

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024

**Preaching Today** Rev. Krysia Burnham and Rev. Ngozi Robinson  
**Liturgist** Kathy Williams  
**Assisting in Worship** Kate Layzer, *Minsiter of Street Outreach*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
**Bulletin Cover Image** Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

### Opening Voutary

*Prelude and Fugue in B-Flat Major, J.S. Bach*

### Opening Hymn 87

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

### Anthem

*Somebody's Knockin'*  
Traditional

### Peace Hymn C-7

Psalm 130

### Readings

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33  
Ephesians 5:15-20

### Sermon Hymn 487

Abide With Me

### Offertory

*It Is Well With My Soul*  
arr. Peter Sykes

### Closing Hymn 352

Go Forth for God

### Closing Voluntary

*Duetto, J.S. Bach*

### 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 a.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](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.

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**Rev. Ngozi Robinson** is an ordained Baptist minister, a former chaplain at Boston Children’s Hospital, and the founder of [People of the Way Ministries](#)—an online ministry of discipleship, pastoral counseling, and prayer. Ngozi currently serves as Associate Director of Development at [Uncornered](#), a non-profit whose purpose is to eliminate violence by reducing shootings and homicides in cities.



The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1. The King of love my shep - herd is, whose  
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my  
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but  
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with  
 5. Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight, thy  
 6. And so through all the length of days thy

good - ness fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 2. ran - somed soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant  
 yet in love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 4. thee, dear Lord, be - side me: thy rod and staff my  
 bless - ed grace be - stow - eth, and O what trans - port  
 6. good - ness fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I

I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 2. pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gen - tly laid, and home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 4. com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.  
 of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!  
 6. sing thy praise with - in thy house for - ev - er.

PEACE HYMN

Psalm 130

C-7

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O  
 2. O God, if you re - cord our sin none  
 3. I wait for God, my soul a - waits God's  
 4. O Is - ra - el, look to your God, whose

God, hear my de - spair! O let your spir - it  
 could es - cape your blame. But you are a for -  
 word, my strength and stay. My soul, it waits for  
 love will nev - er fail. For God's a - bun - dant

fo - cus on the an - guish of my prayer.  
 giv - ing God that all may bless your name.  
 God still more than sen - tries wait for day.  
 love re - deems the sins that you be - wail.

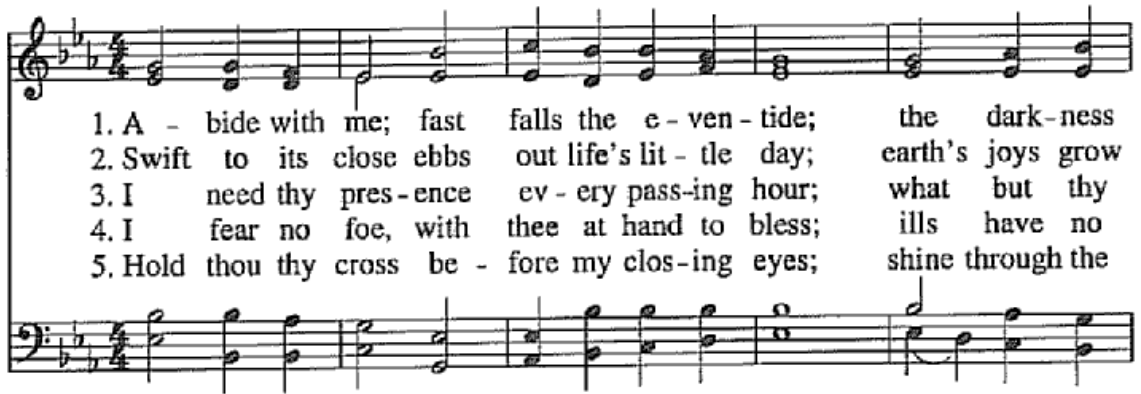
WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: Harmonization by Peter Sykes

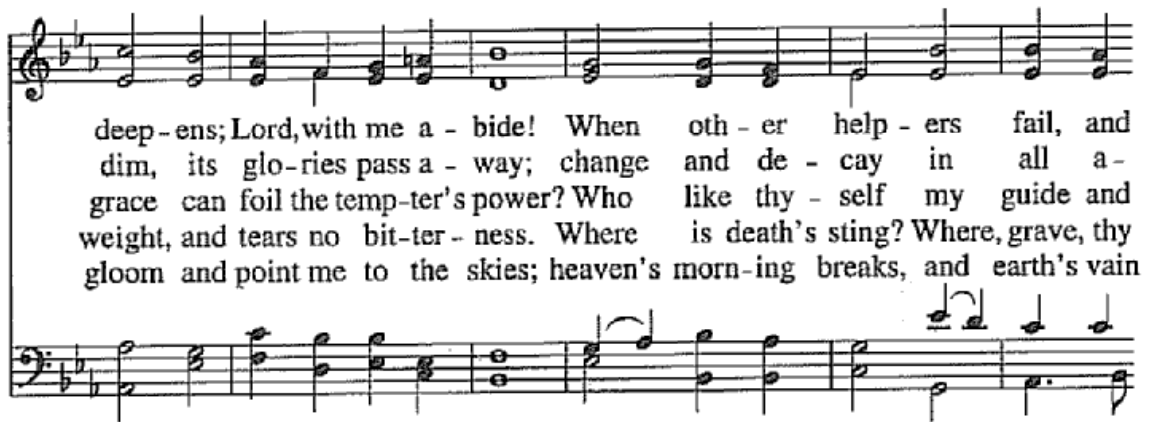
OXFORD

487

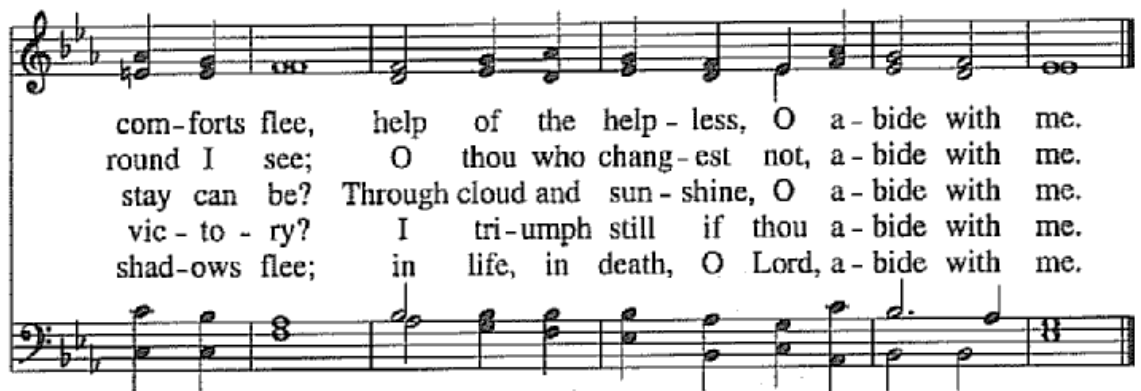
Abide with Me



1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide; the dark - ness  
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; earth's joys grow  
 3. I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour; what but thy  
 4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no  
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; shine through the



deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide! When oth - er help - ers fail, and  
 dim, its glo - ries pass a - way; change and de - cay in all a -  
 grace can foil the temp - er's power? Who like thy - self my guide and  
 weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy  
 gloom and point me to the skies; heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain



com - forts flee, help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 round I see; O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
 vic - to - ry? I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.  
 shad - ows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.



CLOSING HYMN

Go Forth for God

352

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good  
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the  
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the  
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heaven-ly grace, in God's good Spir - it  
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;  
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one  
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we be - hold God's  
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we  
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his  
 ev - 'ry gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

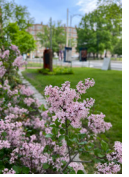
## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We offer prayers of joy and blessing for Pastoral Associate Emma Thomas and her partner Aram Mitchell, who are celebrating their wedding today!
- We pray for Devin Hansen and her dear friend Sara Guido as they mourn the loss of Sara's father Ken Wible.
- We pray for Abby Shuman's father Fred and the entire Shuman family as they process Fred's recent cancer diagnosis and await treatment options. We continue to pray for Abby's uncle Barry, whose brain tumor is worsening.
- 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 many people seeking emergency shelter in overflow sites across the state, who now face limited stays as they seek permanent housing, employment, and opportunities to live with security in the US.
- As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1,400 Israelis and over 39,000 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 pray for our nation in this time of intense political polarization and during a season of political conventions in advance of the presidential election. As we experience a shift in the presidential race, we pray especially for peaceful, non-violent engagement in the political processes of our democracy.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from natural and climate-related disasters. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for 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 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.

## 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. Special thanks to our current staff and to our Community Ministers for preaching this summer:



**August 18**

Rev. Rev. Alex Steinert-Evov

**August 25**

Rev. Kate Layzer

**September 1**

Emma Thomas, Pastoral Associate



### 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

### Summer Sermon Reflection Today at Coffee Hour

Grab a cup of coffee or cold lemonade and join Krysia Burnham and Ngozi Robinson at a table in the shade to engage in conversation about today’s sermon. Bring your questions and reflections to this informal time with a First Church Community Minister and a friend of First Church!



### Greeting from Interim Senior Minister Mike Solberg

First Church is excited to welcome a new Interim Senior Minister to walk with us in our time of transition. [Check out this video greeting](#) from Mike Solberg as he and his wife Janine prepare to join us for our Regathering season this fall!

### 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. [Sign up here](#), and visit [www.thefriday.cafe](http://www.thefriday.cafe) to learn more.



**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



**Reparations Fund Matching Grant Update: We're (almost) Halfway Way There!** Honor Dan Smith and Alice Kidder, key advocates of the First Church Reparations Fund, by contributing this summer. To inspire first-time contributors, your gift of any size will be doubled up to a total of \$25,000 if donated by Labor Day, September 2, 2024. ***\$12,362 in new donations has been raised so far!***

[Read more and give online.](#)



### 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](#)



### Faith & Life Groups: Fall 2024 - Call for Leaders!

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in person this Fall? Contact Beth Spaulding (bspaulding68@gmail.com) to discuss your idea for the next round of Faith & Life Groups, running in October/November, with registration happening in September. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to Beth before we regather in September!



### SNEUCC Justice Summit 2024: Politics as an Act of Faith

**Saturday, September 14, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT**

Register now for our Conference's 3rd annual Justice Summit. With a timely focus this year on the intersection of faith and politics, this day-long program will equip local church leaders, both lay and clergy, to engage with politics as people of faith. The Summit has something for everyone, including: a workshop for preachers; sessions on the challenges of engaging political conversations, especially in such a polarized time; and connection with faith-based justice leaders for practical opportunities to take your faith beyond the pews. And First Church's own Sarah Higginbotham will be a panelist at a workshop focused on local political engagement! [Register to participate in person or online.](#)