

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

Preaching Today Brent Coffin
Liturgist Adam Weiss, Deacon
Assisting in Worship Lexi Boudreaux, Transitional Minister
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
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.

Vouuntary

Adagio Cantabile Op. 13
Beethoven

Opening Hymn 314

As We Gather at Your Table

Anthem

Wondrous Love
Charles Dupree

Peace Hymn 370

The Church is Like a Table

Reading

Psalm 139: 7-12

Reading

Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon Hymn 315

We are People on a Journey

Offertory

Bring Bread Again
Mary Luti/Peter Sykes

Closing Hymn 477

God of Grace and God of Glory

Voluntary

Allegretto and Trio Op. 27 No. 2
Beethoven

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 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.

-Bulletin Insert 1-

OPENING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

314

1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

The Church Is Like a Table

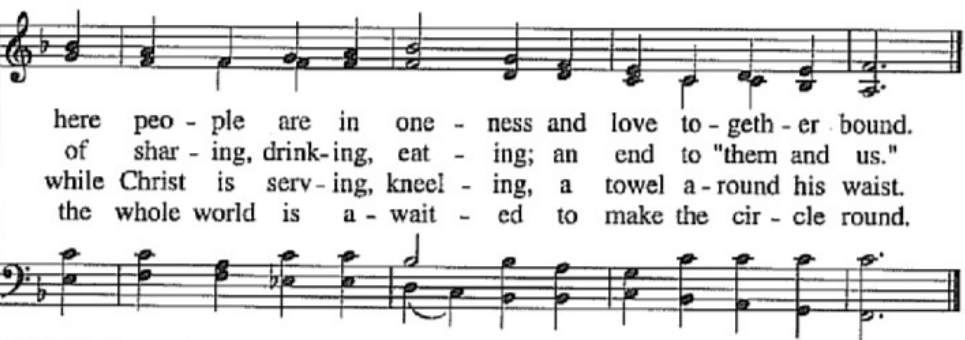
370



1. The church is like a ta - ble, a ta - ble that is round.
 2. The church is like a ta - ble set in an o - pen house;
 3. The church is like a ta - ble, a ta - ble for a feast
 4. The church is like a ta - ble, where ev - 'ry head is crowned.



It has no sides or cor - ners, no first or last, no ho - nors;
 no pro - to - col for seat - ing, a sym - bol of in - vit - ing,
 to cel - e - brate the heal - ing of all ex - clud - ed - feel - ing,
 As guests of God cre - a - ted, all are to each re - lat - ed;



here peo - ple are in one - ness and love to - geth - er bound.
 of shar - ing, drink - ing, eat - ing; an end to "them and us."
 while Christ is serv - ing, kneel - ing, a towel a - round his waist.
 the whole world is a - wait - ed to make the cir - cle round.

315

We Are People on a Journey

(Somos pueblo que camina)

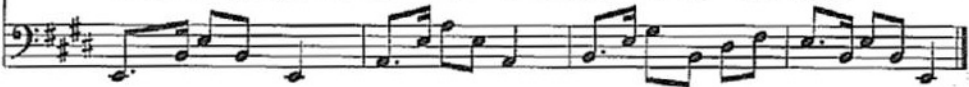
Unison (optional S. A.)



1. We are peo-ple on a jour-ney; pain is with us all the way.
 2. God has sent the in - vi - ta - tion to the hum-ble and the poor.
 3. This is bread that God pro-vides us, nour-ish - ing our u - ni - ty.
 4. Christ is ev - er pres-ent with us to u - nite us all in love.
 5. All who tru - ly thirst for jus-tice seek their lib - er - a - tion here.
 (1). So - mos pue - blo que ca - mi - na por la sen - da del do - lor.



Joy-ful-ly we come to- geth - er at the ho - ly feast of God.
 A - cu - da - mos ju - bi - lo - sos a la san - ta co - mu - ni - ón.



WORDS: Missions Board, Christian Church, 1928

CLOSING HYMN

477

God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
 3. Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; now ful - fill your church - 's sto - ry; bring its bud to
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your heav' - n - ly goal, lest we miss your heav' - n - ly goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.877

'Positive thinker' Fosdick wrote this hymn for the dedication of
 Riverside Church, New York City, of which he was the minister.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

PILGRIMAGE AND PERSEVERANCE

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 Devin Hansen's aunt Ellen Smith; her cancer has returned.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing slow-progressing ALS; 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



Global Christianity: An Art Exhibit

Today, 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.

August Worship Services and a Farewell to Lexi

Boudreaux

After five years of ministry, the time has come to say our final farewells to our beloved Transitional Minister Lexi Boudreaux. As we move towards staffing transitions with Lexi’s imminent departure, we invite you to a series of important events that will take place in the coming weeks.



Healing Service, August 13

We will gather as a community to seek solace, restoration, and renewal. It will be a time to lift up our prayers and support one another as we navigate what is ahead.

Lexi’s final sermon, August 20

Lexi has been a guiding light within our congregation, and her words and service have touched our hearts deeply. Let us come together to honor her and listen to the wisdom she will share on this significant day.

Leavetaking Service, August 27

We will bid farewell to Lexi as she moves forward on her path of faith. It will be a time to express gratitude for her invaluable contributions and to wish her well as she embraces new opportunities in service to the Lord.

You may read letters from our Moderator Moana Bentin and from Lexi Boudreaux in the [Latest News](#) on our website.

Summer Sign-Ups with Lexi

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>

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Sponsoring Refugees. Strengthening Communities.

Do you enjoy helping others to build skills? Are you inspired to help immigrant newcomers learn about budgeting and finance? About US culture, laws, and norms? Or excited to share about our local community, including food resources, libraries, parks, public transportation? Then we especially need you to welcome refugees! First Church & Friends' is now an official sponsor group for WelcomeCorps

and we are 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 helping them to settle into all aspects of their new lives in Cambridge. We are asking for volunteers interested in helping newcomers to thrive here in their new home. We believe that participating will provide you with a meaningful opportunity to support refugees in a major life transition, as well as to collaborate with other Church and community members. 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.



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.

Young Adults: Faith on Tap August 7, 7 - 9 p.m., Harvard Gardens Restaurant Join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for one of our regular Faith on Tap nights. We get together a few times a month for casual conversation and sharing about our lives and faiths. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Phil Jones at 585-610-7919.

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