

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

Preaching Today Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*
Liturgist Nathan Hoefgen-Harvey
Assisting in Worship Justin Brueggeman, *guest musician*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Creative Worship & Arts Director*
Dave Kidder, *offering a Ministry Moment*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

Opening Voutary
Adagio, Felix Mendelssohn

Sermon Hymn 84
Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Opening Hymn 25
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Offertory
My Lord, What a Morning
Traditional

Anthem
Prayer of St. Patrick
Mark Schweizer

Closing Hymn 417
All My Hope on God Is Founded

Peace Hymn 89
Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

Closing Voluntary
Allegro maestoso e vivace, Mendelssohn

Reading
John 6:35, 41-51

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

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above 25

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre - a - tion,
 2. What God's al - might - y power hath made, in gra - cious love God keep - eth;
 3. Our God is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis - tress - ing,
 4. Then all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy prais - es,

the God of power, the God of love, the God of our sal - va - tion.
 by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth.
 an ev - er pre - sent help and stay, our peace and joy and bless - ing.
 that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un - wea - ried rais - es.

With heal - ing balm my soul is filled and ev - ery faith - less
 With - in the wis - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God gent - ly leads the
 Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and bod - y

mur - mur stilled: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 pil - grim band: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 bear your part: to God all praise and glo - ry.

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*, 1566

MIT FREUDEN ZART
 87.87.887

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

89

1. Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2. Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3. Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4. When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, tread the path of peace and

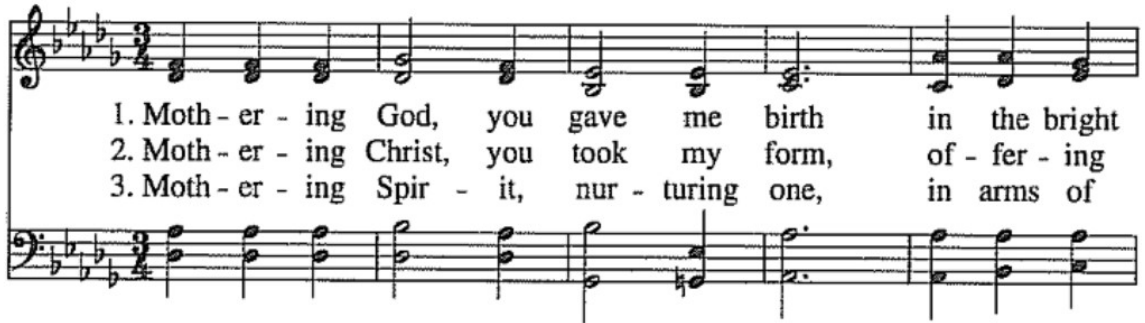
bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

WORDS: Daniel R. Bechtel, 1986
 MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992, adapt.

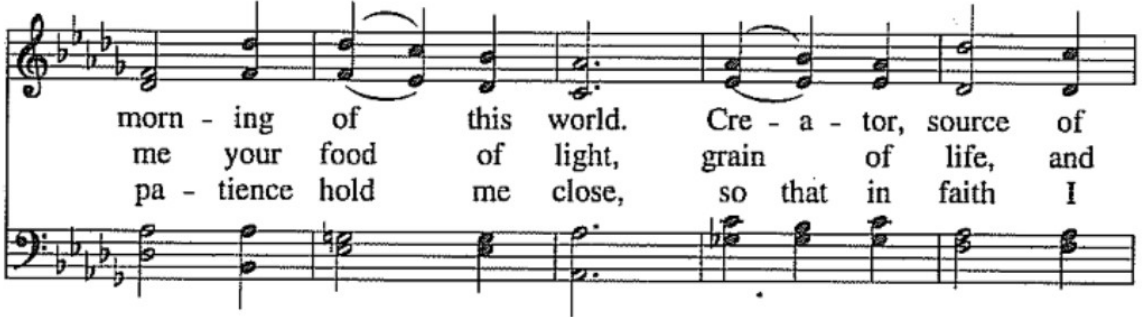
AUSTIN
 87.87

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

84



1. Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2. Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3. Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of
 me your food of light, grain of life, and
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I



ev - 'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

WORDS: Julian of Norwich (1342-1419); adapt. Jean Janzen, 1991
 MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874

MARYTON
 LM

417

All My Hope on God Is Founded

1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does all my trust re-new.
 2. Day by day the al-might-y giv-er boun-teous gifts on us be-stows;
 3. Still from earth to God e-ter-nal hymns of grate-ful praise be sung,

Safe through change and chance God guides me, on-ly good and on-ly true.
 with de-light our souls are nour-ished, plea-sure leads us where we go.
 high a-bove all prais-es prais-ing for the gift of Christ the Son.

God un-known, One a-lone seeks to claim my heart as home.
 Love does stand at God's hand; joy a-waits each new com-mand.
 Hear Christ's call one and all; those who fol-low shall not fall.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, c. 1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1899, alt.
 MUSIC: Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

MICHAEL
 87.87.337

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Perry Neubauer, who is recovering at home after a recent fall.
- 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.



SCAN ME

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



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.



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.



Reparations Fund Matching Grant Update: We’re Very Close!

Honor Dan Smith and Alice Kidder, key advocates of the First Church Reparations Fund, by contributing this summer to the Fund. 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.

With just over a week to go in the campaign, we have received \$21,318 from new donors to the fund, which means there is over \$3,000 left in matching funds to double donations by first-time contributors!

We are so grateful for the generosity of our community, and we look forward to announcing our final total in September. [Read more and donate here.](#)



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](#)



LOOKING AHEAD TO REGATHERING

ROOM FOR US ALL



Regathering Season 2024

FAITH & LIFE GROUPS Fall 2024



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. Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to Beth before we regather in September!



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.

[**Read more and register now!**](#)

2024 Justice Summit: Politics as an Act of Faith September 14, 2024 Middletown, CT & Online

Registration deadlines:
August 20 - on-site
September 11 - online



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.**](#)