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SEASON OF EPIPHANY

**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

February 7, 2021

#### Preaching Today

Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson

#### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Moana Bentin, Deacon

Kalo Daley, First Church member

Junior Gafa

Seira Roberts

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Kris McQuage-Loukas and Kevin Newell, tech support

*The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.*

## GATHERING

## VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on Samoan Hymns

P. Sykes

## \*HYMN 373

We Are Your People

*(see page 5)*

## \*GREETING

Moana Bentin

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, let us gather in prayer and song.

C: **Come, one and all, across screens and devices, across time and space.**

L: Here, gathered together, may God's presence embolden us with strength and courage.

C: **Here, may God's light show us the path toward healing and justice.**

L: Here, may God's glory enkindle sustaining hope and faith in each of our hearts.

C: **Come, let us worship God, in all of her holy mysteries and revelations.**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Moana Bentin and Dan Smith

## CANDLELIGHTING

Sarah Higginbotham

## ANTHEM

Tausaili (Le Aso Fiafia)

*First Church Choir and Samoan friends, 2019*

Le aso fiafia. Le Aso Sa lenei  
 la tatou tapuai. I lo tatou Alii  
 E tele lava aso. E tupu ai tiga  
 Ao lenei lava aso. Tatou te filemu

This is a happy day. Today is Sunday  
 Let us pray. To our Lord  
 Many days can be difficult  
 But today we are at peace

Le aso e paia. E le galue ai  
 Ae tau o aso ese. E galulue ai.  
 E silisili lava. Lenei aso lelei  
 E tupu ai manatu. I mea I luga

Today is a holy day.  
 We rest Other days we work  
 Today is the best day  
 Of heavenly thoughts

la tatou fiafia. I ona itula  
 Pei o le amataga. O aso I luga  
 Iesu ia e alofa. A iu le ola nei  
 la ta mau ai ma oe. I lena nuu lelei

Let's be happy. This hour  
 is the beginning of heavenly days  
 Jesus please love us in this life  
 And your kingdom after

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: **God of Glory, you have given light to the world through Jesus Christ, yet seeking comfort in our privilege, distracting ourselves with possessions, and not caring for the earth as Your sacred creation, we are led away from You. Forgive us, Holy One. Lead us to repent and return. Show us your Light amidst our shadows and unexpected corners. Illuminate your justice, righteousness, and peace. Amen.**

### DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

### OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING	Psalm 147:1–11	Junior Gafa
READING	Mark 1:29–39	Kalo Daley and Seira Roberts
SERMON		Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson
*HYMN 403	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian	<i>(see page 6)</i>

### SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

## \*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

- L: Dear friends, come now to the Welcome Table!  
**C: Taste and see that God is good!**  
L: Drink together the Cup of Joy.  
**C: Filled to the brim with hope.**  
L: Jesus loves you. Come, eat the feast he has made for you.

### \*PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- L: How good it is to praise you, Holy One  
Your beauty ushers in the dawn,  
and in your light we see light—  
**C: justice for the nations, mercy for the broken-hearted,  
safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast,  
strength for the weak, and forgiveness for the sinner.**  
L: You reveal your love in joy and sorrow,  
and we know your wonder even in the shadow of death.  
**C: All your creatures behold your works  
and testify to your faithfulness**  
L: And so we too, fragile lamps in your holy house,  
raise our hearts in praise.

### REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,  
his daring love, his open table.  
*(Silence)*  
L: We remember that he called us friends.  
**C: He told us everything you placed in his heart.**  
L: We remember that he gave us peace.  
**C: A peace no one else can give.**  
L: We remember that he did not leave us bereft.  
**C: He sent us a Helper – the Spirit who dwells in our hearts!**

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 partake of this feast.*

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God,  
for the gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die,  
for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends,  
for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice  
you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion --  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,  
and the will to serve you all the days of our lives.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

### \*HYMN

Lo ta nu'u, ua ou fanau ai

Samoa Lalelei

Lo ta nu'u, ua ou fanau ai  
Lalelei oe i, le vasa  
Ua e maua, mai luga  
O le tofi aoga

My dear country, where I was born  
You are the most beautiful in the ocean  
You have obtained from above  
A most important inheritance/duty

*Tali:*

Samoana, Samoana

Ala mai, Ala mai

Fai ai nei, Fai ai nei

Le fa'afetai, Le fa'afetai

I le pule, ua mau ai

O lou nu'u, i le vasa

People of Samoa and the ocean

Arise (wake up)

Give (now)

Your thanksgiving

To the Most High, who gave you

Your island/country, in the ocean

E ua lalelei Samoa

Lo na valevalenoa

Ia mo'omia ai ou fanua

Tama a Samoa, ala mai

Samoa is beautiful

Her lands are beautiful

Your lands are objects of desire

Children of Samoa, wake up

Ua e sui lou tautai

Lou mamalu ia mau ai

Tuputupu pea mai

Talu nu'u ua feagai ai

If you change your focus

Hold on to your holiness

May it continue to grow

Because your villages/country count on it

Nu'u mamao ua e mau ai

Mea lelei e atia'e ai

Lou mamalu ia mautu

Mata'upu, tau Iesu

Far away countries

Bring good things for development

But you are holy if you hold on

to Jesus Christ

Ia fai oe ma nu'u tumau

Olaola lau fanau

Ia vi'ia e fa'avavau

Le ua pule aoao

Be a country that sets a standard

May your children continue to prosper

And may we praise forever

He who leads us

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

OPENING HYMN

# We Are Your People

1. We are your peo - ple, Spir - it of grace, you dare to  
2. Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed, may we dis -  
3. Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live clos - er than  
4. Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see in all life's  
5. Give, as we ven - ture jus - tice and care (peace - ful, re -  
6. Spir - it, u - nite us, make us, by grace, will - ing and

make us, to all our neigh - bors, Christ's liv - ing voice, hands and face.  
2. cov - er gifts in each oth - er, will - ing to lead and be led.  
neigh - bors, o - pen to stran - gers, a - ble to clash and for - give.  
4. chang - ing where you are lead - ing, where our best ef - forts should be.  
sist - ing, wait - ing or risk - ing) wis - dom to know when and where.  
6. read - y, Christ's liv - ing bod - y, lov - ing the whole hu - man race.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973, rev. 1994

MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker, 1986

Author Brian Wren titled this hymn 'The church taking stock of itself.' The tune MEETING HOUSE was written for this text.

MEETING HOUSE

54.557

Words © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music © 1998 Margaret R. Tucker

SERMON HYMN

# Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,  
in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray in joyful celebration with Karlene Griffiths Sekou, who was unanimously approved for ordination following her Metropolitan Boston Association UCC Ecclesiastical Council this past Tuesday.
- We pray for Devin Hansen, who is in the midst of a job transition at Starbucks, and taking some time off before her next assignment.
- We pray for Kirsten Manville and her family as they mourn the loss of Kirsten’s aunt Sue Butler, who died recently.
- We pray for Dom Ackermann, who is in the midst of his doctoral comprehensive exams at Boston College.
- We offer prayers of celebration for Lexi Boudreaux, who completed her ordination interviews and joyfully awaits the scheduling of her Ecclesiastical Council.
- We pray for the 5 staff and 11 guests of the First Church Shelter who tested positive recently for COVID-19. After more than 10 months of Covid-free operations, the shelter closed briefly last week as guests were relocated to a state-run Covid hotel. The Shelter re-opened last week and all but one guest have returned. We pray for the recovery and safe return of additional guests and staff soon.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Ron Paquette, Caroline Newton’s father; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn’s mother; Katie, Moana Bentin’s sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New’s sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee’s daughter Becky Collet, and for her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann’s sisters.
- We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the “long-haulers”—those who continue to live with symptoms from the disease. We continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers, that they may feel supported and cared for.
- We pray for Native communities who are grieving the loss of tribal elders and family members. The COVID-19 virus has killed American Indians at especially high rates, robbing tribes of precious bonds and repositories of language and tradition.
- We pray for our sharply divided nation in the midst of this historic time of unrest and for all in positions of leadership.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for all who are caregivers—caring for elderly parents, for those with dementia, for young children, for older children, for those struggling with addiction, depression, anxiety—and for all those they care for.
- We pray for all who continue to name, confront, and work toward the eradication of white supremacy and white privilege.
- 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 fear and anxiety over their status in this country. We also pray for all who work 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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**ADULT FORMATION: RACE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH PETER SYKES** Today and Sunday, February 14, 9:30 p.m., via Zoom Discussions of racism in classical music have become as timely and important as they are in any other field. Music Director Peter Sykes will share the work he has done in his classes at the Juilliard School, examining colonialist history and ways of moving forward with diversity both of and in classical music in order to create a truly inclusive art. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

**MULTIGENERATIONAL FORMATION: CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP** Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Join Sarah Higginbotham for an all-ages time of creative response to First Church's [Vision for Being an Anti-Racist Church](#). Any and all materials are welcome as we create art that speaks to our aspirations as a community. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

**GUEST PREACHER PAUSA THOMPSON** Today, 11:00 a.m., via Livestream Worship We are thrilled to welcome back Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson and members of our Samoan community to help lead our service today. Rev. Thompson is the Senior Pastor of the Dominguez Samoan Church (EFKS) in Compton, California. He is a Samoan American clergy member, activist, and theologian. He is an alumnus of the Kanana Fou Theological Seminary in American Samoa, Union Theological Seminary in the city of New York, and Boston University School of Theology, and is currently completing his doctorate degree at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA. His scholarly work accentuates the theological discourse, indigenous culture and wisdom, and social justice issues of Samoa and Samoans in diaspora. Rev. Thompson's ministry encourages people to be change agents in the world by invoking a more socially conscious ethic of Christian practice.

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR** Today, 12:15 p.m. Sadly, we can't have Samoan hot chocolate or banana su'fai after church this year, but there will be much alofas (love) shared online! You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

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

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF EMAIL SCAMS** We are observing an uptick in phishing scams impersonating church staff via email. If you receive an email claiming to be from Dan Smith (or another staff) that asks for an email reply because they are in a meeting, please double-check the sending address. Please note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. If you are still wondering, please be sure to speak directly with Dan or to the staff person involved before responding.

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

**YOUNG ADULTS' WINTER GATHERINGS** First Church 20- and 30-somethings are invited to gather via Zoom for a series of "Gentle Blasphemy" get-togethers at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates: **Today, February 7; Monday, February 15; and Thursday, February 25.** To join the Young Adults' email list, send a message to: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org)

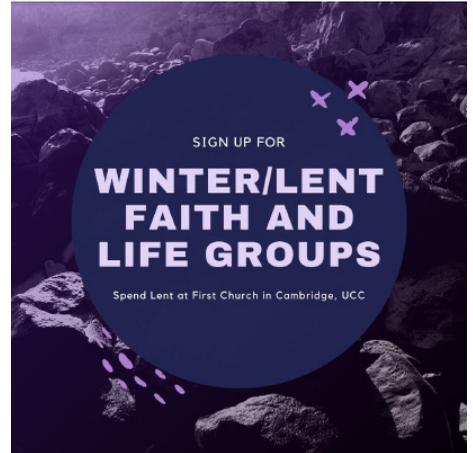
### **WINTER/LENT FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS - REGISTER NOW**

Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). If you are looking for a great way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship this is for you!

**Registration closes next Sunday February 14.**

*Read descriptions of each group [here](#).*

*[Use this form](#) to register or indicate interest.*



- **Genealogy: Finding our Family Histories** *with Karen McArthur*
- **Nerds Living Faith** *with Taj Smith*
- **Racial Justice and Healing: A Caucus for White Men** *with Dan Smith*
- **"Seeing White" Podcast Discussion Group** *with Kerri Ratcliffe*
- **How to Raise an Anti-Racist Child** *with Peggy Stevens*
- **Supporting Our Lenten Changes** *with Hilary Hopkins*
- **Contemplative Practices Group** *with Duncan Hollomon*
- **Back to Basics Bible Study: Gospel of Luke and Acts** *with Lexi Boudreaux*
- **Intro to Feminist Readings of the Bible** *with Alex Steinert-Evoy and Lexi Boudreaux*

### **DAN SMITH PREACHING AT PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH Sunday, February 21**

Bishop Brian Greene of Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in Central Square has invited Dan Smith to preach and to share some of our recent First Church journey towards becoming an anti-racist church. In recent months, Dan, Bishop Greene, and members of the two congregations have been meeting and praying together. Dan is honored by this invitation and will bring greetings on behalf of First Church. Please pray for Dan and for God's guidance in this already Spirit-led and growing relationship between Pentecostal Tabernacle and First Church.

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

**PRAYING THE PSALMS GROUP** Tuesday mornings, 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., via Zoom Our Praying the Psalms group has resumed weekly meetings via Zoom. The group is set up to accompany individual reading of one Psalm per day, starting with Psalm 1 on January 1. Each Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., we gather online for a time of soulful check-in and shared reflection about the Psalms of the week. Feel free to drop in virtually when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. See the calendar on our website for the [Zoom information](#).

**BI-WEEKLY FCC PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS' CALL** First and Third Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom Hospital workers, homecare workers, therapists, chaplains, doctors, nurses, caregivers and essential workers of all kinds — would it help to talk and share your experience with others at First Church? If you've been flat out and barely able to come up for air, please drop-in when you can for a time to listen, share, pray, and process. You can find the [Zoom information](#) for this event on our website calendar.

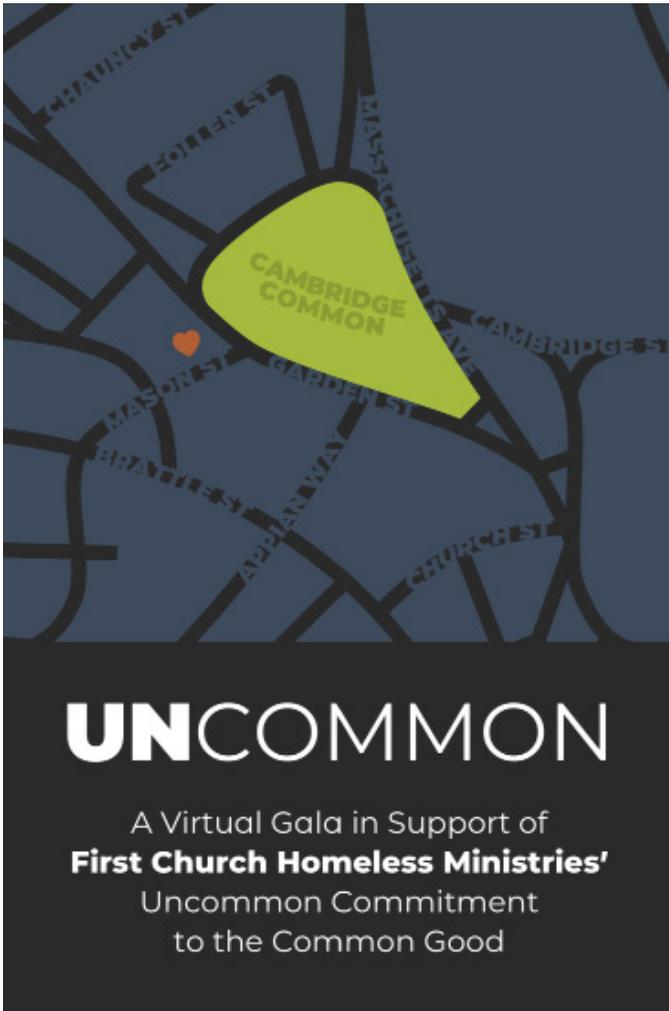
**BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY** If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BIPOC) member of First Church, please consider joining our periodic Zoom meetings designed as active listening sessions to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com)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

**ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS** Assist in worship, either in-person or via video. [Sign up here](#), and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: [lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org)

**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE** Our newly refreshed website now has a page where you can find all the resources and documents you need as an active participant in the life, work, and ministries of the church. You can easily find the [Members and Friends](#) page on our website by hovering over "About Us" and clicking on "Members and Friends." There you will find:

- quick links for **Sunday worship** to our livestream, YouTube channel, and online bulletin
- a link to our online password-protected **Church Directory** (email Director of Operations Kirsten Manville to gain access)
- links to sign up for all our **e-communications**
- a repository of documents pertaining to the **governance and leadership** of the congregation, including policies and procedures, annual reports, church finances, personnel forms, and more

## HOMELESS MINISTRIES GALA



### FIRST CHURCH HOMELESS MINISTRIES UNCOMMON VIRTUAL GALA

**Saturday, February 20, 7:00 pm**

Please join Homeless Ministries at our [virtual gala](#), as we celebrate the Cambridge community's uncommon commitment to the common good, even in the midst of pandemic.

Our guest speaker will be acclaimed philosopher Michael Sandel, author of *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?*

Tickets are \$20 each, and include a Zoom book group session as well as a cooking demonstration by celebrity chef Tony Maws.

Visit the [gala website](#) for tickets and info about how to purchase the book.

And please help us spread the word to friends far and wide—even if they live on the other side of the country, or the world! Since this event is virtual, anyone and everyone can attend, so please invite as many people as you can.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

### ASHES TO ASHES: A TIME FOR TURNING (AND RETURNING)

*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return!*

Genesis 3: 19

*For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven...*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Each year at Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten observance with a liturgy that invites us to reflect on ashes in four ways:

- Ashes as a sign of **creation**.
- Ashes as a sign of **mortality**.
- Ashes as a sign of **repentance**.
- Ashes as a sign of **the Cross**.

There is a time for every matter under heaven, especially in this season when we are daily reminded of the mounting toll of Covid, of ongoing racial inequality and terror, and of ongoing degradation of our planet. We invite you to join us through the 40 days of Lent, as we draw from the rich symbolism of ashes and turn (and return) to scripture, holding time for creation, mourning, repentance, and healing.

For some, it may be a time to return to the very ground of our being, to the natural world, and to God—to reconnect with the lasting beauty, hope and healing therein. For others, it may be a time to return to and remember our own mortality, or to acknowledge and repent of our sins and brokenness, all the while knowing we are held in God's eternal love and grace. Ashes in the sign of the cross may prompt a time to reflect on, revisit, and embody the ways and patterns of Jesus' life, suffering and death into new life. In this season of so much grief and gratitude, loss and love, we hope you will all find ways of sharing the Lenten journey with us, whether in learning sessions, small groups, or spiritual practices both contemplative and creative.

Lent 2021

### Ashes to Ashes: A Time for Turning (and Returning)

*Save the Dates:*

**Sunday, February 14,  
between 1:30 & 3:00 p.m.**

Pick up your Lenten Church at Home Kit outside the church.

**Ash Wednesday**

**February 17**

**Anytime via YouTube**

Watch our "unboxing" video to explore your Lenten box and our pre-recorded "ashes to go" video.

**7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

*Ash Wednesday Worship*

**Sundays, February 21, 28 and  
March 7, 14 & 21,  
9:30 a.m.**

*"Ashes to Ashes" Lenten Study*  
A prayerful time of learning,  
conversation, and spiritual  
practice.

**Wednesdays, starting  
February 24, 8:15 - 8:45 p.m.**

*Midweek Lenten Prayer Services  
via Zoom*



*Finding My Way*  
Sonja Kenny



## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

**LENTEN CHURCH AT HOME KITS - PICK UP YOURS NEXT SUNDAY February 14, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., on the 11 Garden St. walkway** Our Lenten kits are for everyone, especially if you wish to participate in our 9:30 Hour Lenten Series. Supplies will include ashes, charcoal pencils, seeds and soil, materials for finger labyrinths, plus your own “Alleluia” to bury at home until Easter! First Church folks of all ages are invited to come by the church next Sunday afternoon to collect the items you will need to observe Lent with First Church. Can’t make it next Sunday? Email Sarah Higginbotham to arrange delivery, including a packet of essentials that can be mailed to those out of town. Watch for our “unboxing” video on Ash Wednesday, February 17, to explore your kit and prepare for the season. The kits will also include a copy of *Promises, Promises: 2021 Lenten Devotional*, which is also [available as a pdf document](#) from the UCC publisher Pilgrim Press.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE February 17, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom** On this Ash Wednesday, we will reflect on our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God through a liturgy of readings, song, and prayer. Gathered together in the Spirit, we will turn to acknowledge ashes as a sign of creation, mortality, repentance, and the Cross. Join us for our evening service with virtual self-imposition of ashes via Zoom. For those who cannot attend the evening service, a virtual “Ashes-to-go” video will be available on our YouTube Channel by 7:00 a.m. Please pick up a Church at Home kit to aid in this worship experience.

## WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

**VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING Wednesday, February 17, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., via Zoom** Virtual Mental Health First Aid is a two-part, eight-hour class that involves: 1) Two-hour, self-paced, online pre-work on Mental Health First aid topics and brief training on the online Zoom platform, which is used to host the live part of the class, and 2) Six hour, instructor-lead, live training on Zoom. Please note that you will need to complete the two-hour pre-work BEFORE the live portion of the class. Registration is required. [Register Here for 2-17 Adult MHFA](#). Registration is provided on a first come, first served basis. Adult MHFA helps community members learn about risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, and gives them skills and strategies to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

**FREE COVID TESTING 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.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS WELCOME** Patrons need cereal, canned veggies and fruit, proteins (canned chicken & peanut butter especially); feminine products and diapers very welcome. Please do not donate fresh food or anything already opened. Deliver to Hilary’s front porch, 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, ¾ mile up Garden St. from FCC, first street on right after Garden and Sherman diverge. There is a wreath on the front door and a storage box on the porch: pull up its lid, close firmly, ring bell for #30 on silver mailbox. Thank you!

**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.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Sunday, February 7**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Race and Classical Music with Peter Sykes, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Creative Arts Workshop, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-stream Worship  
Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson, guest preacher
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet on playground, weather permitting
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Monday, February 8**

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Tuesday, February 9**

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Wednesday, February 10**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Thursday, February 11**

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

### **Friday, February 12**

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

### **Saturday, February 13**

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Sunday, February 14**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Race and Classical Music with Peter Sykes, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Children's Book Corner, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Worship, recognition of Homeless Ministries  
Lexi Boudreaux, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Newcomers' Gathering

***Zoom invitations to our week's programs can be found on each event listed in [the calendar on our website](#).***

***They may also be found in the all-church email that was sent this morning. To join our all-church email list, please [sign up here](#).***

## THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

### Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith  
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### Minister of Stewardship & Finance

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### Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer  
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### Pastoral Associate

Jaz Buchanan  
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### Director of Music

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### Director, Creative Worship & Arts

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### Staff Composer

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Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,  
George Williams, Kimel Williams  
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Would you like to give to  
First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ \_\_ to 1-844-996-0982



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