

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024

Preaching Today Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*
Liturgist Will Erickson, *Deacon*
Assisting in Worship Sarah Higginbotham, *Creative Worship & Arts Director*
Christopher Hodges, *guest musician*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

Opening Voutary

Pastorale
Florence Price

Readings

Exodus 16:2-3, 11-14
John 6:24-35

Opening Hymn 380

We Are Not Our Own

Sermon Hymn 520

Restless Weaver

Anthem

Sweet Summerland
Shaker Hymn

Offertory

Bring Bread Again
Mary Luti/Peter Sykes

Peace Hymn 68

Though I May Speak

Closing Hymn (see screen)

Simple Gifts

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)
- 11:15 a.m. Conversation with Amani Mataboro, Harter Room
- 11:30 a.m. Young Adults leave for WooSox game at Worcester's Polar Park

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.

380

We Are Not Our Own

Unison

1. We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu - man
 2. We are not a - lone. Earth names us: past and
 3. Through a hu - man life God finds us; dy - ing,
 4. There - fore let us make thanks - giv - ing, and with
 5. And if love's en - coun - ters lead us on a
 6. Let us be a house of wel - come, liv - ing

leaves on na - ture's grow - ing vine, fruit of man - y
 2. pre - sent, peo - ples near and far, fam - i - ly and
 liv - ing, love is ful - ly known, and in bread and
 4. jus - tice, will - ing and a - ware, give to earth, and
 way un - cer - tain and un - known, all the saints with
 6. stone up - hold - ing liv - ing stone, glad - ly show - ing

gen - er - a - tions, seeds of life di - vine.
 2. friends and stran - gers show us who we are.
 wine re - minds us: we are not our own.
 4. all things liv - ing, lit - ur - gies of care.
 prayer sur - round us: we are not a - lone.
 6. all our neigh - bors we are not our own!

Though I May Speak

(The Gift of Love)

68

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, and have not love, my words are
 so my love pro - fess, but not be given by love with -
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery

vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1971

GIFT OF LOVE
LM

Hal Hopson's paraphrase of I Corinthians 13 and his setting of a traditional English tune have made this a well-loved hymn in a short twenty-five years.

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520

Restless Weaver

1. Rest - less Weav-er, ev - er spin-ning threads of jus - tice and sha-lom;
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav-eling help us mend each bro-ken strand.
 3. When our vio-lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a - bused and torn,
 4. Rest - less Weav-er, still con-ceil-ing new life—now and yet to be—

dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion where all crea - tures find a home;
 Bless our ur - gent, bold en-deav - ors cleans-ing wa - ter, air, and land.
 from com-pass-ion's stur-dy fab - ric fash-ion hope and trust re - born.
 bind-ing all your vast cre - a - tion in one liv - ing tap-es - try:

gath-ering up life's var-ied fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue:
 Through the Spir-it's in - spi - ra - tion—of-f'ring health where once was pain—
 Where in - jus-tice rules as ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare
 you have called us to be weav-ers. Let your love guide all we do.

grant us your cre - a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.
 strength-en us to be the stew-ards of your world knit whole a - gain.
 live our dreams of trans-for - ma-tion. Make our lives in - car-nate prayer.
 With your reign of peace our pat-tern, we will weave your world a - new.

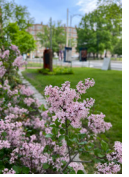
COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We offer prayers of joyful gratitude for the birth of Anna Brigham Cyr Kolash, born on July 16. We pray for parents Abbie Cyr and Josh Kolash, along with big brother Frankie and the entire extended Cyr family, as they welcome their newest family member.
- 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 will now be moved to temporary respite centers with a 5-day limit of stay.
- 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.

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 11

Rev. Krysia Burnham

August 25

Rev. Kate Layzer

August 18

Rev. Rev. Alex Steinert-Evoy

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 Karen McArthur 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!



Conversation with Amani Matabaro

Today, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Harter Room

While a Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Amani (Tom) Matabaro has been attending First Church with his family. Today, he will speak with us about his work to address human and civil rights issues in the war torn region of Eastern Congo. Tom is the Founding Director of [Action Kivu](#) and the co-founder and Executive Director of ABFEC (Action for the Welfare of Women and Children in Congo), a Congolese grassroots organization for which the US-based nonprofit Action Kivu raises awareness and funds. ABFEC’s community-based initiatives foster equality for conflict-affected women and children in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Tom works every day to advance human rights, good governance, and social justice in his home country, and his work has put him at high risk on a daily basis. All are welcome to join us after worship to learn more out this important work.

Young Adults Go See the Worcester Red Sox Today

The Young Adults are going to watch some baseball! Those who have reserved tickets with Emma Duke should meet up after church to 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!



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



Transition at First Church Shelter

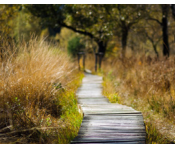
After more than 35 years of faithful service to the Shelter and the men who seek assistance from it, **Dennis Kaveney** is ending his full-time employment. As of August 1, Dennis continues as a per diem Shelter employee. The Shelter Oversight Committee is planning an opportunity in the fall for the entire First Church community to celebrate and express gratitude for Dennis's contributions to the Shelter's mission to bring hope to our unhoused neighbors.



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!***

Previous donors are also encouraged to honor Dan and remember Alice with an additional gift. With the matching grant and contributions by former donors, \$25,024 has been given to the Reparations Fund since June 1. You may give online; please be sure to choose "Reparations Fund." Or you may write a check payable to "First Church in Cambridge" with "Reparations Fund" in the memo line. [Read more and give online.](#)



Mindfulness Walk with Stefanie Haug

Saturday, August 10, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Meet on the Church Lawn

First Church member Stefanie Haug is pleased to offer a Mindfulness Walk around the neighborhood on the second Saturday of August. [Read about more](#)

[walks offered by Stefanie through Mass Audubon and Mount Auburn Cemetery.](#)



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!



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.

-Insert 4-