

Praise God, all you nations! Extol her, all you peoples! For great is her steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of God endures forever. Praise God!

- Psalm 117

Regathering Season October 29, 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 1636-2023

# October 29, 2023

Liturgist

Bappu Antony

**Leading Worship** 

Carla Arevalo, Pastoral Associate

Peggy Bendroth, Dean Eaton, Jean Dany Joachim,

Casey Marsh, Leslie Pelton-Cairns, and Adam Weiss, Deacons

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Lee Prouty, tech support Peter Sykes, Music Director

Emma Thomas, Ministerial Intern

Bulletin Cover Image Psalm 117 collage by Audrey Bellinger

All Psalm collages can be viewed in a digital gallery on our website.

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

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th Graders, The Well

Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 10:15 a.m.

Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream 11:00 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, The Landing 11:20 a.m.

12:00 p.m. Annual Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards, MJH

Refreshments in Hastings Common 12:15 p.m.

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

#### 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.

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** Miserere in three and four parts William Byrd

\*HYMN C-23 Come, All You Thirsty

\*GREETING Bappu Antony

L: Siblings in the Spirit, come in, and know the goodness of God's love!

C: Enter into this sanctuary of rest and healing.

L: Come in, and know this community of justice and joy.

C: Come in, and hear stories of hope and challenge;

drink of God's beauty and mercy!

L: Friends, gather and regather, from near and far, enter anew into this space of wonder and grace,

All: and let us praise and worship God!

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

Bappu Antony and Leslie Pelton-Cairns

ANTHEM Tu pauperum refugium Josquin des Prez

You refuge of the poor, relief of the weak, hope of the refugee, strength of the afflicted, path for the wayward, truth and life, and now Lord Savior, only in you do I seek solace, I adore you, true God, I hope in you, I trust in you, my salvation, Jesus Christ, help me, never forsake me.

#### **CONFESSING**

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

#### **SILENCE**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:

All: God of tender mercy and love,

we confess that we sometimes lose sight of your abiding presence in hard times. We forget to share our sins and our sorrows with each other and with you.

(cont'd. on next page)

-1-

<sup>\*</sup>You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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.

We forget that we are only human, and so forgiven by you, and loved, and free. Be an ever-present help through stress and struggle. Be our rock and our strength, our shield and our assurance, that we may not fear nor falter. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

#### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

#### \*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 302 Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in The Landing (above the church office). Caregivers can find the children in The Landing or Hastings Common after worship.

#### **OPENING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Ca	arla Arevalo
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**READING** Psalm 23

**READING** James 5:13-16 Kate Layzer

#### A TIME FOR HEALING

**REFLECTION AND INVITATION** Emma Thomas, Jean Dany Joachim, Casey Marsh

BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS Adam Weiss

#### **HYMNS**

**441** Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

400 There Is a Balm in Gilead

415 When We Are Living

#### CONCLUDING 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.

#### SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING







**OFFERTORY** 

Lord, Grant to Me a Quiet Mind

Arlen Clarke

#### \*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 C-3

Psalm 23

Fugue in C Major

\*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Dietrich Buxtehude



# **First Church Land Acknowledgment**

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment <u>here</u> or by scanning the QR code.

# Come, All You Thirsty

C-23



-Hymn Insert 1-

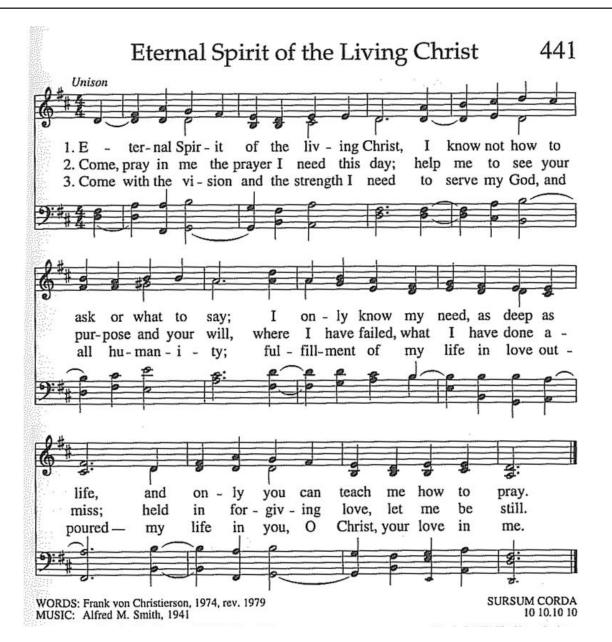
#### Come to Me, O Weary Traveler 302 1. Come to me, O wea - ry trav eler; come to 2. Take yoke leave your take my my and trou bles; 3. Rest in O eler; rest in me, wea - ry trav with dis - tress; hea - vy your come you me to me, am be -Take my yoke, yoke and come with me. Ι and do not fear. Rest in me, heart is me my dened; find your and bur come to me rest take and mil - i side you; hu ty. learn tle; rest and cast way your care. gen a

ORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990

USIC: William P. Rowan, 1992, adapt.

**AUSTIN** 

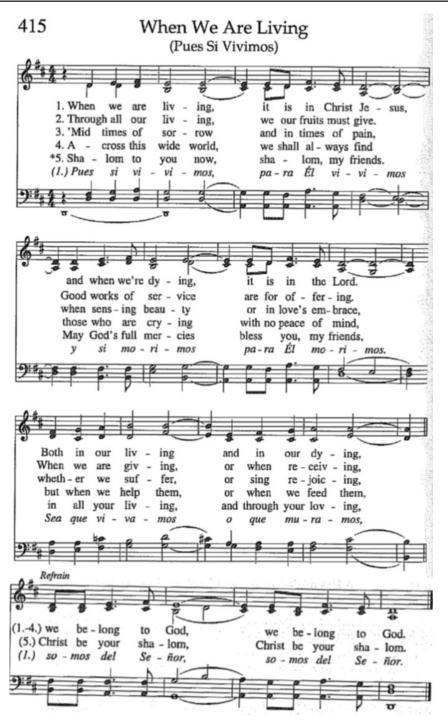
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-Hymn Insert 4-

#### **HEALING HYMN**



-Hymn Insert 5-



WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

LOW DUTCH

#### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

#### **Prayer for Israel and Palestine**

We pray for an end to the war and the heartwrenching, horrific violence in Israel and Palestine. We pray for all hostages and their families; for those living in daily fear for their and their loved ones' safety; and for all who are grieving the thousands of deaths of Israelis, Palestinians, and others in Israel, Gaza, and around the world, including members of our congregation who have close ties with people who are currently in the area.

We decry the violent Hamas attacks against Israel. We decry retaliation that involves violence against civilians, including the shutting off of water, fuel, and food to Gaza. We pray for redoubled diplomatic efforts to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We continue to pray for a just peace in Israel and Palestine and throughout the region. We also pray for Jews and Muslims, nearby and around the world, who are facing increased threats and acts of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim discrimination, hatred, and violence.

We pray for ourselves, that we will be faithful, compassionate, and open to God's love and leading, and to all whom we encounter through these tension-filled times. Across whatever division or disagreement, may our words and deeds seek to honor the humanity and God-given dignity of every human being.

- We pray for Anita Anger, who was hospitalized this past week for respiratory issues.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who continues to be treated in the hospital for various serious medical issues.
- We pray for Jodi Melichar and her family, including husband Bappu and son Kiran, as they mourn the loss of her father Dr. Bob Melichar, who died recently after a long struggle with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for Jennifer Petralia, who is suffering from debilitating anxiety and depression.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; Jim Rae, Ami Brenner's father; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; 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.
- We pray for all those in Lewiston, ME, and the surrounding towns, who experienced a tragic mass shooting on Wednesday evening. We continue to pray and advocate for commons sense national gun control legislation.
- We pray for workers who are unemployed, laid off, or displaced. We pray for immigrants
  waiting for work permits or desperate for work, and for union workers who are striking for
  better pay and working conditions.

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

- We continue to pray for all impacted by and recovering from recent natural and climate related disasters, most recently the hurricane in Mexico. We continue to pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, including in Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. As we prepare to welcome two refugees through the Welcome Corps, we pray for all political and climate refugees and migrants who make often lifethreatening border crossings over land and open water.
- 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.



# Confirmation Class for 8/9th Graders Today, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., The Well

Our Confirmands continue their journey with a session entitled "Meeting God Through Scripture."

# **Today Is a Healing Sunday**

Healing Sundays at First Church are an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands, and—for those who wish—anointing with oil, an ancient Christian practice now being revived across the ecumenical spectrum of churches. At the time of the sermon, we offer instead a brief introduction to the ritual and then invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time of silence for individual prayers.



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



First Church Shelter Presents
The Annual Doris Beauvais Luncheon
and Mitch Snyder Awards

Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall The First Church Shelter warmly invites everyone to their annual celebration of those doing good and important work for unhoused people across the Commonwealth. Join us for a delicious luncheon followed by the presentation of the 2023 Mitch Snyder awards.

This year's recipients include:

- Steven Murray
  Grayken Center Overdose Hotline
- Princess Baptiste-Maloney Barbara McInnis House
- Terry Rumsey & Robin Lasersohn Greenseeds Grants
- Ellen Semonoff & Elizabeth Mengers Dept. of Human Service Programs, Cambridge

# **Night Song**

Sunday evenings, 7:30 - 8:15p.m.

# Sanctuary and via livestream

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset...

Read more about Night Song.





# 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.

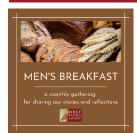
#### **NOVEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH**

## **GBIO Update: Bond Bill & In-District Meetings**

Good news in GBIO's Housing Justice Campaign! On October 18, 2023, Governor Healey introduced a bond bill with \$1.6 billion dollars of reinvestment in our deteriorating public housing, as well as legislation enabling municipal transfer fees to fund more affordable housing. It's a good bill! Back in June, nearly 50 First Church folks turned out at a big action at Temple Israel—had we and other institutions not shown up in



such a powerful way, this bill wouldn't be as strong. So, congratulations! This bill's passage is by no means a sure thing, however, so now our focus shifts to our state legislators. Members of dozens of different GBIO institutions (including ours) are organizing In-District Meetings between state reps and senators and their districts' voters. In the coming weeks, a meeting will take place in just about all of the places that First Church members live, and we'd love for all of you to turn out to it to show your support. If you register at <a href="bit.ly/gbioidm">bit.ly/gbioidm</a> you will be told about your specific In-District Meeting as soon as it's organized... Read more



# Men's Breakfast Saturday, November 4, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person on Saturday morning for our monthly gathering, a time to reflect and rejoice. If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: p.byerly@comcast.net

# **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, November 5.



Seventy Witnesses: ReForm - All Saints Day Art Exhibit Sunday, November 5, Margaret Jewett Hall

Seventy Witnesses is a set of three vast oil paintings that survey our Hebrew Bible and Christian heritage. Each canvas symbolizes our saints of the past, with themes of Word of God, Christendom, and ReFORM. Both the vivid

spectral color display and careful documentation provide an immersion into these testimonies over time. Come to Margaret Jewett Hall to talk with First Church member and artist Henry Gates about the exhibit on All Saints Sunday.

#### NOVEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH

# All Saints Sunday, November 5

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives, devotion, and example of members and friends of our congregation who died in the last year, as well as their immediate family members. With help from our larger-than-life puppet saints that have been a First Church tradition for many years, we also commemorate all God's holy ones, known and unknown to us, who have now entered God's joy. This year, we will also be featuring our *Wade in the Water* embroidery project



that honors and remembers enslaved persons of African and Indigenous descent who lived and labored in our community. We recognize them as members of the "communion of saints" to which we are connected through spiritual ties that bind us together with ancestors and descendants. Our tradition teaches that a saint is anyone who is called and gifted by the Spirit to carry out a ministry of grace and reconciliation in the world, and who is responding generously. Our celebration will end with "Communion-in-the-round" and a lifting up of the names of all who are present in this sacred, liminal space across time and generations.

# **All Saints Sunday List of Names**

Each year on All Saints Sunday, we list names in our bulletin of loved ones in our community who have died since the last All Saints Sunday (November 6, 2022). The list is compiled from our weekly bulletin prayers for those who have been grieving loss over the course of year. If you have lost a loved one and are concerned that they may not be included on the list, please reach out to Bruce in the office at bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org by this Tuesday, October 31.



# Stewardship 2024: A Future With Hope

Adult Formation: How Does Hope Inspire Giving?

Sunday, November 5, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Join members of the Stewardship Committee for an introduction to the Stewardship 2024 campaign. What is your experience of hope?

## Saints & Stewards Luncheon

Sunday, November 5, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall
Stay for a delicious meal to celebrate our saints and the beginning of our
2024 Stewardship season.

Adult Formation: How Does Hope Inspire Spending? Sunday, November 12, 9:30 - 10: 15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom Treasurers Rich Goode & Jim Cairns will lead a discussion about the church's proposed 2024 budget. How does our budget reflect a sense of hope?

#### NOVEMBER AT FIRST CHURCH



# Joining Sunday, November 12

Have you been thinking about exploring membership at First Church in Cambridge? Do you have a growing sense that First Church is where you belong? Membership at First Church involves joining the church through covenantal promises. In addition to engaging in the life and ministries

of the church, members are given the opportunity to vote at congregational meetings. If you are ready to take this next step, we invite you to our next Joining Sunday on November 12. The deadline for submitting your information and a short introductory bio to be included in the bulletin is Wednesday, November 1. Register here.

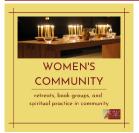
# Spiritual Practice of Reparations: A Workshop with Dave Ragland Sunday, November 12, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Our shared local legacies of slavery, colonization, and white supremacy call us to ground our work in ongoing learning, relationship-building, and lasting commitment. Please join us for an afternoon with Dr. David Ragland, co-director and co-founder of the Truth Telling Project and



director of the Grassroots Reparations Campaign. Dr. Ragland will speak about the various ways ordinary people can build a spiritual and practical culture of reparative justice work. There will be time for questions and for envisioning what reparations can look like in our community, along with several immediate, accessible, joyful suggested actions that you can take towards healing and reparation work. Space is limited. Please RSVP here.

Sponsored by First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, in partnership with Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Christ Church in Cambridge, Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church, First Parish Unitarian Universalist, University Lutheran Church and the Massachusetts Reparations Interfaith Coalition.



# Women's Community Book Group Tuesday, November 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Please join us for a discussion of The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This dramatic book, set amid the atrocities of slavery, tells the story of a man who uses memory, faith, and unique personal power to reclaim the humanity of enslaved people. Reading this will provide a connection with FCC's "Wade in the Water: Remembering and Honoring Enslaved Persons

at First Church" textile art project. All those in the First Church community who identify as women are welcome.

# Join Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) "Stand in the G.A.P." response: Give, Act, and Pray

Following on Church for Middle East Peace Executive Director Rev. Dr.

Mae Elise Cannon's October 15 sermon at First Church, you are invited to



"Stand in the G.A.P." with CMEP and Give, Act, and Pray. Find links to prayer calls, briefings, and donation pages here. -9-



See our Events Calendar

weekly e-newsletter.

for Zoom links and details.

Sign up **here** to receive our

## Monday, October 30

4:00 p.m. Assets Research Team, via Zoom

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

5:00 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom

# Tuesday, October 31

7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom

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

# Wednesday, November 1

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom 4:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom

6:30 p.m. Investment Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

# Thursday, November 2

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

# Friday, November 3

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

# Saturday, November 4

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

# Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday - Daylight Saving Time Ends

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: How Does Hope Inspire Giving?

Harter Room and via Zoom

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library

12:15 p.m. Saints & Stewards Luncheon, MJH

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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