

The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational
United Church of Christ
May 31, 2026



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
at the Intersection of Faith & Life

TRINITY SUNDAY

WELCOME!

Special greetings to you who are
Join us in person or online via Zoom
at 10am Sunday:



worshipping with us for the first time.
or at our Facebook live video stream

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchSwampscott/>

ABOUT US

We are a community of Christians seeking meaning, purpose, and mission through our participation in the life of this beautiful local church. We believe that God is Still Speaking and has something new and essential to say to us as we live in this ever more complex and challenging world. We don't have all the answers, but we have some great questions. Together, we rely on the rich resources of the tradition of our Christian faith, the Bible, the revelation of God's love in the person of Jesus Christ, and the God given gifts of each person here, to lead us in our daily lives.

The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational is so named because it was the first church established in the town in 1846 as Swampscott was developing into an independent town, separating from nearby Lynn.

If you would like to be added to our weekly newsletter, please send your name and email address to office@thefirstchurch.org

GATHERING

* An asterisk is an invitation for the congregation to stand.

OPENING VIDEO

Gathering

Sharon Thomas

PRELUDE

"Meditation on the Ash Grove" Welsh Folk Melody/Arr. David Lasky

Patricia Clark

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from UCC "Worship Ways")

Susan Buchanan

One: Jesus, we thank you for your example, which guides us as we share the good news of God's love with a hurting world. Thank you for teaching us, and helping us work with you for love and justice. Help us share the joy we've found in you.

One: People of God, God has done great things for us!

All: Come, Holy Spirit! We declare God's mighty works with all we have!

One: In a world where there is deceit and unkindness,

All: Come, Holy Spirit! We worship the One who has blessed us with love, and holy wisdom!

One: Let us worship God together!

*** All: As we stand to sing our hymn of praise, let us worship with joy! Alleluia!**

*** OPENING HYMN #717 "Let All Things Now Living" (ASH GROVE) Welsh Folk Melody/Katherine K. Davis**

Tune: Traditional Welsh melody with harmonization and descant by Katherine K. Davis. Text: Text by Katherine K. Davis © 1939, 1966, E.C.

Schirmer Music Co.

Choir with Congregation

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator, triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces the stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sharon Thomas

INVITATION TO PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*** PEACE PASSING SONG "Come, Share the Spirit" Vicki Vogel Schmidt**

Choir with Congregation

SOLO: Come share the Spirit, moving among us, weaving in and through this place;
Breaking down the walls that split and divide, bringing wholeness to embrace.

CHOIR: Come, Living Spirit, bloom in our hearts as when the desert bursts with life;
Take thirsty souls, fill them with your love, and remove all greed and strife.

ALL: Come, Rushing Waters, let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream;
Till the poor find strength as they hear the good news, and the rich adopt new dreams.

LOW VOICES: Come, Blazing Fire, anoint our tongues with the messages of peace;
Till, though blind, we see, and deaf, we hear, and imprisoned, find release.

HIGH VOICES: Come, Gentle Breezes, breath of all loving, given to God's chosen band;
Let us dance and feast with the broken ones, bring compassion to our land.

ALL: Come! Lift our hands in joyful applause to the Maker of the earth;
For our Father who lifts us when we fall, and our mother who gives us birth!

PROCLAMATION

Psalms 8

Susan Buchanan

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Matthew 28:16-20

Susan Buchanan

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

HYMN #63 "How Majestic Is Your Name"

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CCLI #1943206

Choir with Congregation

1. CHOIR/2. ALL O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we magnify your name:
Prince of Peace, mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.

SERMON

"Why Do We Need Three?"

Rev. Teri Motley

HYMN #450 "God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian" (HYFRYDOL) Rowland Pritchard/Car P. Daw, Jr.

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Choir with Congregation

ALL: God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles to your Church in every place.

HIGH VOICES: Christ our Savior, Sovereign, Shepherd, word-made-flesh, love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering Servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In your tending may all pastors learn and live a Shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

LOW VOICES: Great Creator, Life-bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall,
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
As you know our strength and weakness, so may those the Church exalts
Oversee her life steadfastly yet not overlook her faults.

ALL: Triune God, mysterious Being, undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
Help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting may give glory to your Name.

TIME OF PRAYER

One: Let us prepare ourselves for a time of prayer.

Janet Fischer

If you are online, you are invited to add your prayers using the Chat function in the Zoom application.

CALL TO PRAYER:

May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: Gracious God, Jesus prayed that his disciples would be protected from deceit. Sometimes, it's not easy to be bold in sharing how God's love has impacted our lives. We ask forgiveness for the times we have not been strong enough in sharing our truth, for fear of how others would respond. Help us find strength in Your promises to us. Help us share our joy with abundance. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

PRAYER HYMN #245 "Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song" Carl P. Daw/Peter Cutts

Tune: © 1969 Hope Publishing Company Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Company/ Words © 1982 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1969 Hope

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HIGH VOICES: Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
Like the vigor or the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might;
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

LOW VOICES: To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
To the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

ALL: With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
With the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare,
Come, Holy Spirit, come

GOING FORTH

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Sharon Thomas

Rev. Teri Motley

PARTING SONG "Let It Breathe on Me" Magnolia Lewis-Butts

Public Domain

Choir with Congregation

(SOLO/HIGH VOICES/LOW VOICES/ALL)

SOLO: Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me.
Let the breath of the Lord, now breathe on me.
Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me.
Let the breath of the Lord, now, breathe on me.

HIGH VOICES: While I'm working, God, in your vineyard here,
I cannot serve without you near;
O come, blessed Spirit, so close to me
That I may feel you breathe on me.

LOW VOICES: When the pathway, God, I cannot see,
When the way is hard, O breathe on me,
Give me grace to know when you are near,
Then I pray, O spirit, breathe on me.

ALL: Repeat v. 1

CLOSING

Sharon Thomas

Facebook stream ends, Zoom greetings Breakout Rooms

MUSICIANS: First Church Choir and Patricia Clark

USHERS: Susan Buchanan

COFFEE HOSTS: Karen Rose Brown, Maureen Wark, Dianne Cadigan, and Susan Buchanan

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

We, The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming church. We are called by God through Jesus Christ to follow the Great Commandment “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10: 27)

We joyfully welcome everyone of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, ages, races, and ethnicities, economic and social statuses, physical, mental and emotional abilities, faith backgrounds, marital standings and family structures into our community, to share in the full life, leadership and ministry of First Church.

We celebrate the wonderfully rich and diverse world God has created and embrace the joy and growth this diversity inspires. All who seek to know God are encouraged to join with us as we work to live out our mission in faith and love.



Follow this QR code to provide an offering or gift to the church to support our ministry.

THE FIRST CHURCH IN SWAMPSCOTT, CONGREGATIONAL
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Amanda Grant Rose Community Minister

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First Church Council: Clerk: Melissa Foye. Treasurer: David Foye. Members: Janet Fischer, Susan Hamilton, Clarke Orzalli (chair), Heidi Whear, Stephen Rose, Julia Wistran, Betty McNeil