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Season of Pentecost  
June 23, 2024

**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

388 YEARS  
ON THE WAY

1636 – 2024

### June 23, 2024

<b>Liturgist</b>	Dean Eaton
<b>Preaching Today</b>	Rev. Norm Bendroth, <i>Community Minister</i>
<b>Leading Worship</b>	Justin Brueggeman, <i>guest musician</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Creative Worship &amp; Arts Director</i> Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Freddie Funck, <i>First Church member</i>

### Today's Programs and Events

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall

### 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 electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: [www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give)

### 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.

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**

Andante Tranquillo

Mendelssohn

**\*HYMN 428**

Christ Beside Me

**\*GREETING**

Dean Eaton

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

**C: here, where our lives are grounded in the hope and healing of God;**

L: here, where we grow together in community and belonging;

**C: here, where we act together in love for a better world!**

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come gather in.

**C: Let there be life in this house, now and always!**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

**ANTHEM**

The Call

A.B. Smith

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**SILENCE**

**SUNG PRAYER**

Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.**

**With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you!**

*(Sung twice through)*

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**\*GREETING OF PEACE**

**\*HYMN 420**

In the Morning When I Rise (Give Me Jesus)

*Children are invited to remain in worship today, and they are welcome to visit the Children's Book Corner (near the side door) at any time. If young ones need a break, they are welcome to join the Nursery in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) or on the outdoor playground.*

*\*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.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### READING

I Corinthians 11:23-26

#### READING

John 14:1-3, 18-19, 25-27

#### SERMON

Norm Bendroth

#### \*HYMN 414

This is a Day of New Beginnings

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.... *(silence, intercessions and the Lord's 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.**

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,  
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.*

*Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your  
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



### OFFERTORY

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Traditional

**\*DOXOLOGY**

O Jesus, risen now to bless,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess;  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**GOING FORTH**

**\*HYMN 444**

Lord of All Hopefulness

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Pasticcio

Langlais

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**First Church Land Acknowledgment**

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



**SCAN ME**

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

OPENING HYMN

428

Christ Beside Me

1. Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me, Christ be -  
 2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -  
 3. Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me, Christ be on

hind me, Love of my heart. Christ with - in me,  
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing,  
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion

Christ be - low me, Christ a - bove me, nev - er to part.  
 Christ in my sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.  
 in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me, Christ ev - er be.



In the Morning When I Rise  
(Give Me Jesus)

420

*Unison*

1. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I  
2. At mid-night when I cry, at mid-night when I  
3. Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to  
4. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I

rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
cry, at mid-night when I cry, give me Je - sus.  
die, oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus;

you can have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

414

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
 love's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
 step from the past and leave be - hind  
 to show and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 can make for us a world of dif - f'rence  
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt and griev - ing,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings -

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.



CLOSING HYMN

444

Lord of All Hopefulness

1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, your  
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your

bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Kate Layzer and Don Johnson as they mourn the loss of Kate’s father Bob, who died recently following a brief illness.
- We pray for Linda and Ken Ziebell, as Ken is now receiving palliative care at Carlton-Willard in Bedford.
- We pray for George Williams, who is improving after another brain surgery to replace a shunt, and as he continues treatment for a traumatic brain injury.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer’s Disease; Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; and Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Bob Spaulding, Beth Spaulding’s father; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan’s mother; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen’s aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones’s mother; Karen Anne Zee’s daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann’s sisters; and Abby Shuman’s uncle Barry.
- We pray for the many families seeking emergency shelter in cities and towns across our state, including migrant families living at the MA Safety Net Family Shelter in East Cambridge.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from recent natural and climate-related disasters. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where ongoing armed conflicts have led to more than 6 million people killed and more than 5 million people displaced from their homes. We pray also for those who have experienced devastating incidents of gender-based violence during the conflicts.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, and in Haiti.
- We pray for political and climate refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water. We pray for wisdom and justice to prevail as our court system tackles issues of immigration in its rulings.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the experience of vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.
- We continue to 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.***

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

### Prayer for Israel and Palestine

As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, and in light of recent tragic news from Rafah, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1,400 Israelis and over 36,000 Palestinians so far, we pray for an end to the war and immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region that are threatening a wider and more lasting conflict. We decry the horrifically violent Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7, as well as the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government and military.

We hold that every person is made in God's image and that every life is precious. We pray for the safe return of all hostages. We pray for redoubled diplomatic efforts to address the already devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We continue to pray for a just peace in Palestine and Israel 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 continue to pray for ourselves, that we will be courageous, 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.



**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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Summer Sermon Reflection Today at Coffee Hour

Grab a cup of coffee and join Norm Bendroth at a table in MJH to engage in conversation about today's sermon. Bring your questions and reflections to this informal time for connection with one of First Church's Community Ministers.



### 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" at Coffee Hour each Sunday, where you'll find the weekly list of pastoral care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, and a Church Directory with addresses. We also include stamps and return address labels. Please affix to the completed cards and place them in one of the mailboxes on Garden St. as you leave (corner of Garden and Mason or corner of Garden and Berkeley). 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.

Would you like to join one of our Pastoral Care Teams to write cards, visit members, or deliver meals September through June? Contact Care Team Coordinator Susie Neubauer to learn more: [susieneubauer@gmail.com](mailto:susieneubauer@gmail.com).

### Thank You Letter from Dan

Dear First Church,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

What an over-the-top, spectacular, beyond-perfect, super-emotional and super-fun farewell Sunday. So much Spirit, Love, and Joy, and so many tears, especially mine! I cried before church; I bawled like a baby throughout the service (in case you didn't notice). I was filled to the brim with gratitude as I was going to sleep that night. I couldn't believe how much joy and heart you all could put into a service and gathering to celebrate our twenty years together. And, I'm still flying high, and will be for a very long time. Words can't begin to express what's on my heart. Gratitude and grief, for sure, and also so much confidence, in who you are and in what you can accomplish (without me!) when you come together in common purpose... [Read Dan's full letter here.](#)



## SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

### Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Monday, June 24, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

#### Aeronaut Brewing Company, Somerville

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for casual fellowship and happy hour drinks at the Aeronaut in Somerville! This event is open to anyone in the age group, whether you're just exploring First Church, or have been here a while and are looking to meet some new folks. Let Emma Duke know to expect you, and if you're not already on the YA Mailing List you can sign up by emailing: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org)



### Summer Worship & Preaching

Through the months of July and August, Hybrid Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m., with Pick-Up Choir meeting at 9:00 a.m. Church School-aged children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. The Nursery continues to be staffed by our regular caregivers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Night Song, our evening service, will return in September after a summer hiatus. Special thanks to our current staff and to our Community Ministers for preaching this summer:

#### June 30

Rev. Ingeborg Haug

#### July 7

Rev. Kate Layzer

#### July 14

Rev. Liz Williams

#### July 21

Rev. Kate Layzer

#### July 28

Rev. Henry Schoenfield

#### August 4

Rev. Karen McArthur

#### August 11

Rev. Krysia Burnham

#### August 18

Rev. Rev. Alex Steinert-Evoy

#### August 25

Rev. Kate Layzer

#### September 1

Emma Thomas, Pastoral Associate

### Service of Ordination for Jaz Buchanan

Sunday, June 30 at 3:00 p.m.

#### United Parish in Brookline, 210 Harvard St., Brookline, MA

We are thrilled that First Church's former Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan has been called by United Church in Walpole as their Associate Pastor of Faith Formation! All are warmly invited to Jaz's Ordination Service at her home church in Brookline.

Learn more and RSVP [here](#).





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, June 24

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Aeronaut Brewing Co., Somerville

## Thursday, June 27

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

## Friday, June 28

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

## Sunday, June 30

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn

See our [Events Calendar](#)  
for Zoom links and details.

Sign up [here](#)  
to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

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