



# FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
Garden and Mason Streets  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**381 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 - 2 0 1 7

## WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an open and affirming, just peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org).

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use Hastings Common, through the same door.

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.  
Please ask a greeter for assistance.

### WORSHIP LEADERS November 26, 2017

**Preaching**  
Dan Smith, Senior Minister

**Offering Ministry Moment** about  
City Mission Society Christmas Shop  
Alice Kidder, First Church Member

**Assisting with Worship**  
Rev. Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach  
Tony Amoury Alkhoury, Ministerial Intern

**Playing Organ and Directing Choir**  
Peter Sykes, Director of Music

**Liturgist**  
Jim Brown, First Church Member

**GATHERING**

**VOLUNTARY**

Nun danket alle Gott

J. S. Bach

**\*HYMN 252**

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

**\*GREETING**

L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime  
welcome to this household of grace --

**C: and to this place of belonging,**

L: wherever you are on the journey of life,

**C: wherever we are on the journey of faith,**

L: welcome to this community, which is both ancient and new,

**C: a community of grounding, growing and acting!**

**WELCOME**

Jim Brown

**ANTHEM**

My God, my Portion and my Love

James Hopkins

**CONFESSING**

**INVITATION**

**SILENCE**

**SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lead Me, Lord (Hymn 271)

**Lead me, Lord,**

**Lead me in Your righteousness;**

**Make thy way plain before my face.**

**For it is thou, Lord,**

**Thou Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.**

*\*You are invited to stand. 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.*

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

### \*HYMN C-28

God's Forgiveness Waits

*The Church School (preschoolers - 7th graders) is now invited to leave for a Creative Arts project.  
The children will gather in Margaret Jewett Hall to make Advent Calendars.  
Parents can meet their children in MJH after worship.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Tony Amoury Alkhoury

### READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

### RESPONSIVE PSALM 95:1-7

- L: O come, let us sing to the God;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- C: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**
- L: For God is a great god,  
and a great Ruler above all gods.
- C: In God's hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are God's also.**
- L: The sea belongs to God, for God made it,  
and God's hands have formed the dry land,
- C: O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before God, our Maker!**
- All: For this is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture,  
and the sheep of God's hand.**

### READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

### SERMON

Dan Smith

### \*HYMN 87

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

### MINISTRY MOMENT

Alice Kidder

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray....

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Oculi omnium

Charles Wood

### \*DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### GOING FORTH

### \*HYMN C-3

Psalm 23

**BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina

Hymn 344

*The congregation is invited to join in the singing of this response.*

**Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Lord**

**Lead me, Jesus...**

**Fill me, Jesus...**

**Thuma mina... Thuma mina somandla**

**VOLUNTARY**

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all who are working for climate justice, especially 350 Mass, the Better Future Project, UCC leaders, and all who have been organizing at the Statehouse to stand against the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure in our state.
- For victims of sexual assault who may be experiencing difficult emotional responses to the current national conversation taking place in light of recent allegations and admissions.
- For the communities of Tehama County, California; Sutherland Springs, Texas; and in the aftermath of recent shootings, and for all who are impacted by gun violence.
- For villagers in Iran and Iraq, impacted by last week's devastating earthquake, for relief workers there, and for all people recovering from recent natural disasters, including wildfires in California, earthquakes in Mexico, and hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Texas.
- For the Rohingya people of Myanmar, who are experiencing horrific atrocities as they are displaced from their home, and for all the world's refugees.
- For undocumented immigrants seeking sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including First Church Amherst and University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. May our federal government find a path of compassionate justice for all immigrants seeking safety, security, and well-being in our nation.
- For all political leaders, including our current administration, that they may know God's spirit of wisdom and justice in these troubling times.
- For ourselves, that we may open our hearts and minds to all those we disagree with or don't understand, and find the grace to listen, connect, and join together in our common humanity.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at [parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) or by calling 617-547-2724.

*If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith, Karin Case, Francine LaChance, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.*

## A Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of home and harvest, today we come to you with full hearts, rejoicing in your generosity that knows no bounds.

We celebrate the new spaces in our church home, grateful for all who have made them possible, and we look forward to your Spirit guiding us as we use them to do your work.

On this Thanksgiving weekend Sunday, we pray for those who are hungry, those who are poor, and those who have nowhere to call home. Help us to do what we can for these your children.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, confident in your promise, relying on your presence, and grateful for your peace that passes all understanding.

*–Beth Spaulding, First Church Deacon*

## TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

**NIGHT SONG, SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary** Spend some time at the end of the day nourishing your soul at Night Song. Vox Equalis (treble voices) and Daryl Bichel offer ancient and contemporary chant and improvisation by candlelight, providing space for contemplation and prayer.

## FUTURE HAPPENINGS

**“LIFE TOGETHER” TUESDAY November 28, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Hastings Common and Margaret Jewett Hall** Plan to join us in our new Kitchen, Hastings Common, and Margaret Jewett Hall this Tuesday as we begin to live into our new space and new life together! We'll provide the pasta and sauce! You bring the rest (salad, side, or dessert, cider). We can break bread and begin to lay some groundwork for some intentional practices of how we serve and share meals in Christian community.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 a.m., Harter Room** Men of First Church, join us for hearty food and heartier conversation the first Saturday morning of each month. All are welcome. Please contact Kirsten Manville (parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org) if you would like to be added to the email list to receive monthly reminders.

**FAMILY NIGHT December 5, 5:30–7:00 p.m.** Families with young children (infants through elementary school, typically) are warmly invited to gather in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) for a pasta-and potluck supper. Pasta and sauce will be provided; you bring a salad or side dish or dessert to share. Questions? Contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org)

**FRIDAY CAFÉ HAT DISTRIBUTION** Winter hatdistribution will continue throughout the winter, so if you have more hats to donate, you may give them to Marian Smith or Kate Layzer. Children's hats will be donated to the Children's Clothing Exchange at Solutions At Work. For more information, contact Marian Smith at msmith829@gmail.com.

## ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

**MEDITATIONS AND REFLECTIONS ON SOME NATIVITY SCENES Sundays, December 3, 10, and 17, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room, led by Tony Amoury Alkhoury** Join us for a three-session series on “Meditations and Reflections on Some Nativity Scenes.” In these sessions we will be reflecting on the two passages narrating the Nativity story in the New Testament, Matthew 2:1-11 and Luke 2:6-15. We will be comparing these passages, learning about their historical contexts, how they were understood throughout the history of the church, and meditating on them and discussing what they mean to us. If you would like more information contact Tony Amoury Alkhoury, tony@firstchurchcambridge.org.

**CITY MISSION CHRISTMAS SHOP AND COAT DRIVE. Sunday, December 3, during Morning Worship** For decades the Christmas Shop has served as a catalyst for people of faith to find ways to reach out to others. Each year City Mission Society collects thousands of gifts — clothes, toys, books, and household goods — for distribution to families in need around greater Boston. The Christmas Shop brings hope and joy to those most in need during the holiday season. The gifts collected are made available to our Homelessness Prevention clients. We also work with several other community partners who distribute gifts to their own clients. More than 3,600 people were served by this program in 2016. On Sunday, December 3, First Church will collect gifts for the Christmas Shops during our Morning Worship service. Below is a list of requested gifts. City Mission accepts only NEW items. Please no food, household, or jewelry items. ● Winter coats, sweaters and sweat-shirts ● Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves ● Socks and underwear ● Blankets and backpacks ● Toys, books, and games for all ages ● Gift cards from Target, Walgreens, Marshalls, CVS, Kohls, or other merchants

**ADVENT WORKSHOP Sunday, December 3, 12:15 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall** Join us for our annual workshop of art and craft in Margaret Jewett Hall following Morning Worship on the first Sunday of Advent. People of all ages are invited to make an Advent wreath (bring your candle ring from home; a limited number of new rings and candle sets will be available), dip beeswax candles, design homemade wrapping paper, create ornaments and candle holders, and more. Mark the beginning of this special season by experiencing the pleasure of giving of yourself for Christmas. A simple lunch of soup, bread, and hot mulled cider will be offered.

**MONDAY NIGHT MEDITATION RESUMES IN ADVENT!** Are you looking for a place to settle in for some silence and quiet reflection in the midst of a busy week? Or looking to begin your Advent season with intention? Discover an oasis of calm every Monday night from 6-7:00 p.m. in The Well (Room 22) beginning December 4. Whether you're interested in trying meditation for the first time or deepening your current practice, an experienced meditator or simply curious, all are welcome. This on-going series will meet every Monday night, except in the case of holidays and building closures. For more information or to receive updates about meditation at First Church, contact Karin Case, [karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org)

**FRIDAY CAFÉ HOLIDAY GATHERING, Tuesday, December 5, 6:30–8:30, Margaret Jewett Hall** Share the joy of the Friday Café with a friend or family member this holiday season! Invite someone you know to a festive gathering with special food and wine, stories and photos. Together we'll celebrate how far we've come, and spread the word to new friends about this inspiring ministry. This event is the kickoff to the Friday Café's first-ever fundraising campaign. As a First Church member, you already support the Friday Café through your annual giving to the church—no further gift

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needed. But you can make all the difference for us by helping widen our circle of support in Cambridge and beyond. Someone in your network would love to learn more about our model of transforming community. Who is that someone? Please invite them to be your guest on Dec. 5 for what promises to be a delightful evening, and plan to be there yourself, with your spirit, your stories, and your great ideas. RSVP today at [www.thefriday.cafe](http://www.thefriday.cafe). The Friday Café is a weekly community gathering space where neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity can relax and eat on Friday afternoons, and where people can get to know each other. Volunteers needed!

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE Thursday, December 7, 5:00–9:00 p.m., 44 Garden Street, Cambridge** Join us by the fireside for some festive fun and fellowship on Thursday, December 7 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come for all or part of the evening. Come whenever you can. A special invitation to kids and young families to join us on the early side, for choir members to come before rehearsal, and for young adults to swing by before heading out to continue the revelry late night! We'll provide a light meal and holiday spirit(s)! Bring some Christmas cookies or a drink to share, if you'd like, or just bring yourselves!

**ADVENT MEDITATION RETREAT Saturday, December 9, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., REGISTER NOW!** Treat yourself to an afternoon of meditation and reflection as we begin the Advent Season. This two-hour retreat will feature sitting meditation, walking meditation, and sacred music under the apse (dome) in our beautiful sanctuary, followed by tea and refreshments (at 4 pm) in the newly-renovated Hastings Common. No meditation experience necessary. All are welcome. Please register by going to the church web site, <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org>, or by contacting Karin Case, [karincse@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:karincse@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR, December 10, MJH** Have you made your list for our Fair? Fair Day is one month away! You'll be able to buy something lovely for yourself and everyone on your list from over a dozen vendors. Remember that every dollar you spend at the Fair goes directly to the good causes the vendors represent.

**WINTER SOLACE SERVICE, Sunday, December 10, 5:30 p.m.** Christmas is not always experienced as a joyful time for people facing loss, difficulties, or grief. Sometimes it is a season that is a reminder of pain and darkness rather than celebration. The Winter Solace Service is an evening worship experience to recognize and lift up the challenges we face at the holidays. A collection of Scripture readings, hymns, prayers, and times for silence will guide us through reflection, as we remember, mourn, and light candles for what makes this time of year difficult. Held near the winter solstice, themes of darkness and light will be incorporated into prayer and music as a way to seek God's comfort in our dark places. Contact Jen Bloesch, [jen@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:jen@firstchurchcambridge.org), for more information.

## ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

**ADVENT CHORAL MUSIC SUNDAY, Morning Worship, Sunday, December 17** Our special Choral Music Sunday Worship on December 17 highlights the incredible heritage of great music composed for the Advent season. This year we will be singing a setting of the Magnificat by German composer Michael Praetorius — an attractive work that combines plainchant, polyphony, and German carols. If you would like to join the Choir for this project, come to rehearsals on Thursday evenings, November 30 and December 7 at 7:45 p.m., in the Harter Room, as well as on Sunday morning, December 17. For more information and updates contact Peter Sykes, psykes@aol.com or 617-645-0833.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY AND POTLUCK Sunday, December 17, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** The annual First Church Christmas Party will be held following Morning Worship on Sunday, December 17. Organized and animated with great affection and skill by the Friends of Fellowship! Watch for details, coming soon.

## WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS: What Successful Communities Do Differently December 19, 6:15–8:15 p.m., Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston** A Faith that Does Justice (AFTDJ) will be joined at their second Community Meeting by guests Rosanne Haggerty and Fr. J. Bryan Hehir for a conversation about the challenges related to homelessness in the United States, and what successful communities do differently to end homelessness. Ms. Haggerty and Fr. Hehir have decades of experience in the public sector, combining their passions for addressing social issues with unique strategies to unify communities. Register: [www.faith-justice-housing-homelessness.eventbrite.com](http://www.faith-justice-housing-homelessness.eventbrite.com).

**NEW COATS FOR YOUTH—CITY MISSION, BOSTON UCC** Churches in the greater Boston area are banding together to collect NEW coats for youth of all ages who lack this vital winter protection. A box marked “City Mission” has been placed in the narthex for any coats you purchase during the next few weeks. If you wish to donate a gently used coat for any age, including adult, you may place it in the box marked “Used Coats.” These will be given to Friday Café and Solutions at Work. Thanks to Katie Omberg for facilitating this drive for City Mission- Boston. For questions, please contact Claire Cocroft at [claire.cocroft@gmail.com](mailto:claire.cocroft@gmail.com) or Alice Kidder at [flintkiddr@aol.com](mailto:flintkiddr@aol.com).

# Come visit our Annual Alternative Christmas Fair

To benefit worthy causes—

**Sunday December 10, 2017**

**12:30 PM to 2:00 PM**

- Jewelry • Baskets • Rugs
- Home Décor • Foods
- Something for you and everyone on your list . . .



Beneficiaries include:

- Aruna Design (*widows in India*)
- Bead For Life (*Ugandan needy*)
- Canaan Fair Trade (*Palestinian needy*)
- The Friday Café Guests
- A Healthy Tomorrow (*Malt women's health*)
- The Heifer Project
- LGBT Political Refugee Asylum Project
- Newtowne School (*scholarship fund*)
- Solutions at Work (*local people experiencing homelessness*)
- A Thread of Hope (*Guatemalan women*)
- Traveling Bohemian (*needy in Cambodia and Thailand*)
- Zienzele Foundation (*Zimbabwean families*)



Held in Margaret Jewett Hall

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
Harvard Square

11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

[www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)





## **GBIO MAKES GREAT PROGRESS on CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM and AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Working with allies in the legislature and other like-minded groups, GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Group) played a significant role towards achieving dramatic progress on criminal justice reform in Massachusetts. The state Senate and House recently passed similar criminal justice bills, which now go to conference, that embody specific reforms that GBIO has been advocating for over the past two years:

- Repeal of mandatory minimums for low level drug offenses
- Reduction of the burden of fees, fines, and penalties
- Improvements in the use of solitary confinement
- Data collection and oversight for more transparency around solitary confinement.

These reforms will make a difference to everyone who is taken into the justice system, but perhaps most especially to people of color, who are heavily over-represented in that population.

On the affordable housing front, GBIO and joined with member institutions Trinity Church and Old South Church in a fight for acknowledgement and mitigation of the effects of three proposed commercial and residential buildings that will shadow the historic churches. After refusing to accept any responsibility, the developer, Boston Properties, agreed to offer \$3 million in mitigation funding for historic preservation, and under further pressure from GBIO, to add \$3 million to fund affordable homeownership for city residents.

Both these victories represent hard-fought and sustained efforts by GBIO volunteers. From work in researching the issues, in deciding on goals and proposals to pursue, in building alliances and advocating for change, GBIO has proven the effectiveness of its approach to making change on actionable problems. We will need to continue work on both these complex issues, but we have reason to celebrate for now.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### **Sunday, November 26**

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts - Advent Calendars, MJH
- 1:00 p.m. Kitchen Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

### **Monday, November 27**

- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council, Harter Room

### **Tuesday, November 28**

- 5:30 p.m. Life Together Tuesday, Hastings Common, MJH, and Sage Hall

### **Wednesday, November 29**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room

### **Thursday, November 30**

- 6:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment, The Well
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

### **Friday, December 1**

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

### **Saturday, December 2**

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

### **Sunday, December 3**

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Advent Study, Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, City Mission Gifts Received, Jen Bloesch, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church Offering, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Multigenerational Advent Workshop, MJH, with simple lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting, Meet in Hastings Common to head to CMS Gift Shops
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

## THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

### Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith  
617-547-2724, ext. 23  
dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister

Rev. Dr. Karin Case  
617-547-2724, ext. 26  
karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Karen McArthur  
617-547-2724, ext. 22  
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer  
617-851-5074  
klayzer@gmail.com

### Ministerial Interns

Jen Bloesch  
jen@firstchurchcambridge.org

Tony Amoury Alkhoury  
tony@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Director of Music

Peter Sykes  
617-645-0833  
psykes@aol.com

### Director, Creative Worship & Arts

Sarah Higginbotham  
617-547-2724, ext. 42  
shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness  
www.patriciavanness.com

### Poet-in-Residence

Jean-Dany Joachim  
jeandany@gmail.com

### Shelter Director

Jim Stewart  
617-661-1873  
jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Parish Administrator

Kirsten Manville  
617-547-2724, ext. 21  
parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Communications Coordinator

Francine LaChance  
617-547-2724, ext. 45  
francine@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Administrative Assistant

Lang Haynes  
617-547-2724, ext. 41  
Lang@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Sextons

Douglas Casey, Tina Quimby,  
George Williams, Kimel Williams,  
617-642-3980

Would you like to give to  
First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



First Church Give



First Church Pledge

Give by Text: Text \$ \_\_ to 617-841-8044



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