

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

**Preaching Today** Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
**Liturgist** Phil Jones  
**Assisting in Worship** Justin Brueggeman, *guest musician*  
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.*

**Opening Hymn 258**

Morning Has Broken

**Anthem**

*Christ Be With Me*  
Noel Rawsthore

**Peace Hymn 338**

God Be in My Head

**Reading**

1 Kings 3:5-12

**Reading**

Romans 8:26-39

**Sermon Hymn 244**

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

**Offertory**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
Roland Martin

**Closing Hymn 72**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

**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.



**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.

Morning Has Broken

258

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has  
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,

Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 of the wet gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.  
 praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931  
 MUSIC: Traditional Gaelic melody, harm. David Evans, *Revised Church Hymnary*, 1927

BUNESSAN  
 55.54D

PEACE HYMN

God Be in My Head

338

God be in my head, and in my un-der-stand-ing;

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note 'G', a quarter note 'o', a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 'b', and a quarter note 'e'. This is followed by a half note 'i' and a quarter note 'n' on the word 'head'. The piano accompaniment starts with a half rest, followed by a half note 'G' and a half note 'o', then a quarter note 'd' and a quarter note 'b', and finally a quarter note 'e'.

God be in mine eyes and in my look-ing; God be in my mouth, and in my

The second system continues the vocal line with a half note 'i', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'y', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 'a', and a quarter note 'n' on the word 'eyes'. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note 'G' and a half note 'o', then a quarter note 'd' and a quarter note 'b', and finally a quarter note 'e'.

speak - ing; God be in my heart, and in my think - ing;

The third system continues the vocal line with a half note 's', a quarter note 'p', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'a', and a quarter note 'k' on the word 'speaking'. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note 'G' and a half note 'o', then a quarter note 'd' and a quarter note 'b', and finally a quarter note 'e'.

God be at mine end, and at my de - part - ing.

The fourth system continues the vocal line with a half note 'G', a quarter note 'o', a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 'b', and a quarter note 'e' on the word 'God'. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note 'G' and a half note 'o', then a quarter note 'd' and a quarter note 'b', and finally a quarter note 'e'.

244

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

1. Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov - ing care,  
 2. Like a tree be-side the riv er, draw-ing life from ho - ly streams,  
 3. We, be - side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e - ter - nal life.

we, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit - ness bear.  
 fill us with your love for - ev - er; re - cre - ate our hopes and dreams.  
 Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris-es o - ver strife.

In each pass-ing gen - er - a - tion may your voice of love be heard.  
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.  
 Ev - er - liv - ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to - day.

Bless, we pray, this con-gre - ga - tion with your ho - ly, liv - ing Word.  
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.  
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up - on the Way.

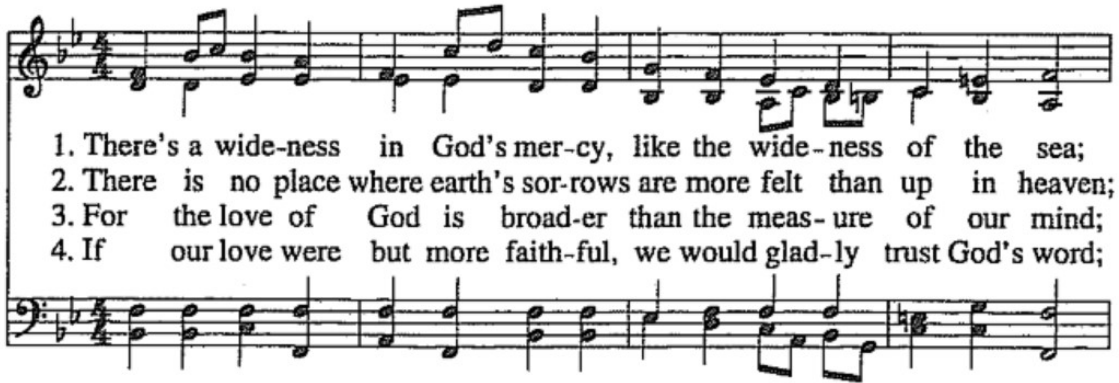
WORDS: James F. D. Martin, 1992, alt.  
 MUSIC: Roy Hopp, 1989, adapt.

SILVER CREEK  
 87.87D

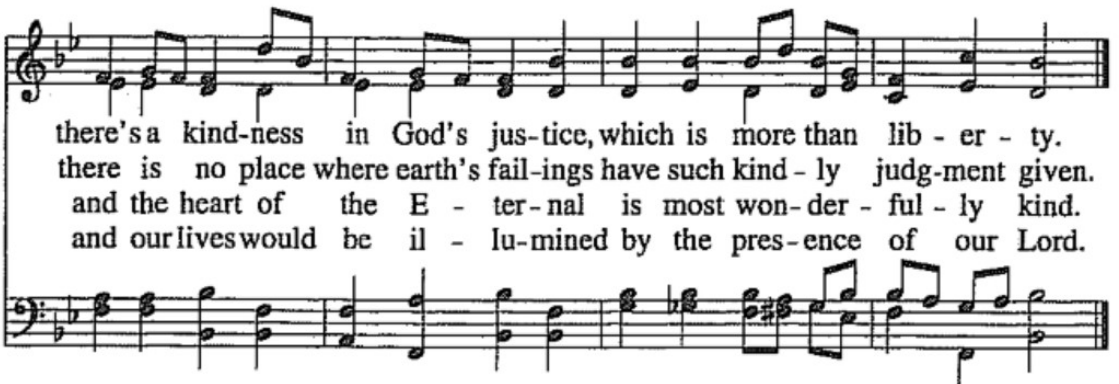


## There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

72



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2. There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;  
 3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;  
 4. If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.  
 and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.  
 and our lives would be il - lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854, alt.  
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1877

WELLESLEY  
 87.87

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Emma Blanc, who is recovering after surgery 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 recently for treatment-related complications.
- We pray for Lisa DiNardo's boyfriend Wayne, who underwent spinal surgery recently 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.

### 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>



### Global Christianity: An Art Exhibit Next Sunday, August 6 at 11:00 a.m. Margaret Jewett Hall

Join First Church member and artist Henry Gates after worship to view an exhibit of 12 theological drawings, offering an occasion for meditation. The first drawing, titled “Apocalypse at Pompeii,” was a response to the nuclear threat, “a minute before midnight” in 1983. On this 78th Day of Remembrance for the nuclear explosion at Hiroshima, you are invited to engage with art representing a dialectic of images from the West, the East, and the Americas. Six of the drawings are original compositions about the event of Jesus Christ, between symbols of Alpha and Omega.

## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

WELCOME CORPS



### 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).

### 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](#).

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](#)