



Regathering Season
October 13, 2024

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
388 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 4

October 13, 2024

Liturgist	Amy Matias
Preaching Today	Emma Mitchell, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
Leading Worship	Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Freddie Funck, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes, Library and The Well
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

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.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Mein junges Leben hat ein End

J. P. Sweelinck

***HYMN 250**

Here in This Place

***GREETING**

Amy Matias

L: Siblings in the Spirit, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime,
welcome to this household of grace!

C: Here, where our lives are grounded in the hope and healing of God;

L: here, where we grow together in community and belonging;

C: here, where we pray and work together for peace and justice in our world.

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come gather in,

C: and let God renew our trust, faith, and love!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

O Day of Peace

arr. P. Sykes

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:

**C: Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your path
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength;
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) and Bible 101 (5/6th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find the children in the Chapel after worship.

*HYMN 281

Spirit of the Living God

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 90

This translation of Psalm 90 was crafted in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day by Rev. Nancy Best, who is also known by her Mohawk name, Golden Feather Woman, and who is a member of both the Christian church and a member of the First Nations Community of Canada.

L: Turn, O Lord! How long?

C: **Set our moccasins in the direction you would have us go.**

How many sunrises and sunsets are we to measure?

Share your grace and gentleness with us, your people.

L: Delight us in the morning with your abiding presence
shielding and protecting us as parents nurture their children.
May our hearts rejoice for all our seasons.

C: **Enable us to understand and accept our afflictions
as part of the passing of days and the presence of destructive forces.**

L: Spread the glory of Mother Earth across the skies to the wonderment
of your children and your endless power to every living being on the earth,
in the skies and in and on the waters.

C: **Take us under the wings of your compassion as a mother bird nestles her chicks
and breathe your Spirit upon us that we may flourish in abundance
with the givings of each other's hands. Amen.**

READING

Hebrews 4:12-16

SERMON

Emma Mitchell

*HYMN 477

God of Grace and God of Glory

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Solberg

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- L: We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people.
- C: We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett and others.**
- L: We acknowledge and deplore the violence and erasure perpetrated upon Indigenous peoples and their lands in the name of this country, and by our First Church forebears.
- C: In addition, we grieve and repent of First Church's complicity with the living legacy of settler colonialism and slavery.**
- L: We also repudiate the 1452 "Doctrine of Discovery" that shamefully offered a legal and theological rationale for centuries of colonization, land theft and genocide by our Christian forebears.
- All: We consider this land acknowledgment very much a "work in progress" as we continue to listen and learn about our history and work towards healing and repair.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.

- All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



OFFERTORY

Joy Flows Down

Patricia Van Ness

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor, to God's name. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 346**

May the Blessing of God

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina

Hymn 344

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. (Send me, Lord.)
Send me Jesus, send me, Jesus,
send me Jesus, send me, Lord! | 3. (Fill me, Lord.) Fill me, Jesus... |
| 2. (Lead me, Lord.) Lead me, Jesus... | 4. (Thuma mina.)
Thuma mina, thuma mina,
thuma mina, somandla. |

VOLUNTARY

Toccata

Sweelinck

250

Here in This Place
(Gather Us In)

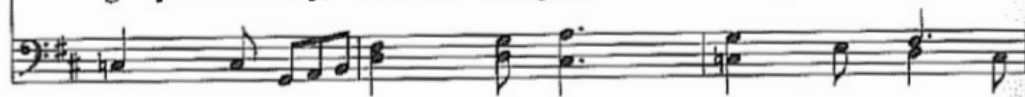
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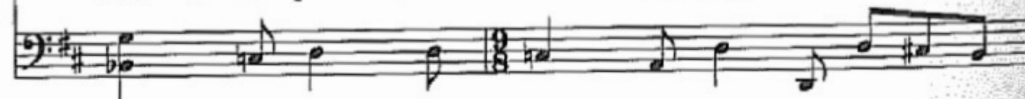
1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, now the dark night has
2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in your wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

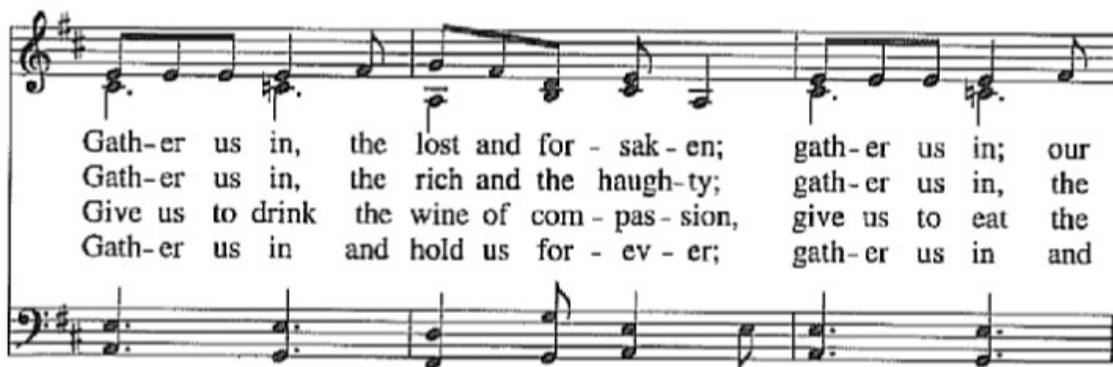


brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

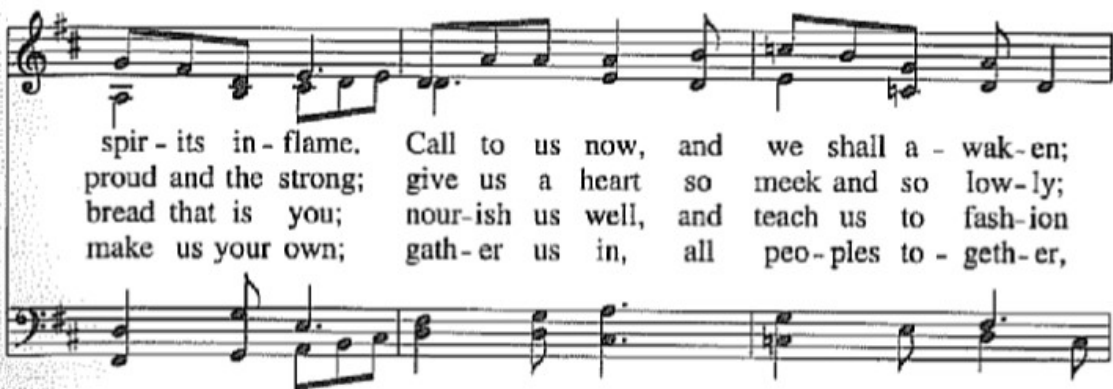


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OPENING HYMN, cont'd.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and



spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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 music is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a vocal line on a treble clef and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line of G2, Bb2, and D3, with chords of G2-Bb2-D3 and G2-Bb2-F3.

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

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line and chords, adding a new chord of G2-Bb2-D3-E3.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The vocal line has quarter notes G5, F5, and E5, followed by a half note D5. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line and chords, ending with a final chord of G2-Bb2-D3.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

IVERSON

SERMON HYMN

477

God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
 3. Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; now ful - fill your church - 's sto - ry; bring its bud to
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your heav'n - ly goal, lest we miss your heav'n - ly goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.877

May the Blessing of God

346

May the bless - ing of God go be - fore you. May her

grace and peace a - bound. May her Spir - it live with -

in you. May her love wrap you 'round. May her bless - ing re -

main with you al - ways. May you walk on ho - ly ground.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We celebrate with Angela and Phil Servello-Jones, who were married last Saturday, October 5.
- We pray for Lindsay Miller, who is recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- We pray for Larry Smith as he mourns the loss of his sister Norma Hill, who died on September 6 at the age of 93.
- We pray for Keith Manville, Director of Operations Kirsten Manville's father, as he continues his recovery from a stroke at a rehab facility.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Ellen Frith, who is living with a serious chronic illness; 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.
- As we pass the one-year anniversary of Hamas's attack on Israel, and as war in the Middle East expands and intensifies, our hearts cry out in prayer for all those suffering in body and soul. We pray for the dead, for their loved ones, and for their broader communities. We pray for changed hearts for all those inflicting violence upon others, and thus upon their own souls, whether compelled by others in authority, or by injustice, or by vengeance. We give thanks for all the peacemakers. We pray that we, like they, may be free of the myth of redemptive violence, and take collective action, however small, to be people of true peace in this world. May we all see your way more clearly, O God.
- We pray for our nation during this election season, amid intense political polarization.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from natural and climate-related disasters, especially those in the southeastern region of the US, where Hurricanes Milton and Helene have caused catastrophic damage and loss of life. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for the ongoing safety, security, and wellbeing of Amani, Amini, and Ephrem Matabaro, and for all 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 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 pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, in Haiti. and in far too many other places in our world.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

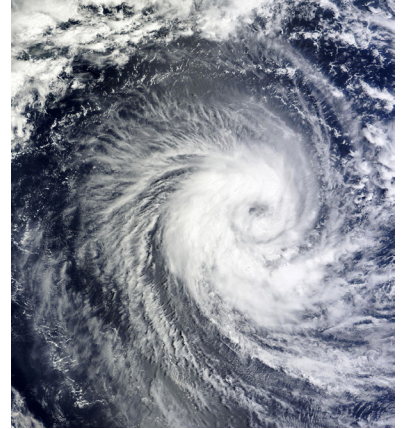
- We continue to pray for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are unable to give and receive care in their own states.
- We pray for the 14 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.

[The UCC Appeal for Hurricane Relief Efforts](#) invites people to offer monetary contributions toward hurricane relief, and/or to join volunteer efforts with [Crisis Cleanup phone banking](#) – which allows people to remotely assist with connecting crisis need to relief services – and for assembling [hygiene and cleanup buckets](#).

Learn more and respond:

<https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>



Night Song

Today, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset.

[Learn more about Night Song.](#)

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.



REGATHERING SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom

Join Martha Mueller Cook and Linda Ziebell for a monthly support group where we offer each other companionship and spiritual resources as we grow into our elderhood. Reading excerpts from Connie Zweig's [*The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul*](#), we will talk about a range of topics including

life reviews, mortality awareness, shadows, and soul work. Join us for a lively, provocative, and loving conversation. If you have questions, contact Linda: lindaziebell@comcast.net or Martha: marthamuellercook@gmail.com.

Newcomers Gathering

Sunday, October 20, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room

Are you new to First Church? Whether you've been with us for one Sunday or many more, if you FEEL new to this community and want to build connections and learn more about life at First Church, this gathering is for you. We'll gather together, share some light refreshments, and get

to know each other with some games. We'll also share some time with a few current members of First Church who will share their reflections and be available to answer your questions about their experiences at First Church. Come play, eat, and build connection!



Family Choir Returns!

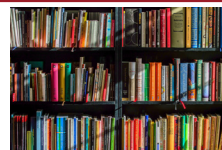
**Rehearsals: Sundays, October 20 & 27, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m., Chapel;
and Sunday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary**

Do you like to sing with others? Have you heard that research shows how singing in a group can boost health and happiness? First Church folks of all ages and experience levels are warmly invited to join the Family Choir for a few rehearsals leading up to a musical offering in our All Saints Worship on November 3. Grab a coffee and cookie after worship on two Sundays in late October and head to the Chapel to learn a simple South African harmony song with Sarah Higginbotham.

Friday Café Book Drive

Our free community bookshelves are looking empty! If you would like to pass along a few titles from your collection, we will gladly accept books in the following categories:

- Fiction
- Non-fiction (general interest)
- Classic literature
- Spiritual and religious
- Recovery
- Sports
- Poetry
- Graphic literature (non-explicit)





First Church Shelter presents

The 2024 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards

Join us to recognize Dennis Kaveney's 36 years of service to the Shelter, as well as to celebrate the five recipients of the Mitch Snyder Awards, given to those who do the good and important work of caring for those in need in our community.



Dennis Kaveney



Carl Alves



Rev. David Lima



Kris Perry Long



Dianne Kuzia Hills



Lynn Wencus

Sunday, October 27 | 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Margaret Jewett Hall | 11 Garden Street, Cambridge

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, October 29, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom

Come join us, and bring a friend, for our second book of the year, Roxana Robinson's [*Leaving: A Novel*](#). One reviewer describes this novel the following way: "An engrossing exploration of the vows we make to one another, the tensile relationships between parents and their children, and what we owe to others and ourselves." As always, we look forward to sharing our reflections and reactions together.

