

The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational  
*United Church of Christ*  
**June 7, 2026**



**CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**  
at the Intersection of Faith & Life

## COMMUNION

### WELCOME!

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

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



## SUNDAY

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

### 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](mailto:office@thefirstchurch.org)

## GATHERING

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

### OPENING VIDEO

#### Gathering

**Amanda Grant Rose**

**PRELUDE** "Toccata on 'Leoni'" (LEONI/YIGDAL) Hebrew Melody/Arr. Chistina Harmon **Patricia Clark**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from UCC "Worship Ways") **Roy Young**

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!**

**\* PROCESSION HYMN #24 "The God of Abraham Praise" (LEONI) Hebrew Melody/Daniel Ben Judah**

Public Domain

**Choir with Congregation**

The God of Abraham praise, all prais-ed be the name;  
Who was and is and is to be, is still the same.  
The one eternal God, ere all that now appears,  
The First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years.

God's spirit flowing free, high surging where it will -  
In prophet's word it spoke of old- is speaking still.  
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand.  
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul,  
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.  
Praise to the living God! All prais-ed be the Name,  
Who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!

## WORDS OF WELCOME

## 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 this place.

**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 50: 1-15**

**Roy Young**

The mighty one, God the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.  
Our God comes and does not keep silent;  
before him is a devouring fire  
and a mighty tempest all around him.  
He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:  
“Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”  
The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge. *Selah*  
“Hear, O my people, and I will speak,  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.  
Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.  
I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.  
For every wild animal of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.  
I know all the birds of the air,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.  
“If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and all that is in it is mine.  
Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?  
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and pay your vows to the Most High.  
Call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

**Matthew 9:9-13**

**Roy Young**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

## Matthew 9:18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.

**SERMON**

"Name-calling"

**Rev. Teri Motley**

**\*HYMN #459** "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" Jeffrey Rowthorn/Cyril V. Taylor

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**Choir with Congregation**

**ALL:** Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."  
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:  
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

**HIGH VOICES:** Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name, baptize and teach."  
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,  
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:  
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

**ALL:** Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."  
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,  
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty:  
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

**LOW VOICES:** Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."  
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.  
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society:  
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

**ALL:** Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend  
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:  
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

## TIME OF PRAYER

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

**Rev. Holly Brauner**

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

**A TIME FOR PRAYERS FROM THE CONGREGATION (CHAT FUNCTION).**

**Rev. Holly Brauner**

**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**

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**Choir with Congregation**

**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

## COMMUNION

**Invitation to the Open Table**

**Rev. Teri Motley**

One: This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced.

One: Today we gather around God's table from near and far

**All: We are the People of God!**

One: Though we differ in language, custom, and tradition

**All: We are siblings in Christ!**

One: For there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism

**All: We are One in God's Spirit!**

One: We are one and together we remember our Lord Jesus

**All: For we are the people of Redemption!**

One: He gave himself up for us, so we could be reconciled to God.

#### **BLESSING THE COMMUNION ELEMENTS TOGETHER**

Rev. Teri: *Invitation to share in the blessing and partaking ...*

Rev Teri: Lord, bless this bread and bless this cup, then fill us with Your Spirit.

Prepare us for this Holy meal, with love, and faith, and joy. Amen

**All: Saint and sinner, believer and doubter, rich and poor, male and female, gay and straight, binary and non-binary, in-crowd and those left out, member of this church and those with no church, baptized and not baptized, if God has brought us together into this moment today, then God has invited us to share in her grace. We are all invited into this holy mystery; all are welcome at this open table, where Jesus Christ is our host. All are welcome to receive the grace of God.**

#### **REMEMBERING JESUS**

One: We gather under the cross, reminded of Christ's death and resurrection, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the love of God. Jesus said – "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty."

**All: We remember Jesus' love for us when we hear his words: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." With this cup and with this bread, we renew our faith and hope in the Living Christ among us, and within us.**

Rev. Teri: *<Remembering the first Eucharist. >*

Rev. Teri: All things are ready. Let us share in the Grace of God.



#### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

We serve **Open Communion**. All are welcome at the Lord's Table, without regard to church membership, denominational affiliation, spiritual background, or state.

**COMMUNION VOLUNTARY**     *"Spirit, Breathe on Me"* Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

**Patricia Clark**

**COMMUNION HYMN #425** *"Let Us Break Bread Together"* Negro Spiritual

Public Domain

**Choir with Congregation**

Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees,  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees,  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All: Bountiful God, We give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, send us forth into the world in courage and peace, Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May we lead a life worthy of your sacrifice for us, fruitful in every good work, increasing in your knowledge, upheld by our faith in you. Amen.**

## **GOING FORTH**

**BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

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

Public Domain

**Amanda Grant Rose**

**Rev. Teri Motley**

**Choir with Congregation**

**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**

Facebook stream ends, Zoom greetings Breakout Rooms

**COMMUNION:** CAROLE BANNISTER AND CINDY FOGARTY

**MUSICIANS:** First Church Choir and Patricia Clark

**USHERS:** Connie Zimmerman and Maureen Wark

**COFFEE HOSTS:** Sue Burgess and Juila Wistran

**Amanda Grant Rose**

## 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 40 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA 01907**

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday: 9 am to 1 pm  
Friday: 4:30pm to 6pm  
Office Phone: (781) 592-6081  
Rev. Teri Motley Bridge Minister  
Patricia Clark Director of Music Ministries  
Spencer Aguiar Church Administrator [office@thefirstchurch.org](mailto:office@thefirstchurch.org)  
Rev. Holly Brauner Community Minister  
Amanda Grant Rose Community Minister  
Web Site [thefirstchurch.org](http://thefirstchurch.org)  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchSwampscott>

**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