

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024

Preaching Today Liz Williams, *Community Minister*
Liturgist Claire Morgan
Assisting in Worship Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

Opening Voutary
Melodia
Max Reger

Opening Hymn 445
Be Thou My Vision

Anthem
Forever Is Thy Word Settled
Max Reger

Peace Hymn 426
I've Got Peace Like a River

Reading
Psalm 85:8-13

Sermon Hymn 335
Dona Nobis Pacem

Offertory
Da Nobis Pacem
Felix Mendelssohn

Closing Hymn 411
We Would be Building

Closing Voluntary
Adagio
Felix Mendelssohn

Today's Programs and Events

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
11:15 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn (or Margaret Jewett Hall, if weather dictates)

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

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.

OPENING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

445

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my Re - deem - er, my love thou hast won;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Rul - er of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Ancient Irish, tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody, harm. David Evans, *Revised Church Hymnary*, 1927

SLANE
10 10.9 10

The original Irish text dates from c. A.D. 700. SLANE is an ancient ballad tune named for the hill where St. Patrick lit Easter fires.

Harm. © 1927, by permission
of Oxford University Press

PEACE HYMN

426

I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
 4. I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1.
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in - a my

2.
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got an - chor in - a my soul.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER
 77.10 D

Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river' from Isaiah 48:18. The New Testament also provided imagery for this song in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22).

This won't be a love song till we know the words by heart.

— Bob Gibson

Dona Nobis Pacem

335

May be sung as a round

①
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na

②
no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

③
Do - na no - bis pa - cem, Do - na

no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

CLOSING HYMN

411

We Would Be Building

1. We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done
 2. Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock
 3. O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands

o'er crum - bling walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift,
 we set the dream that hard - ens in - to deed,
 ne'er fal - ter when the dream is in our hearts,

wait - ing till love can raise the bro - ken stone,
 ribbed with the steel, both time and change to mock,
 when to our ears there come di - vine com - mands

and hearts cre - a - tive bridge the hu - man rift.
 the un - fail - ing pur - pose of our no - blest creed.
 and all the pride of sin - ful will de - parts.

CLOSING HYMN

We would be build - ing, Ar - chi - tect Di - vine,
Teach us to build; O Mak - er, lend us sight
We build with you; O grant en - dur - ing worth

re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda & Ken Ziebell, as Ken receives palliative care at Carlton-Willard in Bedford.
- We pray for George Williams as he continues treatment for a traumatic brain injury.
- The First Church Shelter requests prayers for friends and family of Javier Hernandez, a former guest who passed away recently.
- 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 City of Cambridge as its leaders address road safety issues in the wake of two fatal bicycle accidents over the past weeks.
- 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.
- As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1,400 Israelis and over 36,000 Palestinians, we pray for an end to the war and immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region, as well as redoubled efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from recent natural and climate-related disasters, especially for those who are experiencing the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl and a record start to the hurricane season. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for intensified 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.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

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 23

Rev. Norm Bendroth

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



Summer Sermon Reflection Today at Coffee Hour

Grab a cup of coffee or cold lemonade and join Liz Williams at a table in the shade to engage in conversation about today's sermon. Bring your questions and reflections to this informal time with one of First Church's many 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.



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Friday Café Summer Lunch Program

Looking for a fun summer project you can do with (or without) kids? Become a part of the Friday Café summer lunch program for neighbors in need by signing up to contribute 10 sandwiches, 10 servings of fruit or fruit salad, or 10 sweet treats on one or more Fridays. This is a great opportunity to talk with kids about food insecurity and give them hands-on ways to respond, like helping shop for groceries, assembling sandwiches, baking cupcakes, and creating food labels. Bring community service forms with you when you drop off if you'd like credit for time invested.



As food prices continue to rise, the Greater Boston Food Bank has released a survey showing that 34% of households in our local community experienced food insecurity last year. You can do your part to combat hunger by becoming a part of the Friday Café's year-round homemade cooking-for-neighbors program. [Sign up here](#), and visit www.thefriday.cafe to learn more.



Guest Speaker - Fern Remedi-Brown from Sowing Opportunities

Sunday, July 21, 11:15 a.m., Harter Room

Sowing Opportunities's table is always a big hit at the Alternative Christmas Fair! Fern Remedi-Brown is the Executive Director of Sowing Opportunities, Inc., and she will be joining us after church on July 21st to tell her organization's story and take questions. Sowing Opportunities provides greenhouse agricultural solutions for food security to three – soon to be four – small, indigenous villages in an extremely remote area of Guatemala that receives resources from no other source.

Please join us for this interesting talk! You can also support their efforts at [online](#) or by attending the next fair: Saturday, July 27 – Sunday, July 28, 2024: 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. Cambridge Jazz Festival, Danehy Park.

Young Adults Go See the Worcester Red Sox!

Sunday, August 4, 11:30 - 4:00 p.m., Polar Park, Worcester

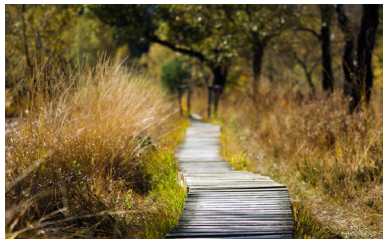
The Young Adults are going to watch some baseball! We'll meet up after church and carpool to Worcester to see the Woo Sox play. There might be popcorn... there might be peanuts... and there will definitely be a good time! Our budget will cover tickets, but we'll have limited spots, so if you'd like to come please let Emma Duke know ASAP: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Summer 2024 Reparations Fund Matching Grant Opportunity Honors Alice Kidder and Dan Smith

This summer is your special opportunity to make a contribution to First Church's Reparations Fund. All contributions given this summer will honor Alice Kidder, who cared deeply about reparations and the Reparations Fund; and Dan Smith, whose supportive leadership guided First Church in the early stages of our antiracism journey. If you've never given to the Reparations Fund before, your first-time contribution will be matched up to a maximum of \$25,000 by a First Church member wishing to remain anonymous. ***Through Labor Day, your 25 dollars becomes 50 dollars and your 1,000 dollars means that 2,000 goes into the fund.*** [Read more and give online.](#)



Mindfulness Walk with Stefanie Haug

Saturday, August 10, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. OR 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

First Church member Stefanie Haug is pleased to offer a Mindfulness Walk around the neighborhood on the second Saturday of August. The specific time and location will be determined by responses of interest.

Please [complete this doodle poll](#) to let Stefanie know your preference. [Read about more walks offered by Stefanie through Mass Audubon and Mount Auburn Cemetery.](#)

Save the Date and Register Now:

All-Church Fall Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center

Friday, September 27 - Sunday, September 29

Join Emma Thomas, Sarah Higginbotham, and other church leaders on the Cape for a weekend of community-building in fellowship, formation, and fun. Take advantage of scheduled large group gatherings, small group sessions, supervised play/crafting time for kids, worship, group games, and more. Or, opt for a quiet walk on the beach, bird-watching at the marsh, or whatever your soul needs. Arrive on Friday evening, September 27, and stay through midday on Sunday, September 29, for the full event; or come for a portion of the weekend, for just one night, or even a daytrip on Saturday. [Read more and register now!](#)



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Seeking Church School Teachers for 2024-25

First Church has a lively and varied Church School program for children in PreK through high school that relies on volunteer teachers to be successful. Accompanying our youngest members on their journey of spiritual formation is an opportunity to live out the promise we make at each baptism to “help them grow in faith.” All lesson plans and leader guides provided, as well as support from Sarah! We have openings for teachers in the following classes/groups:

- **Godly Play**, a Montessori-based curriculum of storytelling & wondering for PreK-4th graders
- **Bible 101**, a two-year introduction to the Bible for 5-7th graders
- **Youth Group**, a variety of fun and formational activities for 9-12th graders

If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to [Sarah Higginbotham](#), who would love to talk with you!

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.

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.



SCAN ME



You may have been reading in the local news about all the recent changes to the Commonwealth's migrant programs. We have evolving news about our own involvement as well.

We continue to partner with the MA Safety Net Family Shelter located in the Registry of Deeds Building in East Cambridge. Following a State re-contracting process, both the Shelter and day case management services are now under the management of a new company, [SOSI](#). The good news is, SOSI reached out to us right away to continue our close collaboration in care of the Haitian migrant families living there.

SOSI is looking for permanent Day Center space close to the Shelter in East Cambridge. But in the meantime, they are continuing to utilize FCC space on Mondays-Thursdays. Our church staff have been immensely helpful in helping to receive and settle them here. We anticipate they will continue to use our space through early August.

So - how you can help directly with the migrants in the next few weeks? As with the former contractor, SOSI is looking for our support in welcoming the migrants to our space. We need volunteers to make this happen! We particularly need volunteers who can provide translation in Haitian-Creole and those interested in playing with the children in childcare.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please reach out to Martha Mueller Cook at marthamuellercook@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you very soon about getting involved!

PLANNED GIVING



This summer, as we begin a season of transition and change, we are seeking to do all that we can to establish a financially sustainable future for our church. We have been blessed with many gifts from those whose financial giving and bequests in the past have provided the abundant resources that have allowed us to do more together than we ever could do alone. Now, as our 400th anniversary appears on the horizon, it is our responsibility to do the same for those who follow us. We are excited to announce a new initiative to encourage members and friends to include the church in their estate planning: *A Foundation for our Fifth Century*.

We invite you to consider a gift that will keep on giving. This could be naming the church as a partial beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy. It could be including First Church in your will. Additional information is available on our Planned Giving page, including ideas about different ways to give, information about different types of gifts, sample wording, and the legal name and tax ID of the church. There are many options, and we would be happy to talk with you about any of them.

We now have a [confidential form](#) for you to share information about the legacy you wish to leave for First Church, which you may complete and return by mail or email. Each year in our Annual Report, we will list those who have included the church in their estate planning as our *"Foundation for our Fifth Century."* Together, we can reinforce the strong and solid foundation of our church for the new life and ministry of the centuries ahead.

Visit the [Planned Giving](#) page on our website to learn more. If you have any questions, or to let us know about your intentions, please email plannedgiving@firstchurchcambridge.org

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