, June 9

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

#### Sunday, June 11

- 9:30 a.m. Reparations Conversations, 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. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common
- 12:15 p.m. Indoor Picnic and First Church Musicale, MJH

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

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org /firstchurchcambridge /FirstChurchInCambridge /c/FirstChurchInCambridge