

LENT

FIRST CHURCH

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



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE... Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

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 March 21, 2021

Preaching Today Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Leading Worship Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts Peter Sykes, Music Director Giselle Korn, First Church member Kevin Newell, tech support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

A TIME FOR WELCOME

VOLUNTARY	Psalm 36 Ja	an Pieterszoon Sweelinck
*HYMN 442	Come, Living God, When Least Expected	(see page 4)
*GREETING L: C: L: C: C: L:	Friends, grace and peace to you, and welcome! To everything there is a time and season: a time to speak, and a time to listen; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time for hurt, and a time for healing; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.	Giselle Korn
C: L:	Friends, God's presence meets us here and wherever we Let us open our hearts and listen for it now. (Silence) Friends, come and worship! It's time to give our thanks and for God's love surrounds and enfolds us even now.	

WORDS OF WELCOME

CANDLELIGHTING

Dan Smith

ANTHEM

Kyrie Orbis Factor First Church Choir, 2019 Sarum chant

Maker of the world, King eternal, have mercy upon us. O immense source of pity, have mercy upon us. Drive off all our evils, have mercy upon us. Christ who art the light of the world and giver of life, have mercy upon us. Consider the wounds produced by the devil's art, have mercy upon us. Keeping and confirming thy believers, have mercy upon us. Thou and thy Creator, an equal light, have mercy upon us. We know that God is one and three, have mercy upon us. Thou, merciful unto us, art present with the Holy Spirit that we might live in thee, have mercy upon us.

A TIME FOR GOD'S MERCY

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG RESPONSE

Peter Sykes, 2021

The choir will sing it through once, after which the congregation is invited to join in.



DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

A TIME WITH CHILDR	EN	Sarah Higginbotham
	A TIME FOR GOD'S WORD	
PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING		Kate Layzer
READING	John 11: 1-5, 17-44 excerpted	
SERMON		Dan Smith
*HYMN C-26	Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning	(see page 5)

A TIME FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

- L: God be with you.
- C: and also with you.
- L: In the silence, O God,
- **C:** hear our prayer.... (silence, intercessions, the Lord's Prayer)

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.

A TIME FOR GIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A TIME FOR BLESSING AND SENDING

*HYMN 352

Go Forth for God

(see page 6)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Psalm 36

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

OPENING HYMN

Come, Living God, When Least Expected liv - ing God, when least ex - pect 1. Come, ed, when minds are 2. Come now, as once you came to Mo ses with - in the through our gloom, your Son will meet 3. Then, viv - id us as dull and hearts are cold, through sharp -'ning word and warm af - fec - tion bush a - live with flame; E - li - jah on the moun-tain, or to truth and liv - ing ex - plod - ing doubt and dis - il - lu - sion Lord, re-veal-ing truth as yet un - told. Break from the tomb in which we by si-lence press-ing home your claim. So, let our minds be sharp to to scat-ter hope and joy a - broad. And we will share his ra-diant hide you to speak a - gain in start - ling break through the ways; read in sight or sound or print - ed you page, and let us and, blaz-ing through the dread bright - ness. of night, il lu - miwords in which we bind you to res - ur - rect our life - less praise. greet you in our neigh - bors, ar-dent youth or mel-low age. in nate by love and rea - son, for those in dark-ness, faith's de - light. WORDS: Alan Gaunt, 1991 RENDEZ À DIEU MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, Cinquante pseaumes en francois, 1543, rev. 1551 98.98 D The true ! P

Lord, Your Grace Shines Like the Morning



WORDS: Kate Layzer MUSIC: Peter Sykes

For the dedication of a new central chancel window, Spring 1994

CLOSING HYMN



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COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Karen Anne Zee, whose 18-year-old grandson, Jack Bailey died unexpectedly in his sleep on Monday. We pray also for Karen Anne's daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Stewart, and Jack's 15-year-old brother Teddy.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins who is recovering from a hospitalization and heart procedure this past week.
- We pray for Nancy Cyr, who continues to struggle with diverticulitis.
- We pray for Craig Williams, his girlfriend Bella, and his mothers Nora Wilcutts and Martha Williams. Craig is recovering at home after a serious car accident on Monday night.
- We pray for the First Church Shelter community and loved ones of a First Church Shelter guest who was hospitalized recently and died on March 4 of alcoholic cardiomyopathy at the age of 49.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Joanne Paul; Linda Ziebell; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Ron Paquette, Caroline Newton's father; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Katie Bentin-Aimaasu, Moana Bentin's sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Hans Gert, Ingeborg Haug's brother.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode, Chris Reynolds' cousin Pamela Perkins Wilcox, and Connie Gagnebin's mother Nancy Clark.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.
- We pray for those mourning the deaths of eight people in a series of shootings at massage parlors in the Atlanta area, six of whom were of Asian descent and seven of whom were women. We pray for all those impacted by gun violence, by hate crimes, and by misogyny. We lift up all Asian Americans in this time of increased threat and discrimination.
- We pray for our nation and our world as we continue to experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the "long-haulers," and we continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers, that they may feel supported and cared for.
- 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 those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We celebrate with Lucio Perez, who has been granted a stay of deportation and has been able to leave sanctuary at First Church Amherst, where he lived for 3 ½ years. We pray for all who work for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

ADULT FORMATION: LENTEN SERIES SESSION 5: ASHES AND THE CROSS Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom "There is a time to die and to be born anew." Together we will reflect on the connections between ashes and the cross through a creative craft activity of making finger labyrinths led by Ariel Ackermann. Labyrinths have been a tool for worship for centuries, and provide an opportunity to connect with God and ourselves through contemplation. (In addition to the supplies included in the Lenten Church at Home Kit, you will need glue and a paintbrush or spoon to complete this craft.) You can find the <u>Zoom information</u> on our events calendar.

CHILDREN'S FORMATION: REMOTE CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES Today, 9:30 a.m., via YouTube Premiere Our four church school classes meet today, which includes Godly Play Alpha, Godly Play Omega, Bible 101, and Faith & Social Justice. All children from preschool to 8th grade are invited to join the Church School Zoom to be placed in their class's breakout room. You can find the <u>Zoom information</u> on our events calendar.

COFFEE HOUR CONVERSATION ABOUT NEW COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES Today, 12:15

p.m., via Zoom As we continue to live into the increased capacity of our website, First Church is developing new strategies for communications, both within the congregation and with the wider world. Join Sarah, Lexi, and Dan at Zoom Coffee Hour to hear about an upcoming refresh of our bulletin, a new email listserv for members and friends for connection and information, and new ways to request promotion of your group's events and activities. Bring your questions, as well as an open mind for exploring new opportunities for sharing our stories, our ministries, and our lives with each other and the wider community. You can find the Zoom information on our events calendar.

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Consider filling out this <u>"virtual visitor card"</u> so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP We are looking to collect photos from our First Church in Cambridge community reflecting on our journey together over the course of this past year. The pictures will be featured during our livestream service on Palm Sunday. If you have any photos that you would like to share from Zoom or outdoor gatherings, prayer walks, or at home worship, please email them to Jaz Buchanan at jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org by tomorrow, Monday, March 22.

Have an event or announcement you'd like to share with First Church?

Complete the <u>FCC Request for Promo</u> form.

Have an edit or update for our website?

Complete the <u>FCC Website Changes</u> form.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

MIDWEEK LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES Wednesday evenings through March 31, 8:15 - 8:45 p.m, via Zoom During Lent, join us on Zoom for 30 minutes of contemplative and embodied prayer on Wednesday evenings. This is a time for holy silence, candlelight, prayers, music and gentle movement. We invite you to bring a candle and communion elements (bread or crackers & water, juice or wine). Music provided by cellist, Jackie Buchanan. You can find the Zoom invitation on our events calendar.



CALL FOR VIDEOS OF EASTER HYMN You've seen the virtual Choir projects shared in worship; this Easter, *everyone* will have a chance to participate in a grand virtual singing of our traditional opening hymn, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*. The way these projects work is like this: you download a reference track of the hymn, and then sing along on one device while you record yourself on another. Full instructions are in <u>this Google Drive folder</u> that contains every-thing you need. Don't worry that your voice isn't good enough – we will have enough contributions to meld into a great sound! The Choir will sing verse 1, Deacons will join in verse 2, the First Church Staff in verse 3, and congregation for verses 4 and 5. And if you don't want to sing at all, send in a snapshot or selfie and we'll put it on the screen! Deadline for submissions is midnight on Monday, March 29. Questions? Contact Peter Sykes at: psykes@aol.com

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER: DONATE BY NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 28



If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to <u>Kirsten</u> <u>Manville</u> in the First Church office by March 28. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Flower Fund category), or checks (payable to First Church in Cambridge with "Easter flowers" in memo line) can be mailed to the church. Those who make donations are invited to come by the church on Easter Monday to pick up a potted flower plant.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY CREATIVE CALLINGS SURVEY: COMPLETE BY APRIL 1 First Church in Cambridge is one of 11 congregations participating in the <u>Creative Callings</u> hub at Boston University School of Theology. This project is one of 13 hubs in the US and Canada working with about 350 congregations in the <u>Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative</u>. The support we are receiving through the BU Creative Callings project and this wider national initiative is helping us deepen our calling to be an antiracist church. Grant funds have been used to hire Carlyle Stewart as our Community Minister for Racial Justice and have assisted with the creation of our new website.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

The Initiative leaders are inviting us to participate in their evaluation and research of the entire Initiative. You can help! **Please complete this 20-30 minute** <u>online survey</u> **by Thursday, April 1, 2021.** Your survey responses will be anonymous; the research team will only know that they are connected to our congregation. Nobody affiliated First Church will see your actual survey responses, and only the researchers will have access to the data. The Initiative and hub leaders will share the results from our congregation with us. Help us learn about how our members understand and live out their callings and its role in a life of meaning and purpose.

A PRACTICE OF COMPASSIONATE LISTENING: THE STONE HAS BEEN ROLLED AWAY, NOW WHAT? Sundays, April 11 & 18, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Covid has been an unpredicted challenge for everyone. While living through a pandemic has affected each of us differently, one thing we share is a need to listen to ourselves and others in new ways. For many of us, Covid has changed the idea and experience of church and our role in it. Perhaps this time apart has called us to delve deeper into our roles as witnesses to each other's experiences of this life. Yet many of us might not have been ready to do this, or at least could have used more preparation. It is a carefully developed skill to be a good listener, and it is a crucial skill to have if we are to be the church for one another. As a result of Covid, we are a new church, so come join us for an exploration into developing the skills of compassionate listening as we prepare ourselves for the next stage of our life together as First Church in Cambridge. Community Minister Alex Stienert-Evoy will facilitate this two-part series in the 9:30 Adult Formation Hour, beginning on the Sunday after Easter.

PUBLIC REMEMBRANCE PROJECT FOCUS GROUPS REPORT: READ, LISTEN, AND JOIN THE NEXT CONVERSATION Sunday, April 18, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom In 2019, as part of our ongoing efforts to reckon with our slaveholding past, the Beloved Community group contracted with First Church member Karlene Griffiths Sekou to conduct focus groups with small segments of some impacted communities to gain insight about the living legacies of white supremacy and racism. On March 7, Karlene shared a report on her findings at an after-worship Zoom session. <u>A</u> recording of that session and the full written report are available to you. Please read the report, and plan to join us for our next Zoom conversation with Karlene after church on April 18. More information is available in the Latest News on our website.

PRAYING THE PSALMS GROUP Tuesday mornings, 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., via Zoom Our Praying the Psalms 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 our events calendar for <u>Zoom information</u>.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

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 <u>Zoom information</u> on our events calendar.

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

YOUR INPUT NEEDED FOR SURVEY BY THE BLACK RESPONSE The Black Response Cambridge is an ad hoc group of Black and Brown Cambridge residents who are concerned about the public discussion regarding policing in Cambridge. The group is composed primarily of people under 35 years old who have lived in and represent various parts of the city—from the port projects, to renters and home-owning parents, as well as Harvard campus residences. They believe it is important to offer some perspectives from racialized youth and are working towards new possibilities for safety, well-being, and healing in our communities. If you live in Cambridge, please complete this survey to support their data collection effort, and please share with Cambridge neighbors, family, and friends.

SUPPORT PROJECT BREAD'S WALK FOR HUNGER Sunday, May 2 Food insecurity is very real, and now that many people cannot work or are ill, hunger has become more rampant. In Massachusetts, food insecurity has doubled from pre-pandemic numbers. No one should go to bed hungry. Project Bread's Walk For Hunger this year is critical. On Sunday, May 2, the 20-mile walk goes on virtually in order to raise funds to support programs in nearly 100 communities across the state including: food pantries, meal programs, summer meal programs for children, nutrition education, local farms, urban gardens, and more. First Church member Gail Breeze is raising funds for her 25th Walk for Hunger in her 81st year of life. You can donate through <u>Gail's online site</u> or by sending a check made out to "Project Bread" to: Gail Breeze, One Orchard Circle, Belmont, MA 02478. Questions? Contact Gail at: gaildudne@gmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS are welcome at any time, especially those with high nutritive value like cereal, proteins including beans and canned chicken, canned fruit and veggies, hearty soups. Please do not donate anything already open or expired, and regular sizes are best. Feminine products also welcome. Drop off continues on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, 1/4 mile from FCC up Garden St., just past where Sherman and Garden diverge at the firehouse. It's the first right off Sherman and then the first house on the right. Leave items in the cooler and ring the Hopkins bell on the silver mailboxes to let us know there's a delivery; no need to wait. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Palm Procession at First Church and Cambridge Common, 8:30 a.m. Livestream Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

We will gather in the early morning to march around Cambridge Common waving our palms, remembering Jesus's final entry into Jerusalem. There will be Facebook Live footage for those who cannot join in person, and we'll make sure there is time to return home to watch Morning Worship via our livestream.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Evening Worship via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Join us on Zoom as we remember Jesus's last meal with friends and the events that led to his sentencing. We invite you to participate from your home with us in a feet/hand washing ritual and in Holy Communion.



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Evening Worship via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

We gather to lament the world's pain and injustice and to remember Jesus' death on the cross. Join us on Zoom for this solemn service of ritual, reverence, and remembrance.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Livestream Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Christ is Risen! We celebrate and rejoice in God's gift of new life through the resurrection of Jesus, as we proclaim that not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 21 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Adult Formation: "Ashes and the Cross" with Ariel Ackermann, via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School Classes, via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Livestream Worship, Dan Smith, preaching 11:00 a.m. 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with New Communications Conversation "Nerds Living Faith" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom 3:00 p.m.

Monday, March 22 - Photos of church life for Palm Sunday worship due to Jaz

- 4:00 p.m. "Contemplative Practices" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- Meal Distribution, Tower Room 4:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council. via Zoom

Tuesday, March 23

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Sextons' Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Wednesday, March 24

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- Christian Formation, via Zoom 7:00 p.m.
- "Back to Basics Bible Study" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom 7:00 p.m.
- 8:15 p.m. Midweek Lenten Prayer Service, via Zoom

Thursday, March 25

- "Supporting our Lenten Changes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom 10:00 a.m.
- Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom 6:00 p.m.
- First Church Choir Call, via Zoom 7:45 p.m.

Friday, March 26

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

Saturday, March 27

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

Sunday, March 28 - PALM SUNDAY

Palm Processional, meet at church lawn 8:30 a.m. Livestream Palm Sunday Worship, Jaz Buchanan, preaching 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour 12:15 p.m. 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet on playground weather permitting "Nerds Living Faith" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom 3:00 p.m.

Zoom invitations to our week's programs can be found on each event listed in the calendar on our website. Faith & Life Group leaders have sent Zoom invitations to registered participants.

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Minister of Stewardship & Finance Rev. Karen McArthur karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

Minister of Street Outreach Rev. Kate Layzer 617-851-5074 kate@thefriday.cafe

Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org

Director of Music Peter Sykes 617-645-0833 psykes@aol.com

Director, Creative Worship & Arts Sarah Higginbotham 617-547-2724, ext. 42 shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org

Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness www.patriciavanness.com

Poet-in-Residence

Jean Dany Joachim jeandany@gmail.com Would you like to give to First Church in Cambridge? Here are easy ways to do it:



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



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL, 1633–1636 United Church of Christ 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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