

All Saints Sunday November 3, 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

1636-2024

November 3, 2024

Liturgist
Preaching Today
Leading Worship

Laurie Williams, Deacon

Mike Solberg, Interim Senior Minister

Emma Blanc, Chris Blanc, Lorraine Erickson, Bruce Hoppe, Callum Pelton-Cairns, Phil Servello-Jones, and Erik Stauffer, *All Saints Band*

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Communications & Christian Formation

Emma Mitchell, Pastoral Associate Lee Prouty, Facilities Manager

Laurie Friedman, Clerk

Angela & Phil Servello-Jones, offering a testimony

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Bulletin Cover Image detail of St. Phil, one of First Church's Puppet Saints

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: The Household of God in This Time of Change,

Harter Room & via Zoom

10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

10:40 a.m. All Saints Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common

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, via Zoom

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 <u>contact information</u> 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

For those participating at home, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion.

All are welcome at the Table!

*HYMN

When the Saints Go Marchin' In

Oh, when the saints go marching in; oh, when the saints go marching in; oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!

And when the sun begins to shine; and when the sun begins to shine; Oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, when the sun begins to shine!

And on that hal-le-lu-jah day; and on that hal-le-lu-jah day; oh, Lord, I want to be in that number, on that hal-le-lu-jah day!

Oh, when the saints go marching in...

*GREETING Laurie Williams

L: Dear friends in Christ, the peace of God be with you,

C: And on the whole world, peace!

L: Come in, and be at home

C: with saints of every time and place!
L: Come in, and find a future with hope

C: with saints of every time and place!

L: Come in, and be in the company of God

C: with saints of every time and place!

L: With saints of every time and place, give thanks and praise to God!

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTRODUCING THE PUPPET SAINTS

Sarah Higginbotham

FAMILY CHOIR ANTHEM

Ipharadisi

Trad., South Africa

Ipharadisi, ikhaya labafile Kulapho sophumla khona Ipharadisi, where all the dead are living May we one day join them all there.

Ipharadisi, where people all are happy...

Ipharadisi, where we will all be welcome...

^{*}You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION AND SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: God of Life, by the mercy of Jesus,

calm our anxieties, soothe our sorrows, heal our weaknesses, and forgive our sins.

Let the memory and example of yesterday's saints

and the saints of here and now

stir us to gratitude and love, action and praise,

for the sake of tomorrow and the world that you love. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: And also with you!

*HYMN We're Marching to Zion see page 5

A MUTUAL BLESSING

Adults: God be with you there.
Children: And God be with you here.

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School for a Pastoral Care Sunday in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Isaiah 25:6-9

SERMON A Future Worth Hoping For Mike Solberg

*HYMN 129 Of Eternal Love Begotten

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Emma Mitchell

TESITMONY AND INVITATION TO OFFERING

Angela and Phil Servello-Jones

Our offering supports the many ministries of our church, with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.

Please use our new <u>all-in-one link</u> for gifts from your bank account or by credit/debit card:



OFFERTORY Ave Verum Corpus Christoph Dalitz

*DOXOLOGY

From all who dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
through every land by every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION

REMEMBERING JESUS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus, his daring love, his open table. (silence)
- L: We remember how he fed the five thousand people with only a loaf of bread and a few fish.
- C: We remember how he never left anyone hungry.
- L: We remember how Jesus welcomed the children.
- C: We remember how he didn't turn them or anyone away.
- L: We remember that the women came, early in the morning, on the third day.
- C: They did not find him among the dead.
- L: We remember him still,
- centering our lives on his firm foundation, our hope and our healing.

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 THE BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are invited to share this feast with all the saints, past and present. Please bring your bulletin as you approach one of the stations, so that we may gather in a circle for a time of commemoration and thanksgiving.

*COMMEMORATIONS

During this time, we will all be invited to name (aloud or silently) people who have died, whom we remember and keep close in our hearts.

Peter Brenner

Oliver Edwards

Javier Hernandez

Norma Hill

Hank Hinckley

Solveig Ingersoll

Alice Kidder

Scott Kenney

Robert Layzer

Jean Remmel Little

Nancy Newton

Lynda Soderquist

Phil Wendelin

Ken Wible

*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 splendor 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 risen life that never ends.

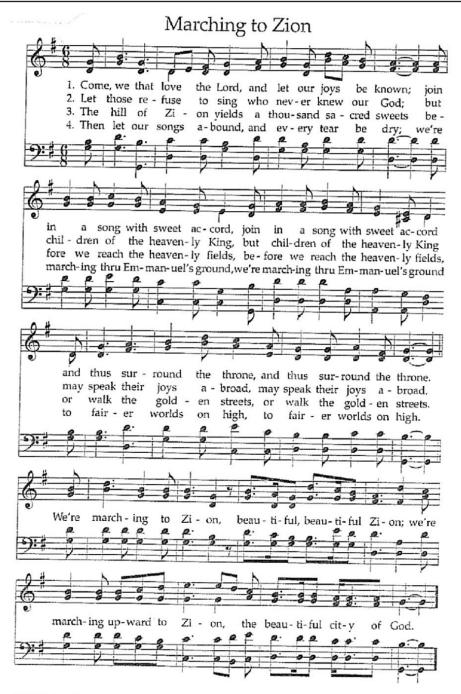
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH

*HYMN For All the Saints see page 6

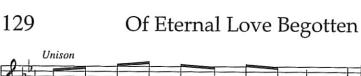
^{*}BENEDICTION

PEACE HYMN



WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707; refrain Robert Lowry, 1867 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1867

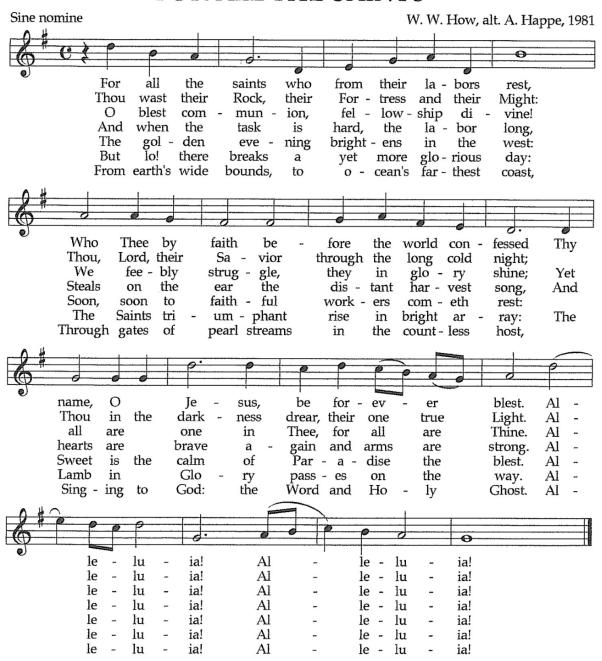
MARCHING TO ZION 66.88.66 w. refrain





WORDS: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (4th century); sts. 1,3, tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.; st. 2, tr. R. F. Davis, 1906, alt. 87.87.877 MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode V (13th century); harm. C. Winfred Douglas, *The Hymnal*, 1940

FOR ALL THE SAINTS



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Perry Neubauer, who is currently in the hospital being treated for an infection.
- We pray for Kathy Williams's son Brett Williams and his husband George Goodrich, who have been displaced from their longtime home in Vermont by a fire.
- We pray for Dave Kidder's sister Lucinda, who has entered hospice care as her cancer has spread.
- 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 on the eve of a highly contested election, that peace may prevail, and the integrity of the democratic process be upheld. We pray that a spirit of reconciliation and hope may overcome hateful rhetoric and threats, and help restore a sense of common purpose.
- 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 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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.
- 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.

First Church Land Acknowledgment



We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment <u>here</u> or by scanning the QR code.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Adult Formation: The Household of God in This Time of Change Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Join Treasurer Jim Cairns for a review of our proposed 2025 budget, which will be presented to the congregation for approval at our Fall Congregational Meeting and Luncheon on Sunday, November 17. Copies of the budget are available on the Church Finances page of our website, as well as on paper copies available on Sunday morning.





Today Is All Saints Sunday

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives, devotion, and example of members and friends of our congregation who died in the last year, as well as their immediate family members. With help from our larger-than-life puppet saints that have been a First Church tradition for many years, we also commemorate all God's holy ones, known and unknown

to us, who have now entered God's joy. Our tradition teaches that a saint is anyone who is called and gifted by the Spirit to carry out a ministry of grace and reconciliation in the world, and who is responding generously. Our celebration ends with "Communion-in-the-round" and a lifting up of the names of all who are present in this sacred, liminal space across time and generations.



All Saints Day Art: Seventy Witnesses

Come see and study three long oil paintings that celebrate the "cloud of witnesses" symbolized in seventy letters, saints, and events. This exhibit is shown annually by artist and First Church member Henry Gates, who strives to bring our faith history to life through color and image.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., The Well

7th and 8th graders from First Church and Old South Church meet for a session of their year-long sexuality education curriculum.





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.

UPCOMING AT FIRST CHURCH



Poetry and Prayer with Emma & Aram Wednesdays, November 6, 13, 20 & 27 5:30 - 6:15 p.m., via Zoom

As we integrate the unknowns in the aftermath of the election and seek to stay grounded in God together, join Pastoral Associate Emma Mitchell and her husband Aram, Pastor of Edgecomb (ME) Community Church, for a time of poetry and prayer together with members of both churches. We will gather online each Wednesday

evening in November to ground our souls with a poem and to unburden our hearts with a time of shared prayer. By meeting at 5:30, we hope to that We hope that those working during the day can join us. We plan to finish by 6:15, so that you can tend to the rest of your evening. If you are able to join on your computer with video, that is great! Bring a candle to light. If you are on the go or cooking supper, feel free to call in on the phone with headphones. All are welcome—the young and the seasoned, those full of faith, and those peppered with doubts. Please register here; a Zoom link will be sent to you. Feel free to email Emma with any questions.

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

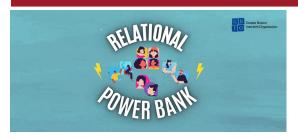
Thursday, November 7, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cambridge Brewing Company, Kendall Square

First Church has an active group of 20- and 30-somethings who get together a couple times each month to socialize, usually over drinks! It's a "come as you are, when you can" kind of group, and all in that



age range are welcome. If you want to hear about Young Adults events, or learn more about the group, talk to Phil Servello-Jones or Casey Marsh, or email youngadults@firstchurchcambridge. org.



GBIO Relational Power Bank

Thursday, November 7, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom First Church members worked SO hard last year to win GBIO's historic \$2.2 Billion for public housing. Not many people know that at the heart of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is a tapestry of interfaith relationships. Now's a chance to get

to know someone new from another town, faith tradition, or walk of life, and help GBIO begin powering up for whatever comes next! Join us on November 7 for the first of many Relational Power Banks, opportunities to talk with others from across GBIO about your commitment to social justice and from where it comes in your own life, faith or tradition. Anyone interested in meeting new people who share a passion for putting faith into action should <u>register here!</u>

UPCOMING AT FIRST CHURCH

Seraphim: Eternal Voices and Sacred Landscapes
Saturday, November 9, 8:00 p.m., Holy Name Parish, W. Roxbury
Sunday, November 10, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream
Seraphim, a choral group with close ties to First Church, has a special offer for first-time concert-goers. Purchase a \$25 ticket to their
November or November 10 concert, and receive one of the following:



- a \$25 gift certificate at Sugar Baking Company in West Roxbury
- a \$25 gift certificate at Alden & Harlow in Harvard Square
- a \$25 gift made in your name to support The Friday Café!

Seraphim performs choral works which illuminate critical topics, including homelessness, climate change, racial justice, and other social issues, and open a window on the Divine. Their concerts are designed to offer new perspectives, challenging audiences and sparking inspiration to make our community and our world better. Visit their website for more information.



First Church's "Wade in the Water" quilt at Rising Star Quilt Show Saturday, November 16, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 17, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Arlington Town Hall, 730 Mass Ave., Arlington, MA
Catch a rare glimpse of over 100 unique hand-crafted quilts that

Catch a rare glimpse of over 100 unique hand-crafted quilts that will be on display at Arlington's Town Hall, including First Church's "Wade in the Water" project, to which many First Church folks contributed their embroidery, stamping, and sewing skills. The

quilt show's challenge theme this year is "Freedom." There will be handmade items available for purchase in the boutique and a café selling beverages and baked goods.

Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting Tuesday, November 19, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom

Please join Martha Mueller Cook and Linda Ziebell for our monthly conversation about navigating elderhood and end of life with grace and even joy. This month we will focus on pp. 49-59 of Connie Zweig's *The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul* and ask ourselves about practices for nurturing our souls.



2025 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

The Household of God in This Time of Change

Adult Formation:

The Household of God in This Time of Change Sunday, November 10, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Harter Room and via Zoom

Join members of the Stewardship Committee for a creative and musical exploration of our motivation for giving.

Fall Congregational Meeting & Luncheon Sunday, November 17, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall

Enjoy a light luncheon prepared by Caitlin Anderson and the Friends of Fellowship or join us virtually as we gather for a special meeting of the congregation to review and vote on the proposed 2025 annual budget as recommended by the Executive Council. For the meeting agenda, see the Call to Meeting on the following page.

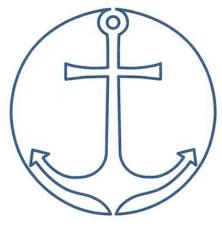
Dedication of Pledges & Gifts Sunday, November 24 at 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary and via livestream

During our Morning Worship, we are all invited to bring forward our pledges, gifts, and estimates of our 2025 financial support for our 2025 ministry and mission.



Watch for a stewardship mailing this week!

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD





Celebrating Dennis Kaveney

On Sunday, October 27, the Shelter Oversight Committee and members of the First Church community recognized 37 years of faithful service to our poor and unhoused by longtime Shelter staffer Dennis Kaveney. Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons presented a resolution passed unanimously by the Cambridge City Council recognizing and commending Dennis's decades of service. We are so happy to celebrate Dennis, and we're even happier to have him continue as a per diem employee of the Shelter after his recent retirement.



Call to Fall Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 389th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, November 17, 2024, in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom, for the following purposes:

- 1. To review and vote on the proposed 2025 annual budget of the Congregation as recommended by the Executive Council.
- 2. To approve the allocation of the proceeds from the Stevenson Trusts.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council, Laurie Friedman, Clerk



Monday, November 4

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

Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

Wednesday, November 6

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Tending Our Spirits in a Time of Transition, via Zoom

Thursday, November 7

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

Friday, November 8

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

Have a church program or event to promote? Complete the First Church

Complete the <u>First Church</u> Communications Request form.

Sunday, November 10

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: The Household of God in This Time of Change,

Harter Room & via Zoom

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 & Bible 101 classes, Library & The Well

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common

7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith as Adults

through the Confirmation Curriculum, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

Monday, November 11 - Church Office & Building closed for Veterans Day

See our **Events Calendar** for Zoom links and details.



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