

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

Preaching Today Rev. Alex Steinert-Evoy, *Community Minister*
Liturgist Lindsay Miller
Assisting in Worship Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Justin Brueggeman, *guest musician*
Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

Opening Voutary

Air
Florence Price

Opening Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Anthem

Sing to the Lord
Christopher Tye

Peace Hymn 400

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

Sermon Hymn C-6

Psalm 100

Offertory

Wondrous Love
arr. Peter Sykes

Closing Hymn 241

We Will Build Your Church, O Christ

Closing Voluntary

Dialogue on the Grand Jeux
Francois Couperin

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

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

12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

PEACE HYMN

400

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain %

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul. *Fine*

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and
 2. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for
 3. If you can't preach like Pe - ter, if

think my work's in vain. But then the Ho - ly
 Je - sus is your friend, and if you look for
 you can't pray like Paul, just tell the love of

D.S.
 Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 knowl-edge he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. There is a
 Je - sus, and say he died for all.

SERMON HYMN

C-6

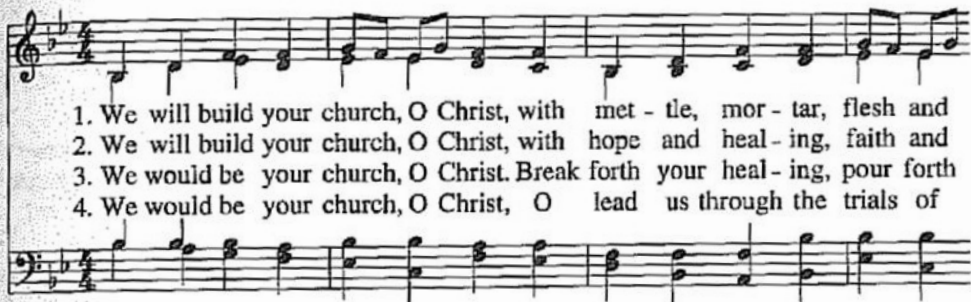
Psalm 100

1. O make a joy - ful noise to God,
 2. Know that the Lord God made us all,
 3. O en - ter, then, God's gates with thanks,
 4. Be - cause the Lord our God is good,

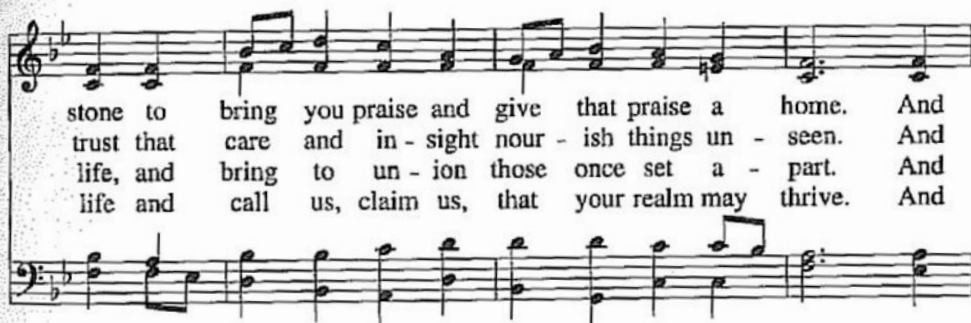
all lands and ev - 'ry liv - ing thing. O serve the Lord with
 we did not make our-selves a - lone. We are God's peo - ple,
 and come be - fore the Lord with praise. O lift your voice in
 God's love is our se - cu - ri - ty. God's faith - ful - ness sus -

glad - ness, come be - fore the Lord our God and sing.
 ev - 'ry - one, and sheep of our Cre - a - tor's home.
 thank - ful - ness and bless God's name through - out your days.
 tains all life both now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

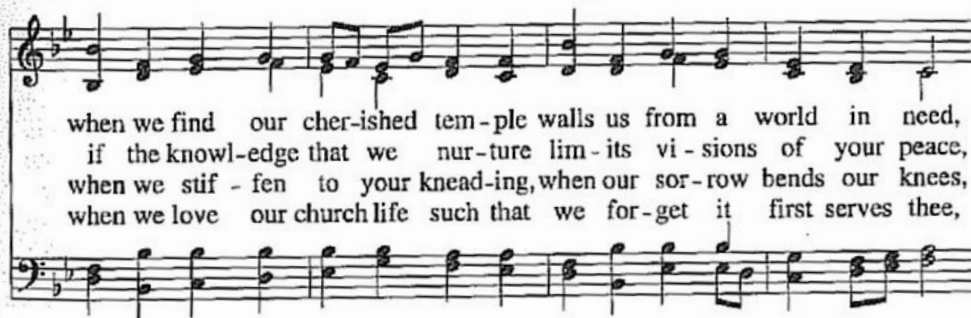
We Will Build Your Church, O Christ 241



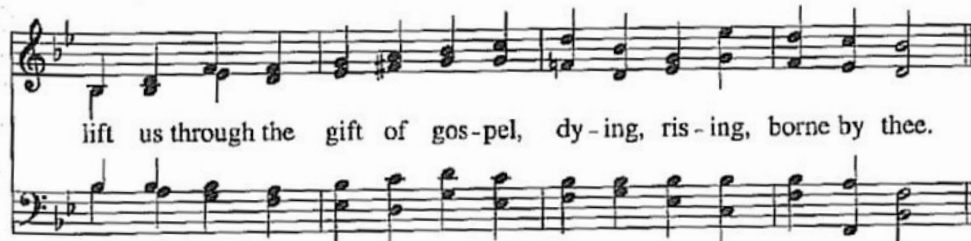
1. We will build your church, O Christ, with met - tle, mor - tar, flesh and
 2. We will build your church, O Christ, with hope and heal - ing, faith and
 3. We would be your church, O Christ. Break forth your heal - ing, pour forth
 4. We would be your church, O Christ, O lead us through the trials of



stone to bring you praise and give that praise a home. And
 trust that care and in - sight nour - ish things un - seen. And
 life, and bring to un - ion those once set a - part. And
 life and call us, claim us, that your realm may thrive. And



when we find our cher-ished tem-ple walls us from a world in need,
 if the knowl-edge that we nur-ture lim-its vi-sions of your peace,
 when we stif - fen to your knead-ing, when our sor-row bends our knees,
 when we love our church life such that we for-get it first serves thee,



lift us through the gift of gos-pel, dy-ing, ris-ing, borne by thee.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

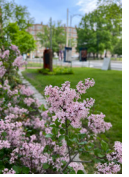
- We pray for Perry Neubuar who is recovering at home after a recent fall.
- We pray for Devin Hansen and her dear friend Sara Guido as they mourn the loss of Sara's father Ken Wible.
- We pray for George Williams as he continues treatment for a traumatic brain injury.
- We pray for all who are living 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.
- 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.

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-Evoy

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 Alex Steinert-Evoy 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.

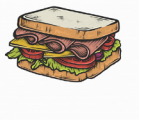


Greeting from Interim Senior Minister Mike Solberg

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 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 (over) 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. ***\$19,165 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](#)



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 and 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.



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.](#)