



ADVENT

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE

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

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

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

These past months have brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. We know we are called to be a community of faith, not fear. We also know we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to be good stewards of our staff and resources, and to be good citizens of the wider community.

Under normal circumstances, people of faith would care for each other by drawing close together. It's what we do. It's who we are. In times of loss or threat, we respond by coming together to pray and to sing, to hug and hold each other tight.

Pandemics are different. During an outbreak such as the one we are facing now, we are called to care for each other by moving farther apart, creating a holy buffer of social distance. We do this not only for our own safety and the safety of the people around us, but in loving stewardship to our wider world.

Even when apart, we are not alone. God is with us, in every heartbeat, every breath: strengthening, comforting, and upholding us. Christ is with us, walking beside us, sharing our trials, speaking peace to our fears. The Spirit is with us, uniting us one to another across the barrier of physical distance.

These are temporary measures only. They won't last forever. We will rejoice and celebrate all the more when we are able to come back together, to share stories of what it was like, to laugh, to cry, and to share hugs and handshakes again. Until then, day by day, let's hold one another in prayer.

WORSHIP LEADERS

December 6, 2020

Preaching Today

Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate

Assisting in Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Hilary Hopkins, Chair of Christian Formation Committee

Katherine, Greta, and Karl Hayes

Joe Welker, tech support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland J. S. Bach

INTROIT O Come, O Come Emmanuel

THE WORD OF GOD Isaiah 11:1-10 Jaz Buchanan

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING Hayes Family

L: God, we light this second candle of Advent.
We kindle it with peace.

**C: May that peace sustain us in this time,
and guide us in our work for compassion and justice.**

***HYMN 128** Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (verses 1 and 2) *(see pages 5-6)*

***GREETING** Hilary Hopkins

L: Together, we gather in God's love from wherever we are,

C: from sanctuaries near and far, yet still as one body of faith.

L: We still our minds and hearts in this moment God has given us.

**C: Returning to the first day of creation
when God created the heavens and earth,
light and dark, and said that it was all good,**

L: gather now and find wisdom in the dark and in the light that God created.

C: Find grace in the shadows and dimly lit corners of life.

L: Find strength in the waiting and in all the sacred mysteries among us.

C: Come now, and let us prepare the way for God's glory revealed!

***WORDS OF WELCOME** Dan Smith

ANTHEM There Is No Rose Of Such Virtue Jessica Nelson

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: **God, help us to remember that you are always present with us.**
You are present in the darkness: in the comfort and quiet amid the unrest,
You are present in the light: in the hope and clarity amid the uncertainty,
Be with us now, as we welcome both the light that shines
and the darkness that gives it life, recentering ourselves within you.
Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

SONG

Give me light in the darkness, light in the darkness,
light in the darkness to sing my soul awake.
(sing through twice)

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 1: 39-45

SERMON

Jaz Buchanan

*HYMN 122

Now Bless the God of Israel

(see page 7)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

SHARING THE FEAST

INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING JESUS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,
his daring love, his open table.
(silence)
- L: Setting aside our wisdom, our will, and our words,
emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands,
- C: We come at his invitation,
yearning for the healing, the holding,
the accepting, the forgiving,
which Christ alone can offer.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lexi Boudreaux

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- L: Let us pray.
Come Holy Spirit. By this bread connect us more closely with you
and with our neighbors near and far.
- All: Bless this bread, we pray.**
- L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness
of people around the world.
- All: Bless this cup, we pray.**
- L: May this simple meal enlighten the eyes of our hearts
and bring us into union with you, your people and your world
united in the One Body of Christ.
We do this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion,
who taught us to pray:

OPENING HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

verses 1 and 2

→ 1. Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing; the watch-men on the
 → 2. All who hear the watch - ers sing - ing, whose hearts with deep de -
 3. Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, let saints and an - gels

heights are cry - ing, "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 light are spring - ing, a - wake and rise up from your gloom.
 sing be - fore you, let harp and cym - bal now u - nite.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es and at the thrill - ing
 Forth the Sav - ior comes, all glo - rious, in grace ar - rayed, in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where we shall join the

cry re - joic - es; Christ comes, O Church, lift up your eyes!
 truth vic - to - rious; our Star is risen, our Light is come!
 choir im - mor - tal in prais - es round your throne of light.

WORDS: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.
 MUSIC: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1731

WACHET AUF
 898.898.664.88

OPENING HYMN



Rise up, with will - ing feet go forth, the Sav - ior meet;
Now come, O bless - ed One, God's own be - lov - ed Son,
Our eyes be - hold the sight, our ears fill with de - light:



Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, great and small, we an - swer all;
Al - le - lu - ia! We haste a - long, an ea - ger throng,
Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing, our hymns we bring,

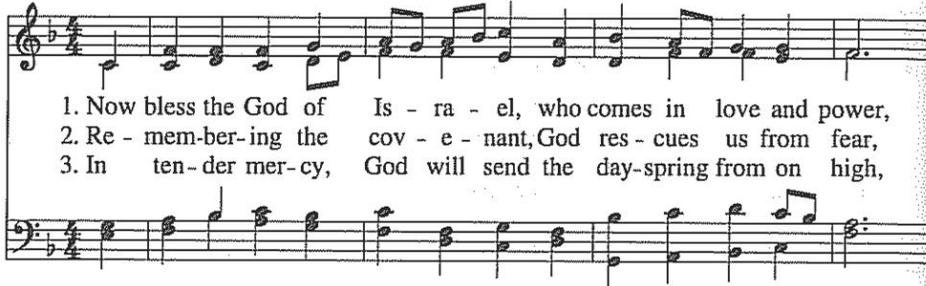


we fol - low now with joy the call.
and glad - ly join the ad - vent song.
in praise to you our voi - ces ring.

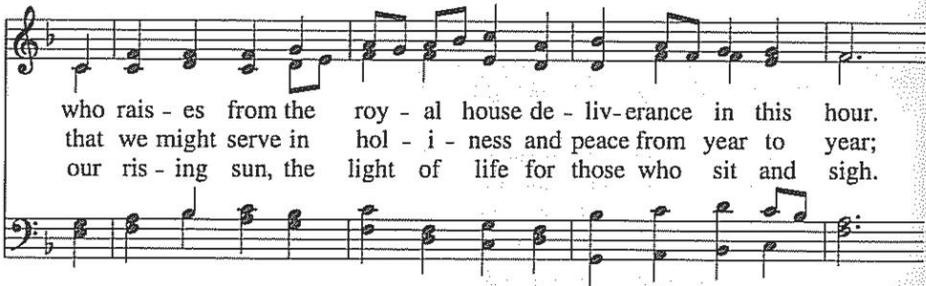
SERMON HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel

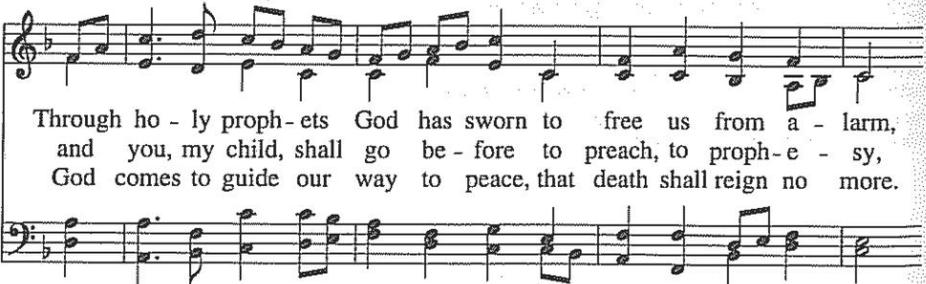
(Song of Zechariah)



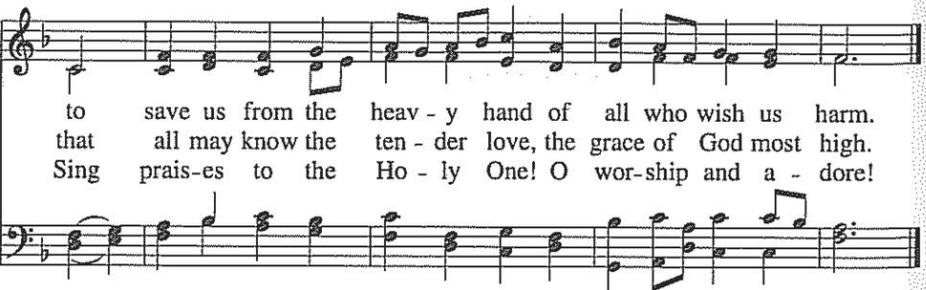
1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
2. Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
3. In ten - der mer - cy, God will send the day-spring from on high,



who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv-erance in this hour.
that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.



Through ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
and you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy,
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.



to save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1985

MUSIC: Traditional English melody, coll., arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

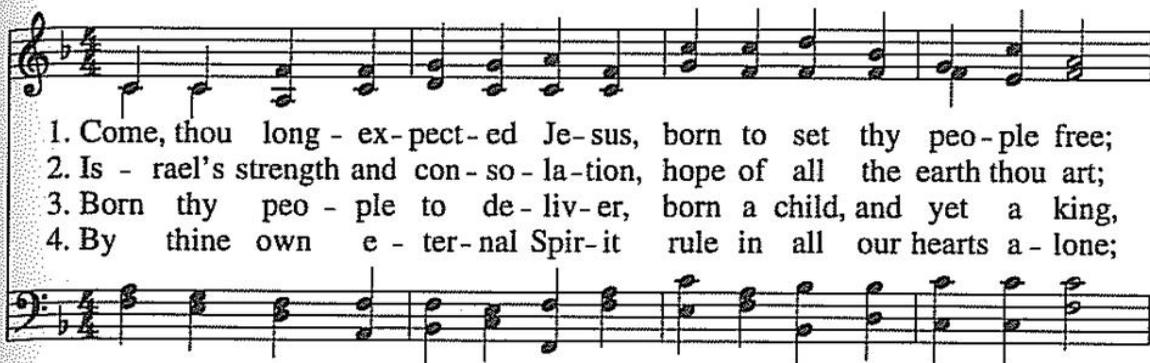
FOREST GREEN
CMD

This is a paraphrase of Luke 1:68-79, the traditional 'Benedictus' — Zechariah's song of praise on the birth of John (the Baptist). It is filled with Messianic hope.

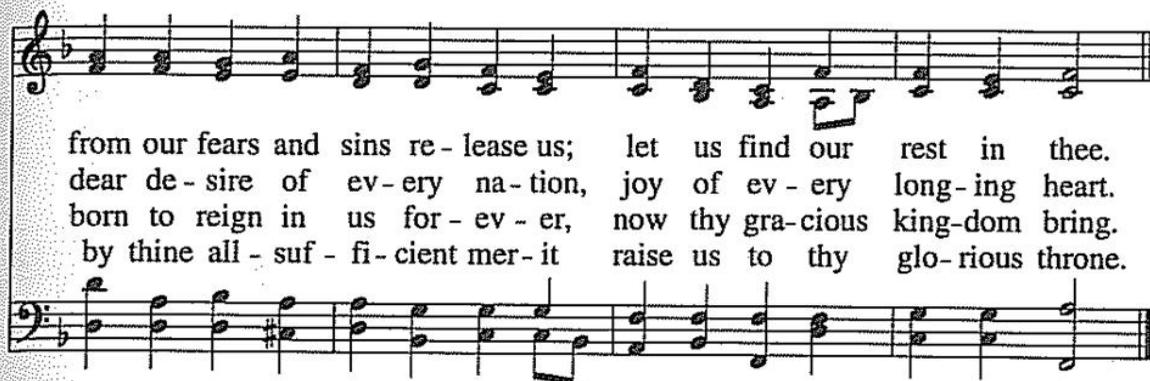
Words © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

CLOSING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.

MUSIC: Melody attr. Christian F. Witt, (1660-1716), *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715

STUTT GART
87.87

Witt was court organist, then Kapellmeister, at Gotha, Germany.
He composed sixty-five church cantatas.

PRAYERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

- We pray for Marian Smith, whose 9-year-old grandson Ian has been hospitalized recently and diagnosed with CRMO (chronic osteomyelitis) and Crohn's disease. We pray for Ian and his parents, former members Barb and Adam Kroft, and his sisters Ada and Lily.
- We pray for Devin Hansen, who is recovering after an emergency appendectomy last week.
- We pray for former First Church Sexton Tina Jenner, who is recovering from infection in her back, even as she prepares for hip surgery.
- We pray for Giselle Korn, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 at school in Utah.
- We pray for Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel, whose daughter Sarah is undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- We pray for Besty Opitz and Art Anger as they mourn the loss of Betsy's brother James Freeman, who died last Tuesday.
- We pray for former First Church member Stew Sanders and his family as they mourn the loss of his wife Nancy Sanders, also a longtime FCC member, who died last week.
- We pray for Caroline Newton's father Ron Paquette, who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- We pray for Denis Collet, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law, who is recovering from recent surgery.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all who are experiencing significant loneliness in isolation as we keep physical distance from each other during this holiday season. We pray for strength and God's peace as we continue to live in uncertain and scary times.
- As the death toll from COVID-19 continues to rise, we pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We pray for health care professionals and essential workers, that they may know they are supported and cared for.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding warmth and sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and for the guests of the Friday Cafe, who are finding food and fellowship and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.
- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for solace and security for immigrants and all those who live in constant fear and anxiety over their status in this country. We also pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We pray that God may grant us the strength to confront and combat the many realities of the climate crisis, and that we and our leaders may be empowered to take bold steps to care for God's creation. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.

ADVENT BANNERS

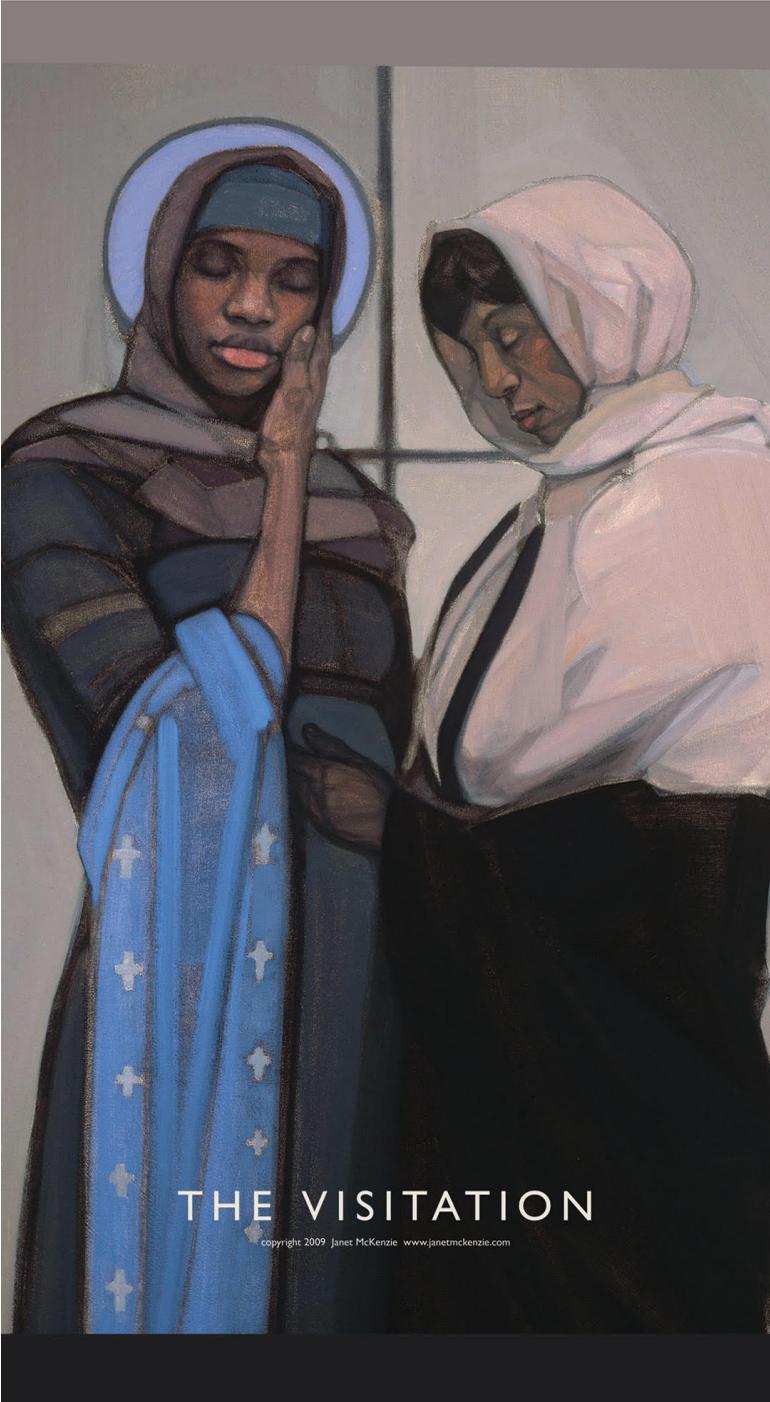
This Advent, thanks to a generous donation from Andrea Seek and Laurie Williams, we are featuring three new banners with images designed by Vermont artist Janet McKenzie. The Deacons are pleased to support this project as part of our ongoing efforts to lift up historically and biblically underrepresented images and voices of women and persons of color. A picture of each week's banner will appear in the bulletin, along with a meditative text or prayer.

This week's banner depicts **The Visitation**, when a pregnant Mary visits her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, as found in Luke 1:39-56. Our meditative text for the week is a paraphrasing of this story from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*.

Mary didn't waste a minute.

She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zechariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly,

“You are blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed!
And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me?
The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears,
the babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy.
Blessed woman, who believed what God said,
believed every word would come true!”



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

ADULT FORMATION: ADVENT *LECTIO DIVINA*—HOLY READING Today and Sundays, December 13 & 20, 9:30 am, via Zoom Join Dan, Lexi, and Jaz in a short conversation about reimagining advent themes of light and darkness and a time for spiritual practice called *lectio divina*, “holy reading.” In this ancient contemplative practice, we’ll read Advent scripture passages together and be invited to meditate on how God’s word intersects with our lives. Together, through word and silence, we’ll listen for God’s movement in our hearts, as we prepare to receive the light of the Christ child.

[Click here to join Adult Formation directly](#), or go to zoom.us and “join a meeting” using the following information:

Meeting ID: 869 6902 6288 Passcode: 372484 Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

MULTIGENERATIONAL FORMATION: ADVENT WORKSHOP Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Gather ‘round your screen with your workshop supply kit and home-gathered supplies to create 4 different types of lanterns to guide you through the season. Sarah Higginbotham and Nancy Cyr will provide encouragement and instruction, but take a look at [this craft instruction sheet](#) ahead of time to be prepared.

[Click here to join the Church School Zoom directly](#), or go to zoom.us and “join a meeting” using the following information:

Meeting ID: 897 8647 6898

OUR ADVENT SONG is based on “Give Me Birds at the Dawning,” written by Betsy Binstock and arranged by Peter & Mary Alice Amidon, from *Twenty-five Anthems for Interfaith and Community Choirs*, copyright 2016, Amidon Music Publishing. The words have been adapted to fit the Advent season.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom Join us for a virtual time of connecting and sharing our joys and concerns with one another. We will take some time to provide orientation to our new website.

[Click here to join Zoom Coffee Hour directly](#), or go to zoom.us and “join a meeting” with the following instructions:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

CANDLE-LIGHTING AND PRAYER TIME Today and Sundays, December 13 & 20, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.,

Lindsay Chapel This Advent we are offering some time on Sunday afternoons for folks to pray and to light a candle in the Chapel. The capacity is limited to four people at a time, and masks are required. In this time of reimagining what the symbols of light and dark mean to us, take some time to reconnect with the church building, spend some time in prayer, and give some light to the world.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

HAVE YOU PLEDGED? We are 3/4 of the way to our 2021 pledge goal. Many thanks to all who have responded so far. The Stewardship Committee would love to send you your thank you gift this week! [Make your pledge online](#) and then [check out how we've pieced together our progress](#).

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this ["virtual visitor card"](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

CALL FOR HOLIDAY PHOTOS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES BY DECEMBER 14 Since we won't be seeing each other in person this Christmas Eve, we are hoping to, at least, *view* as many of your faces as possible in a slideshow we'll play during our Christmas services. Please send a holiday photo by Monday, December 14. Feel free to get creative with whatever holiday cheer you can muster: show us your Christmas tree or plant or pets or decorations in the background; display your Advent wreath or homemade lantern from the Advent Workshop; dress up for the occasion, whether in your Christmas best, or holiday jammies, or in an ugly Christmas sweater! We'd love to have lots of participation from our First Church diaspora as a small way to bring us together while we are apart! Send photos via email to Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck: bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org.

PASSING THE LIGHT: A REQUEST FOR VIDEOS BY DECEMBER 14 We will be re-creating our tradition of passing candlelight in the sanctuary virtually this year for our online Christmas Eve service. Please sign up to get more information on how to submit a video of yourself for this part of our worship together. We will help you submit something, so don't let technology fears deter you from participating! For questions, contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org. [Sign up on this google form](#).

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPECIAL ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY Next Sunday, December 13 The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally a service in which the First Church Choir presents a special musical offering — and this year will be no different! We will revisit the 2018 service to hear the first movement of the *Gloria* of Antonio Vivaldi, with choir and orchestra — and members of the Choir today, adding their voices, and now their faces, to that occasion for a virtual choir video for our service this year.

BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BIPOC) member of First Church, please consider joining our periodic Zoom meetings designed as active listening sessions to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS: Spiritual Practices for Advent 2020 John's Gospel reminds us that the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it! This is a good and needed word for this pandemic and post-election time—one to remember, ponder and pray. And yet, how does having only negative connotations of darkness relate to our current moment of racial reckoning? Can we find goodness and blessing in the shadows and the light, in the knowledge that God created the day and the night and called them both good? In darkness and in light, how can we wait, labor, and prepare for the light, joy, and new birth that come at Christmas?

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY: RECLAIMING MARY This Saturday, December 12, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., via Zoom The women of First Church are gathering together this coming Saturday on Zoom for a time of worship, spiritual practice, reflection, and fellowship to observe Advent. Come as you are to explore what Mary might mean to us as a spiritual ancestor, a matriarch within our sacred scriptures, and the one who clears a path for God to work in our world. This time together will be for connection and grounding in our faith. To let us know if you plan on coming, [please sign up here](#). Everyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to join!

FIRST CHURCH UN-PAGEANT AND CHRISTMAS PARTY
GO ONLINE! Sunday, December 20, 11:00 a.m., via Live-Stream Worship You'll need to make your costumes at home, but the Un-Pageant will go on! Think shepherds in bathrobes, wise folks in fleece blanket robes, and angels in white t-shirts and halos of tinsel from your tree! If you want to be a lamb, don't forget the sheep ears! Join from wherever you are, with whatever costumes you can muster. This year, we'll start with our usual live-stream (with a much smaller cast than usual). But then we'll end on Zoom, singing cacophonously with joyful hearts. Our traditional post-service Christmas party will follow! If you'd like to appear on screen in your Un-Pageant finery during the live-stream and can record yourselves earlier in the week, be in touch with Sarah to receive instructions.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Thursday, December 24, 6:00 p.m., via YouTube Premiere "Come all ye faithful" and celebrate with us from home by joining together online for a candlelit service of lessons and carols. Worship with us this silent and holy night as we give thanks for Emmanuel - God with us - and as we fill our sanctuary and our homes with the warmth, light, and joy of Christmas!

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Friday, December 25, 11:00 a.m., via **YouTube Premiere** Join us for this First Church Christmas Morning tradition. Greet the new day and the Christ child with a short online prayer service and a special harpsichord offering by Peter Sykes of William Byrd's *The Bells*.

HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

SUPPORTING LOCAL FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AS THEY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS In the Advent season, we remember years past when our pulpit area was filled with coats or toys ready for donation to various organizations helping people from our community who don't have everything they need. This holiday season, our opportunities to give and support communities in need might look different, but the need is greater. The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled the following list of opportunities for donation. In the case that you and your family are in a position to support these organizations, we hope that you find this list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Molly Baker (mollybaker96@gmail.com) of the Missions and Social Justice Committee.

1. City Mission Christmas Shop Each year City Mission collects thousands of gifts – clothes, toys, books and household goods. Many of these donations come from members of First Church. These gifts are made available to the City Mission's Homelessness Prevention clients and other community partners who distribute gifts to their own clients. For a complete list of NEW items to donate, please visit [City Mission's website](#). ***You can drop off gifts at FCC - today is the last day for drop off!*** Call the sexton on duty at (617) 642-3980 to let you in and receive the gifts.

2. Christmas at The First Church Shelter At Christmas, each Shelter guest receives a \$50 gift card for personal purchases. Would you like to sponsor one this year? Your donation will truly be appreciated by a Shelter guest. [Donate on the FCC website](#).

3. The Friday Café With a severe shortage of beds across Massachusetts, unhoused neighbors will need to layer to survive this winter. Friday Café is accepting donations of men's and women's warm pants, shirts, jackets, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and sleeping bags. You can also visit their [Amazon wish list for essential items](#).

4. Black Lives Matter Boston – Financial Support for Local Students Resources are needed for housing, food, and COVID-19 related needs. Additionally, students are in need of their own laptops to access online learning for school work. Give directly via their [PayPal \(Phoenix Printemps\)](#), or you may donate via BLM Boston's official [Fiscal Sponsor Building Audacity via PayPal](#). You may also mail a check to: Building Audacity, Inc., 79 Allen Avenue, Lynn, MA 01902.

HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

6. Food Pantry Holiday meals are coming up in December, and your neighbors are in need. Always welcome: proteins, cereal, canned fruit and veg, cooking oil. Treats of olive oil, maybe even cookies. Special items too: diapers, feminine hygiene products. Bring your donations at any time during the month to Hilary's house, 30 Winslow St. in Cambridge, .75 mile up Garden St. from First Church, just past the [closed] firehouse. Leave things in the cooler on the porch (tug on the friction lid) and ring the bell. Thank you!

7. Solutions at Work Toy Drive SAW is accepting donations of gently used clothing, books, toys, and baby equipment to offer to clients as a part of the clothing and toy exchange program. Alternatively, they offer a wishlist for certain items, which you can access [here](#). They are accepting donations through December 20. Donations can be shipped to 1151 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. Or to arrange for drop-off or pick-up, please call SAW at 617-401-5335.

REMEMBERING OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR FRIENDS: THEIR MISSIONS AND THEIR WARES Out of sight in 2020, but not out of mind! The organizations that we support at Christmastime, by buying their products at our annual Alternative Christmas Fair, need our help this year as much as ever. Even though you will not be greeting them in person at a merry hubbub in MJH, you can order some goods, or make donations, at their websites. Look for the "Shop" or "Shop Now" and the "Give" or "Donate" tabs on the websites below. International orders probably won't arrive in time for Christmas gifting to others, but if you see something you like, why not gift yourself and your household? And donations are easy and always received with gratitude.

1. [Zienzele Foundation](#)

Mission: To promote self-reliance for poor women and children in Zimbabwe, and educational assistance to orphans, through small enterprise.

Products: Traditional Zimbabwean hand-woven baskets in an array of designs, colors and sizes.



2. [Healthy Tomorrow](#)

Mission: To eradicate excision (FGM) of young girls in Mali, through public education, legal campaigns, village meetings, and media.

Donations only, but visit the website for short videos and musical offerings.

HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

3. [Heifer Project International](#)

Mission: to move small-scale farmers in Africa from subsistence to sustainability through financial investment, and connection to training, technology, and markets. Check out [the livestock program](#): Give a struggling farm family a goat, alpaca, sheep, a flock of chicks, or a heifer!

Colorful “[Honor cards](#)” mailed when you donate in someone’s name.



4. [Solutions at Work](#)

Mission: To break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, providing resources and opportunities to strengthen self-confidence, achieve self-sufficiency, and help others. A Children’s Clothing Exchange; professional attire for job-training and re-entry program; connections to job training, and workshops for self-empowerment.

5. [LGBT Asylum Task Force](#)

Mission: To provide housing, financial aid, and empowerment, for LGBT individuals seeking asylum in the U.S.; education for policy change around the globe.

6. [Canaan Fair Trade](#)

Mission: To aid Palestinian farmers by supporting Fair Trade of olive oil products in global markets.

Products: All-natural plain and flavored olive oils and olive spreads.



7. [Red Winds Councils](#)

Mission: To support the spiritual renewal and social justice struggle of Mayan indigenous people.

Products: Authentic hand-made textiles, clothing, accessories, décor, jewelry, medicine pouches, masks, carvings, and more.

8. [A Thread of Hope](#)

Mission: To support Mayan families, improve their living standards, preserve cultural traditions, and foster women’s leadership through Fair Trade relationships.

HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Products: Loom-woven fabrics, shawls, faith-based items, ornaments, beadwork, masks, ponchos, booties, dolls, playsets, and more.

9. [Muddy River Herbals](#)

Mission: To use and promote ecologically sound methods of growing healing herbs and botanicals in Eastern New England.

Products: culinary, healing, bird-friendly, pollinator-friendly, personal care and native plants and seeds. Online classes.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG Looking for meditative chant music during your time at home? Night Song Director Daryl Bichel offers the following suggestions:

St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle: Compline, 22 November 2020

<https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1886>

These podcasts don't get posted immediately, so I'm referring them to you more than a week after they happen. This is from Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year and the Sunday prior to the First Sunday of Advent. This compline liturgy includes two hymns and a motet by Giovanni Matteo Asola.

Introit for the Second Sunday of Advent: Congregation of St. Lazarus Autun

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pqllx5w_24

Populus Sion is the Introit for the Second Sunday of Advent from the Liber Usualis. Here it is sung at the Cathedral Saint-Lazare in Autun, France. The square note score will scroll across the screen as you listen.

The Advent Prose: Dominican Brothers at Blackfriars, Oxford

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7U4fL5_cU

This Advent hymn is in the form of an antiphon and verses. The text of the antiphon is from Isaiah 45:8, and the verses are drawn largely from Isaiah 63-64. The hymn as a whole gives poetical expression to the longings of patriarchs and prophets, and symbolically of the Church, for the coming of the Messiah. The verses point to the Babylonian captivity of the Jewish people. The antiphon is plaintively beautiful: *Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum*. The translation is "Drop down dew, you heavens from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One."

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

DONATE TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA Hurricanes Eta and Iota have hit Central America with devastating consequences. Our Community Minister in Latin America Monica Maher invites our help through the Friends Peace Teams Peacebuilding *en las Américas* program, of which she is a part. Partners in Honduras and Guatemala have been particularly affected. The situation, already dire due to Covid, hunger and violence, is now much worse. Please consider supporting those impacted through fervent prayers for their safety and a donation to Peacebuilding *en las Américas*. [Donate today.](#)

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES FUNDRAISER Today, 5:00-6:30 p.m., via Zoom Join CMM for “**Sharing Our Stories: Towards an Inclusive American Narrative,**” featuring Rev. Eugene Rivers (Seymour Institute), Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor (Old South Church), and Jean-Luc Pierite (North American Indian Center of Boston). The online panel will be moderated by Dr. Kevin Peterson of the New Democracy Coalition. We are encouraging hors d’oeuvres and drinks during the program and then dinner in family settings after the program. Make it a safe, social occasion! This event falls on the Sunday prior to the UN Declaration of Human Rights Day, December 10. For further information and to register: cmmfall2020.eventbrite.com

GBIO RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION ASSEMBLY Tuesday December 8, 5:30-7:00 p.m., via Zoom Join leaders of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) for a critical update on the state of our racial justice campaign. As of this writing, major police reform legislation is on Governor Charlie Baker’s desk, a major accomplishment, but not an assured victory. We’ll plan needed action, reflect on a year of organizing during a pandemic, and look ahead to our refounding next Spring. Please register here: [GBIO Action Assembly](#). As always, get in touch with Will Erickson (wericks2002@gmail.com) or Phil Jones (p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com) to get more involved.

FREE COVID TESTING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, AND PRAY IN CAMBRIDGE The City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) are offering [free COVID-19 testing](#) for Cambridge residents and, we are told, for all who work and pray in Cambridge. The PCR tests are anterior nasal swab tests and not the nasopharyngeal swab test that go all the way back in the nasal passages. No identification or Social Security number is required. All sites are wheelchair accessible. Available testing appointments can book up quickly, but please keep checking back as new appointments will be added when they become available. When you sign up for an appointment, you will be asked for your address and to “Select all that apply: *I am a Cambridge resident *I am an employee in Cambridge *I am a City of Cambridge employee *None of the above.” If you don’t live or work in Cambridge, be sure to select *None of the Above and then list in the address line that follows: “Member of First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA.” To schedule an appointment, [sign up online](#) or call 617-349-9788.

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY The following organizations welcome financial donations. They work providing food to people who are living with food insecurity.

[Food For Free](#) supports low-income Cambridge residents. It offers fresh produce as well as other kinds of food. In some cases it will also deliver food to people who are unable to come to their food pantry.

[Greater Boston Food Bank](#) provides food to over 500 partner agencies in Eastern Massachusetts. It will also help people locate and apply for other food resources.

CONNECTING FAITH, CLIMATE, AND JUSTICE – A VIRTUAL CONVERSATION Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom Join the Union of Concerned Scientists and a group of eminent climate interfaith leaders for a virtual discussion about how traditions can inform advocacy and action in response to climate change and racial justice. Learn more and register at [UCS Conversation: Connecting Faith, Climate, and Justice](#).

FAITH FOR EARTH: A CALL FOR ACTION Updated for the current moment through a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Parliament of the World's Religions Climate Action Program, this book describes the essential, unshakeable reverence that all religions have for creation and nature. It offers information and inspiration to learn more about our planet, to share your knowledge and commitment to care for it, and to become part of the flourishing global interfaith movement that is increasingly bringing people together to protect and sustain life on Earth. First Church's Earth Stewardship group encourages you to [learn more and download your copy here](#).

MALE SURVIVORS UNITED You are invited to join together with an anonymous community of like-minded adult men affected by unwanted or abusive sexual experiences. Leave isolation behind and join our monthly phone calls for free peer support, by male survivors for male survivors. Our group is nonprofessional. We are peers, not therapists. Together we help each other reclaim our voices and our lives. The calls are at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the second Sunday of each month; the next call will be on December 13. For more information see [malesurvivorsunited.org](#) or contact First Church member Bruce Hoppe confidentially at bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Advent *Lectio Divina*, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Advent Workshop, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Morning Worship, Jaz Buchanan, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with New Website Orientation
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group City Mission Service Project, meet on playground (weather permitting)
- 4:00 p.m. Candle-Lighting and Prayer Time, Chapel

Monday, December 7

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC) Monthly Meeting, via Zoom (all current volunteers are welcome; check your email for Zoom invitation)

Tuesday, December 8

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group Reunion, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Wednesday, December 9

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 5:30 p.m. "A Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice" with Carlyle Stewart, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults' "Gentle Blasphemy," via Zoom

Thursday, December 10

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, December 11

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, December 12

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Community: "Reclaiming Mary," via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Advent *Lectio Divina*, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Book Corner, via YouTube
- 11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 4:00 p.m. Candle-Lighting and Prayer Time, Chapel

Zoom invitations to many of our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning. To join our all-church email list, [please sign up here.](#)

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