

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024

Preaching Today Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Liturgist Adam Weiss, *Deacon*
Assisting in Worship Leslie Pelton-Cairns, *Deacon*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

Opening Voutary
Toccata in C Major
J.S. Bach

Reading
Mark 6:1–13

Opening Hymn 4
Come, Living God, When Least Expected

Sermon Hymn 374
Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Anthem
Yesu Mfumu
Bantu Hymn

Offertory
O Taste and See
Thomas Pavlechko

Peace Hymn 281
Spirit of the Living God

Closing Hymn (insert)
Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

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)
12:15 p.m. Young Adults: Brunch at Zoe's Diner, Harvard Square

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

4 Come, Living God, When Least Expected

1. Come, liv - ing God, when least ex - spect - ed, when minds are
 2. Come now, as once you came to Mo - ses with - in the
 3. Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us as viv - id

dull and hearts are cold, through sharp - ning word and warm af - fec - tion
 bush a - live with flame; or to E - li - jah on the moun - tain,
 truth and liv - ing Lord, ex - plod - ing doubt and dis - il - lu - sion

re - veal - ing truth as yet un - told. Break from the tomb in which we
 by si - lence press - ing home your claim. So, let our minds be sharp to
 to scat - ter hope and joy a - broad. And we will share his ra - diant

hide you to speak a - gain in start - ling ways; break through the
 read you in sight or sound or print - ed page, and let us
 bright - ness, and, blaz - ing through the dread of night, il - lu - mi -

words in which we bind you to res - ur - rect our life - less praise.
 greet you in our neigh - bors, in ar - dent youth or mel - low age.
 nate by love and rea - son, for those in dark - ness, faith's de - light.

WORDS: Alan Gaunt, 1991

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, *Cinquante pseumes en francois*, 1543, rev. 1551

RENDEZ À DIEU
 98.98 D

281

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,

The second system continues the melody and bass line. It includes a double bar line with repeat dots, indicating a repeat of the previous phrase. The musical notation includes various note values and rests.

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The third system concludes the piece with a final double bar line. The melody and bass line end with a sustained chord. The lyrics are aligned with the notes above.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON
75.75.875

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Christian Music Publishing

374 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

1, 6. Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2. We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-'lers on the road;
 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;
 4. I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5. When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
 we are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
 born of all we've known to-geth-er of Christ's love and ag-o-ny.

repeat st. 1.

WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.
 MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; harm. FCC, 1997

Text and tune writer Gillard, who lives in New Zealand, here writes of the Christian community in which we serve and are served.

SERVANT SONG
 87.87

Words, music © 1977 Scripture in Song
 (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc.)
 Harm. ©1998 FCC Houston TX

CLOSING HYMN

318

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1. Draw us in the Spir-it's te - ther, for when hum - bly,
 2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3. All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er, you are
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er break the
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, we may

in the midst of them; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

WORDS: Percy Dearmer, *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931, alt.
 MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957; adapt. Jet Turner, 1967, alt.

UNION SEMINARY
 87.87.44.7

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.
- 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 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 Kate Layzer 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



Young Adults: Brunch at Zoe's Diner

Today, 11:15 - 1:00 p.m., Zoe's Diner, Harvard Square

Come join other First Church young adults (20s and 30s) for a delicious brunch at Zoe's Diner after church! We'll meet up at coffee hour and walk over together. 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.

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.



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.

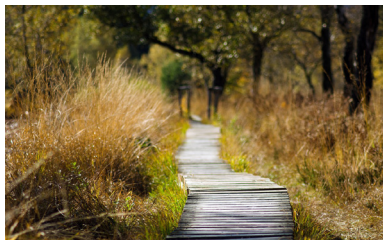
Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand? Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.



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!

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....** [Read more](#)



First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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