

**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**

**Preaching Today** Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
**Liturgist** Mark Destler  
**Assisting in Worship** Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*  
**Bulletin Cover Image** Psalm 96 collage by Audrey Bellinger  
*All Psalm collages can be viewed in [a digital gallery](#) on our website.*

---

**Voluntary**  
*Come, Holy Spirit*  
J.S. Bach

**Opening Hymn 62**  
Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air

**Anthem**  
*Antiphon*  
Roger Bourland

**Peace Hymn 373**  
We Are Your People

**Reading**  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*\*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.*

---

**Sermon Hymn C-21\***  
Called from the World to Mystery

**Offertory**  
*Call to Remembrance*  
Richard Farrant

**Closing Hymn 378**  
God, We Thank You for Our People

**Voluntary**  
*Andante tranquillo*  
Mendelssohn

**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 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

# 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.

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

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


MEETING HOUSE

54.557


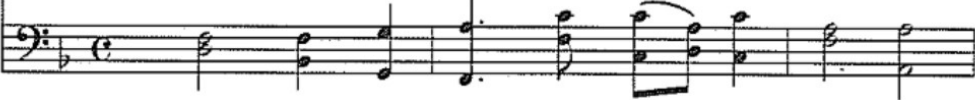
Words © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Co.  
 Music © 1998 Margaret R. Tucker

SERMON HYMN



Called From the World to Mystery C-21



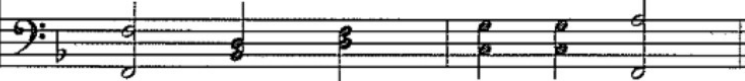
1. Called from the world to mys - ter - y, from  
2. And you, O God, who plant this hope and  
3. Have sent us as your la - bor - ers in  
4. For you in Christ held no - thing back: may



mys - ter - y to love, we hold the hope with - in our-selves  
scat - ter it like seed a - mid the hard griefs of the world,  
fields sown by your grace—The har - vest and the har - vest - ers  
we be like-wise free, un - til, when we have poured out all,



of cer - tain - ties a - bove;  
its bit - ter - ness and need,  
caught in di - vine em-brace—  
we merge with mys - ter - y.



WORDS: Kate Layzer

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

"The harvest is plentiful,  
but the laborers are few;  
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest  
to send out laborers into his harvest."

CLOSING HYMN

378 God, We Thank You for Our People

1. God, we thank you for our peo - ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,  
 2. Thank you, God, for gen - tle plea - sure: les - sons learned and se - crets told,  
 3. Still we must con - fess be - fore you, some - times, Sav - ior, we have failed;  
 4. By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk - ing still,

har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.  
 hopes and mem - o - ries saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,  
 though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some - times love has not pre - vailed.  
 ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.

Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:  
 pranks and glo - ries, songs and sto - ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.  
 Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas - ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame  
 Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar - ing life and death and birth,

here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.  
 God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.  
 you trans - form by ways for - giv - ing, Grace a - maz - ing! Grace, your name!  
 wel - com - ing as sis - ter, broth - er, all your chil - dren on the earth.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Emma Blanc, who is having major surgery tomorrow to alleviate pain and discomfort related to playing the saxophone.
- We pray for Ami Brenner's father Jim Rae, who started immunotherapy in April for melanoma and was hospitalized last weekend for treatment-related complications.
- We pray for Lisa DiNardo's boyfriend Wayne, who underwent spinal surgery on Thursday and will be recovering slowly over many weeks.
- 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 continue to pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, including in Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti, and especially those displaced and seeking refuge in other countries.
- We pray for all refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water to escape poverty, political persecution, violence, and climate-related disaster.
- We pray for all in nearby states and around the globe experiencing heavy rainfall, flash flooding, deadly heat waves, and other extreme weather. We continue to pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for all whose lives are touched by our nation's raging epidemic of gun violence, especially those dealing with related loss and trauma. 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 vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.
- 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.

## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



### Pastoral Care Cards This Summer

During the summer months, we invite you to support our Pastoral Care ministry by writing a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer list. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or “get well soon” wishes. Look for the “card table” after worship each Sunday, where you’ll find the weekly list of pastoral

care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, as well as stamps and a Church Directory with addresses. Please take the completed cards with you to mail. If you’d like to write cards from home, use the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the “Quick Links” on the Members & Friends page of our website. Many thanks in advance for sharing in this important ministry of outreach and care.

### Debt Retirement Appeal - July 14 Update

Associate Treasurer Jim Cairns begins an update to the congregation as follows:

“I am writing to share an update on our Debt Retirement Appeal. In June, we set a goal of raising \$450,000 over the next three years to pay off our construction loan from the capital campaign and the loan for our high efficiency boilers, and we encouraged those who were able to make a commitment to do so by June 30. We are very pleased to report that \$223,000 has been pledged towards this appeal. Even more encouraging...”



**[Read the full letter](#) and [pledge to participate in a matching opportunity](#).**



### 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>

**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.



## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

WELCOMECORPS



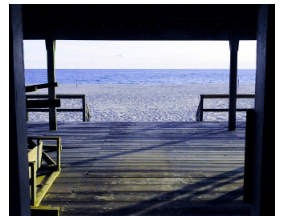
### Do you have a background/experience in Health, Mental Health, Employment, or Job Skills and Training?

Then we especially need your help to welcome refugees! First Church & Friends' application to become a sponsor group for [Welcome Corps](#) was successful; we are now preparing to welcome two refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa in October 2023. These newcomers will have Official

Refugee Status and full access to government benefits. Our team will support them in a 90-day resettlement effort, which includes ensuring their access to health and mental health services, as well as assisting them in training for and finding jobs. We are asking for volunteers with specific backgrounds in health and employment to support the refugees' needs in these areas. We hope this will be a meaningful experience for you to personally participate in resettling migrants to the USA. If you can join us in our effort, [please complete this form](#). And reach out to your friends and community with this experience; people outside of First Church are very welcome to join the team! If you have any questions about being a volunteer, please email Martha Mueller Cook at [marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com).

### 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!



### Support the Friday Café This Summer

The Friday Café is 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).

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