



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*

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.

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

*New to First Church in Cambridge?
Please take the time to fill out one of the pew cards
and place it in the offering basket during the service.
Name tags are available at both the front and back entrances of the sanctuary.*

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 and down the hallway (up four stairs to the door on the right). Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to the Hastings Room, just across the hall from that same door, where the service is broadcast through speakers.

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

*Give by Text:
Text \$ __ to 617-841-8044*



First Church Pledge



First Church Give

CONFESSING

INVITATION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for strength, courage, and wisdom.
- C: **God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us. Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you. Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us what your love requires. Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope and renew our courage In the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 372 *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

All children from Preschool to 6th grade are invited to leave at this time to make sandwiches for today's Outdoor Church offering. The children will make the sandwiches in Margaret Jewett Hall and return to the service in time for communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

READING

Matthew 5:13-16

SERMON

Karin Case

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Taste and See

Thomas Pavlechko

*O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who take refuge in God.
Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord, for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.
The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and God's ears are open to their cry.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.
O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God.*

*DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heav'nly light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God, the Spirit, now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

Jen Bloesch

L: Dear friends, come now to the Welcome Table!
C: **Taste and see that God is good.**
L: Drink together the Cup of Joy,
C: **filled to the brim with hope.**
L: Jesus loves you! Come eat the feast he made for you!

*PRAYER OF PREPARATION

L: How good it is to praise you, Holy One!
Your beauty ushers in the dawn,
and in your light we see light—
C: **justice for the nations, mercy for the broken-hearted,
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,
strength for the weak, and forgiveness for the sinner.**
L: You reveal your love in joy and sorrow,
and we know your wonder even in the shadow of death.
C: **All your creatures behold your works
and testify to your faithfulness**

L: And so we too, fragile lamps in your holy house,
raise our hearts in praise. Amen.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God,
we fall silent and remember Jesus,
the one who came because words were not enough.
Silence

L: Setting aside our wisdom, our will, and our words,
emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands,

**C: We come at his invitation,
yearning for the healing,
the holding,
the accepting,
the forgiving,
which Christ alone can offer.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: We remember that on the night on which he was betrayed,
while he was sitting at supper with his friends.
Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it.

**C: He gave it to the disciples, saying,
“This is my body, given for you!”**

L: Later, after they had eaten, he took the cup.

**C: He said, “This cup is the new relationship with God,
made possible because of me.
Drink this all of you, to remember me!”**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

**All: Our Father, 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 BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. Today, we will serve communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward to one of the stations at the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and dip it in the cup. (Please exit your pews to the right and return from the left.) The cup is filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten free. Persons who are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of holy communion!

*THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the gifts of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN (*insert*)

Lead on Eternal Sovereign

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Benediction

Beverly Taylor

The Word is flesh and dwells among us! Glory to God in the highest!

VOLUNTARY

Introit for the Season of Epiphany

Maurice Duruflé

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching Today

Karin Case, *Minister*

Liturgist

Bruce Hoppe, *First Church Deacon*

Directing the Choir/Playing the Organ

Peter Sykes, *Director of Music*

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*

Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*

Jen Bloesch, *Ministerial Intern*

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- * For God's wisdom, justice, and love to prevail in our nation and world. We pray especially for any who are feeling vulnerable, afraid, or alone. May God's presence bring strength and a renewed commitment to Christ's way of inclusive love.
- * For the Earth's well-being and for the actions people must take to address climate change, reduce emissions and waste, protect habitats, and manage resources. We pray that we swiftly and wisely learn how to live sustainably so that our earthly home may be a place that is clean, beautiful, and able to continually offer its abundance.
- * For families who are separated from each other because of the current state of chaos in our country's immigration procedures.
- * All those forced to flee their home countries as a result of war and terrorism, and we pray for clarity in responding to immigration crises around the world. For a spirit of strength and resistance as the new president and administration enact policies that are contradictory toward our Christian values of care of our creation, hospitality to strangers, and justice for all.

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 or by calling 617-547-2724.

A SPACE BETWEEN

We have introduced a place for healing prayers. A space between is...
*A space between us and God, A space between us and each other,
A space between the world as it is and the world as it should be,
A space for silence and centering, A space for prayer and meditation*

A PRAYER FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

Loving and merciful God, we pray... For refugees displaced from their native lands. For all who are fleeing violence and oppression. For all who are alone and afraid, and all who are crowded into refugee camps, in dangerous and uncertain conditions. For those who have risked everything in search of a new life. For all who are in need of safety, shelter, food and hope. Our hearts are breaking, O God. May our hands provide assistance. May our arms offer a welcoming embrace, May our voices speak out for justice and lovingkindness, For this is the way of life to which you call us, in Jesus' name. Amen .

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND EXTENDING SANCTUARY Today at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room The designation of a place as one of "sanctuary" has historically served to distinguish it as set apart from other places in the world, as a special site of worship, protection, and refuge. In this context our religious identities may determine our ability to extend or receive sanctuary: Indeed, the faith we profess may dictate whether we are in need of sanctuary or, on the other hand, in a position to offer sanctuary. Join Denson Staples as we consider the unique role of Christians and Christian communities in the United States in the work of extending sanctuary across religious differences. In contemporary US society this involves a particular focus on building sanctuaries that can bridge Muslim and Christian religious communities.

WHAT NOW? HOW IS OUR FAITH COMMUNITY IS A RESOURCE? Today at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room Help yourself to refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall and make your way to the Hastings Room for a guided, informal conversation about how we stay grounded in our tradition, find the nourishment and rest we need, form meaningful and powerful connections with others, and determine where we will place our energies and efforts in this time of uncertainty and turmoil. Come share what's working for you, what your struggling with, and resources for action. Facilitated by Karin Case.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the deacons and ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel (near the baptismal font). If you would like to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and return with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to the Harvard Epworth at 1:00 p.m. Speak with the deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in this ongoing mission project.

THE FIRST CHURCH DEACONS' FUND is one of the many ways in which our community cares for one another. Church members in need of financial assistance for a one time or short-term emergency may make a confidential request to one of the deacons or clergy. This fund belongs to us and relies on our contributions. We hope people will take advantage of this aid. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons' Fund, if able. Please mark on your check or online contribution "Deacons' Fund."

OUR WHOLE LIVES Today at Old South Church in Copley Square, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Our 7th and 8th graders continue with OWL at Old South Church today.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Join us for these contemplative and spiritually transporting candle-lit experiences of choral literature, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music. There is no spoken word, no sermon—just the opportunity to experience the Divine through music, being still, and silent meditation. Tonight: Gregorian chant from the Liber Usualis. Setting in the Lydian mode for compline by Daryl Bichel. Psalm 4, set by Bichel. Hymn: Te lucis ante terminum, plainchant, with verse 2 set by Diego Ortiz. Nunc dimittis by Josquin des Prez. Ave Regina caelorum by Gregor Aichinger. Instrumental improvisations. Soprano: Cindy Liu. Alto: Alison Larosa Montez, Michael Terranova. Tenor: Erik Bertrand, Jason Connell (cantor). Bass: Daryl Bichel, Simon Chase. Piano: Ben Schwendener.

FIRST CHURCH HAPPENINGS

POETRY READING Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m., Hastings Room This very Tuesday our own poet-in-residence Jean Dany Joachim will be featured alongside three other celebrated bards from the Cambridge Poet Populist Program: Peter Payack, Tony Bee and Lo Gallucio. Please join us for an uplifting evening. Refreshments will be served.

MICROAGGRESSIONS WORKSHOP SUNDAY February 12, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m., Hastings Room Join First Church friends for an afternoon workshop on microaggressions, with guest facilitator Rev. Cody Sanders. Lunch and childcare will be provided. All are welcome.

“Microaggressions” are the subtle, often unconscious and unintentional slights, insults, and indignities communicated to persons targeting their race, gender, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. This workshop will present the social scientific theory of microaggressions, de-

velop an understanding of the ways religious and theological language and narratives intensify the power of microaggressions to harm, and help participants consider ways of reducing the perpetuation of microaggressions in congregational life.

TALK SAVES LIVES — AN INTRODUCTION TO SUICIDE PREVENTION **Sunday, February 19, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room** Shamera Simpson of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, will be with us to offer a 45-minute presentation. The workshop will cover the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Attendees will learn the risk and warning signs of suicide, and how together we can help prevent it. Join us on February 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hastings Room.

"COMMON EXCHANGE" 10 AM HOUR **Sunday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room** Members of the Cambridge Arts Council will introduce a new public arts program that will debut on the Cambridge Common this coming May. Common Exchange is a series of temporary art installations and performances produced by the CAC's Public Art Program in honor of the park's recent renovations. The project curator, Dina Dietsch, will be with us along with two of the participating artists. Composer Andy Grayson is working on a sound installation that will involve choral arrangements and performances of the Bay Psalms. Cambridge artist Kelly Sherman is currently gathering people's stories and memories about the Common to serve as the source material for her piece. Come learn about their work and find out how you can be part of it.

'MADE IN HER IMAGE' WOMEN'S RETREAT **March 25th, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Congregational Church of Weston.** 'Made in her Image' is the theme for this year's women's retreat. Join us for a relaxing day of movement, music, reflection, storytelling, and fellowship. More details to come. Childcare and lunch provided. RSVP via www.firstchurchcambridge.org/womens-retreat-2017.

CENTERING MEDITATION **Every Monday night, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in The Well (Room 22)** Are you looking for a place to settle in for some quiet reflection in the midst of a hectic week? Interested in exploring a variety of meditation practices or deepening your current practice? Whether you're experienced or simply curious, all are welcome. For more information, contact Hilary Hopkins, hopkinsjh@verizon.net, or Karin Case, karin-case@firstchurchcambridge.org.

CT, MA AND RI UCC BOARDS COMMIT TO FORMING NEW CONFERENCE The Boards of Directors of the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences of the United Church of Christ voted unanimously to commit to forming a new Conference "to minister and come together to make an impact as people of faith." The three Boards met in Woodstock, CT on Saturday January 21. After worship and conversation together, the Boards went into separate meetings where each voted unanimously to adopt a resolution stating their intent

to move forward in creating a new, merged Conference. They will ask the Annual Meetings of the three Conferences, which will be held jointly on June 16 and 17, to endorse their intent to draft a proposal for a new Conference. The Boards would then bring that specific proposal to another joint Annual Meeting in 2018 for ratification. For more info, please visit www.macucc.org

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR VALUABLES Please be reminded that First Church is a very public building, with people in and out all the time. Although we wish it wasn't the case, petty theft does occur here. Please do not leave your wallets, phones, and other valuable items unattended, even for a short period of time. If you do notice anything out of the ordinary or a person acting suspicious, please notify the sexton on duty. If the sexton is not readily visible, s/he can be reach by phone at 617-642-3980. If you find anything of value left in the building, please turn it in to the sexton. Thank you.

SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD Today at 3:00 p.m. Symphony Hall, Boston 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA Celebrated Grammy-winners Craig Hella Johnson and choral ensemble Conspirare will perform Johnson's new musical masterwork, *Considering Matthew Shepard*. Led from the piano by Johnson, *Considering Matthew Shepard* showcases the award-winning artistry of Conspirare's singers paired with an instrumental chamber ensemble. Johnson draws upon a wide range of texts by poets and throughout the work, Johnson also incorporates poignant passages from Shepard's personal journal; interviews with and writings from his parents, Judy and Dennis Shepard; and newspaper reports.

STANDING ROCK SPEAKERS Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary Water protectors and indigenous Lakota women from Standing Rock will be speaking at First Church Cambridge on Tuesday, February 7th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The women of the Red Warrior Society have been fighting for sacred water on tribal lands and are now on tour spreading knowledge and sharing their stories of resistance fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline. Also, Mothers Against Meth Alliance from the Pine Ridge Reservation will talk about addiction in both bodies and minds wherever extraction is imposed on land and people. There is a suggested donation of \$5-\$15 at the door. Contact Susan Redlich (susan.redlich@gmail.com) from Earth Stewardship if you would like more information.

SANCTUARY UPDATE Hearty thanks to the seven persons from First Church who have signed on as volunteers to assist University Lutheran Church in the event of their providing sanctuary to one or more families. Please consider prayerfully whether you can sign up too. It is estimated that we need twelve to fifteen persons to share the load. If interested, contact Claire Cocroft at claire.cocroft@gmail.com or Alice Kidder at flintkiddr@aol.com.

Beloved Community
Microaggressions Workshop
12:30-3:00 p.m., Sunday February 12, 2017

Join First Church friends for an afternoon workshop on microaggressions, with guest facilitator, Rev. Cody Sanders! Lunch and childcare will be provided. All are welcome.

"Microaggressions" are the subtle, often unconscious and unintentional, slights, insults, and indignities communicated to persons targeting their race, gender, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. This workshop will present the social scientific theory of microaggressions, develop an understanding of the ways religious and theological language and narratives intensify the power of microaggressions to harm, and will help participants consider ways of reducing the perpetuation of microaggressions in congregational life.



The Rev. Cody J. Sanders, Ph.D., is the pastor of Old Cambridge Baptist Church. He's the coauthor of *Microaggressions in Ministry: Confronting the Hidden Violence of Everyday Church* (Westminster John Knox, 2015) and author of *Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight and Narrow: What All Christians Can Learn from LGBTQ Lives* (Faithlab, 2013).

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 5

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation with Denson Staples, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Holy Communion, Karin Case, preaching (a time for healing prayer offered immediately following service)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church Offering
- 12:30 p.m. What Now? How Our Faith is a Community Resource, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Sanctuary Task Force, McKenzie Library
- 1:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Old South Church in Boston
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group Ice Skating on the Common, Meet in Church Lobby
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, February 6

- 6:00 p.m. Centering Meditation, the Well

Tuesday, February 7

- 7:00 p.m. Standing Rock Speakers from Red Warrior Society and Pine Ridge Reservation, Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 8

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's Office
- 6:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee, the Well

Thursday, February 9

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

Friday, February 10

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, February 12

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Renovation and Ministry Plan Update Session, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Denson Staples, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch. - Grade 6)
- 12:30 p.m. Microaggressions Workshop with Rev. Cody Sanders, Hastings Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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