



---

Regathering Season  
October 6, 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 6, 2024

<b>Liturgist</b>	Dean Eaton, <i>Deacon</i>
<b>Preaching Today</b>	Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i>
<b>Leading Worship</b>	Karen McArthur, <i>Minister of Stewardship &amp; Finance</i> Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> Jennifer Velázquez, <i>guest organist</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Freddie Funck, <i>First Church member</i>

### Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m.	Adult Formation: <i>Braving Change</i> , Harter Room and <a href="#">via Zoom</a>
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments and All-Church Art Show in Margaret Jewett Hall
12:30 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well
7:00 p.m.	Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith as Adults through the Confirmation Curriculum, Harter Room
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### 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.

# GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Rockingham

Healey Willan

\*HYMN 20

The Household of God

\*GREETING

Dean Eaton

L: The spirit of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Beloved of God, come gather in!  
Be at home in this household of grace!  
Here there is room for all that we are:

**C: room for our stories, our hopes, our yearnings, our fears.**

L: Here there is room to wonder and grow,

**C: room to pray and love and act together for a better world.**

L: Siblings in the Spirit, God's heart is open,  
and God's invitation is deep and wide.

**C: Young, old, and everyone, come into the warmth of that welcome,  
and together let us make room for joy!**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Davidson (Sacred Harp, 1909)

Seaborn M. Denson

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SUNG PRAYER

Search Me, O God

Kate Layzer/Peter Sykes

Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts,

Search me for a - ny hurt - ful way, lead me in the way ev - er - last - ing.

### 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,**

*\*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.*

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

### \*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 for a Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can find the children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.*

### \*HYMN 517

O God of Every Nation

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

### READING

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

### SERMON

When You Come Together: A Communion Meditation

Mike Solberg

### \*HYMN 253

God Is Here!

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen McArthur

### 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

Bread of the World

Richard Shephard

## **\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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.**

## **SHARING THE FEAST**

### **\*INVITATION**

#### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

#### **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.**

### **\*SHARING BREAD AND CUP**

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice, and peace are welcome at this table.  
We*

*welcome all, whether members of our church, or another church, or no church, for Jesus himself is the host of us all. For those here in the Sanctuary, please come forward with your bulletins to receive the elements at one of the stations, and then proceed to the chancel to gather in a circle, making space to include the front pew in the circle for those who require seating. The cups are filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten-free. At the three stations in the front of the sanctuary, we invite you to take a piece of bread from the plate and dip it into the cup. At the back of the sanctuary, there is a station with individual servings of bread and individual cups. Anyone who, for any reason, is not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of Holy Communion!*

### **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**L: Let us give thanks!**

**C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –  
for gladness in this bread and cup,**

for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion –  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,  
forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day,  
and life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## GOING FORTH

**\*HYMN 314** As We Gather at Your Table *(see insert)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE** Thuma Mina Hymn 344

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



[The UCC Appeal for Hurricane Helene 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>



OPENING HYMN

C-20

The Household of God

1. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ room for us all, ev - ery -  
 2. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ work for us all, by\_\_\_  
 3. The\_ house - hold of God gives a voice to us all, we can  
 4. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ hope for us all, in the

one has a place at the feast, the\_\_\_ best and the worst have\_\_\_  
 man - y have seeds been\_\_\_ sown, in the har - vest of heal - ing, of  
 sing in a cho - rus di - vine, we can hear ev - ery life as a  
 dark - ness a hand holds our own, as we walk by that guid - ance our

hearts need - ing love, there is truth for the great - est and least.  
 jus - tice and love, there is no need to la - bor a - lone.  
 sto - ry of grace, ev - ery soul a mir - a - cu - lous sign.  
 faith is the dawn, by its light our re - demp - tion is shown.

WORDS: John Evans-Klock

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

517

## O God of Every Nation

1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,  
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,  
 3. Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;  
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,  
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us, and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,  
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign,

in love and mer - cy guide us, and heal our strife - torn world.  
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.  
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.



SERMON HYMN

253

God Is Here!

1. God is here! As pil - grim peo - ple met to of - fer  
 2. Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4. Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

CLOSING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

314

1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989  
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

BEACH SPRING  
 87.87D

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- The flowers on the chancel are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of Brian O'Donovan on the anniversary of his death in October 2023.
- We celebrate with George Williams, who was released from the hospital after a very long recovery.
- 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 approach 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. We pray for all the families who have lost loved ones in Gaza, Lebanon, and Israel, and all those who are enduring hunger, displacement, and the terror of war. We pray especially for the people of southern Lebanon as they endure deadly airstrikes from the Israeli military. We pray in thanksgiving for all the peacemakers, and we pray that we might take wise and compassionate action for an end to the war and immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region, as well as redoubled efforts to address the humanitarian crises resulting from these wars.
- 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 Hurricane Helene 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, and in Haiti.
- 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.





## REGATHERING SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



### Fall Faith & Life Groups: DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SOME GROUPS

Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests. Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. If you are looking for a way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you!

**[Please see group descriptions & register by Friday, October 11, for a specific Faith & Life group here.](#)**

After registering, you will be contacted by the leader. Questions? Please reach out to Beth Spaulding (bspaulding68@gmail.com) or the leader of the group directly.

- **Care Group for the Caregivers** with Amy Matias and Stefanie Haug
- **Exploring Hope for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land** with Adam Weiss
- **Tending our Spirits in a Time of Transition** with Rev. Liz Williams
- **First Church's History and Its Impact on Changes Ahead** with Henry Gates

### 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.





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, October 7

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

## Wednesday, October 9

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom  
3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom  
7:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

## Thursday, October 10

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)  
9:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

## Friday, October 11

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

## Sunday, October 13

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  
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall  
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

## Monday, October 14

Church Office & Building Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

Have a church program or event to promote?

Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).



First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org) • [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)

/firstchurchcambridge /FirstChurchInCambridge /c/FirstChurchInCambridge