

PALM SUNDAY

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 28, 2021

Preaching Today Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate

Leading Worship Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts Peter Sykes, Music Director Gaylen Morgan, First Church member Kevin Newell, tech support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

A TIME FOR WELCOME

VOLUNTARY	All Glory, Laud, and Honor	J. S. Bach		
MORNING PROCESSION WITH PALMS				
*HYMN 178	All Glory, Laud and Honor	(see page 4)		
*GREETING		Gaylen Morgan		
L: C: L: C: L C:	People of God, wherever you are, sing Hosanna and lift high your palms! Hosanna! A time to turn (and return) to God. A time to plant and a time to uproot. Hosanna! A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to tear down and a time to build. Hosanna! God's presence meets us here,			
L:	in every time and in every season. It is time to give God thanks and praise.			
WORDS OF WELCOME				
CANDLELIGH	TING	Sarah Higginbotham		
ANTHEM	Hosanna! Family Choir, 2019	Frank Hernandez		
A TIME FOR GOD'S MERCY				
INVITATION TO CONFESSION		Lexi Boudreaux		

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 FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

- L: Give thanks to the Lord, for she is good; her love endures forever.
- C: Let Israel say: "Her love endures forever."
- L: Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- C: This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.
- L: I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.
- C: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- L: The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.
- C: Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is she who comes in the name of the Lord.
- L: From the house of the Lord we bless you.The Lord is God, and she has made her light shine on us.With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.
- C: You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- L: Give thanks to the Lord, for she is good; Her love endures forever.

READING

Mark 11:1-11

A TIME OF JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Jaz Buchanan

*HYMN 366	We Are Walking (Siyahamba)	(see page 5)
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A TIME FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

First Church Deacons

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 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

A TIME FOR BLESSING AND SENDING

***HYMN 471** I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (see page 6)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Jesu, meine Freude

J.S. Bach

OPENING HYMN



SERMON HYMN



CLOSING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Moana Bentin and her family as they mourn the loss of Moana's sister Katie Bentin-Aimaasu. Katie died last week after a long struggle with cancer.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux and her family as they mourn the loss of Lexi's grandfather Michael Wall, who died in his sleep last Saturday.
- We pray for Chris Reynolds and her family as they mourn the loss of her cousin Pamela Perkins Wilcox, who died last Sunday.
- We pray for Karen Anne Zee, whose 18-year-old grandson Jack Bailey died unexpectedly in his sleep. We pray also for Karen Anne's daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Stewart, and Jack's 15-year-old brother Teddy.
- 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; 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 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 all those mourning and all those impacted by mass shootings in Boulder, CO, and Atlanta, GA. We pray for all those impacted by gun violence and for those lobbying for gun control legislation.
- We pray for all those impacted by hate crimes and by misogyny. We lift up all Asian Americans in this time of increased threat and discrimination.
- We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines both here in the US and globally; may there be a swift, hassle-free, and equitable distribution for all. 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 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 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

PALM PROCESSION AT FIRST CHURCH AND CAMBRIDGE COMMON Today, 8:30 a.m.

Rain or shine, we will gather on the church lawn near the front door of the sanctuary in the early morning for a short liturgy and to receive our palms. The gathered crowd will then 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.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 12:15 p.m. Join First Church Deacons after worship for connection and conversation, including breakout rooms with time for catching up and sharing joys and concerns. You can find the <u>Zoom information</u> 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.

PREPARING FOR EASTER WORSHIP

MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR EASTER: DONATE TODAY



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 the end of the day. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made <u>online</u> (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.

CALL FOR VIDEOS OF EASTER HYMN: DUE TOMORROW, MARCH 29 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</u> <u>Drive folder</u> that contains everything 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 tomorrow, Monday, March 29. Questions? Contact Peter Sykes at: psykes@aol.com

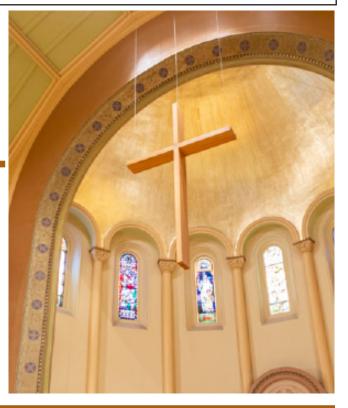
HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

MIDWEEK LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Last Service this Wednesday, March 31 8:15 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom Join our final 30-minute service of contemplative and embodied prayer. Music provided by cellist, Jackie Buchanan. You can find the Zoom invitation on our events calendar.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Evening Worship via Zoom, 7:30 p.m. Join us on Zoom from home as we remember Jesus's last meal with friends and the events that led to his sentencing. We invite you to set a table before you with a candle, cloth, plate, bread, cup, some juice, a bowl of water and a towel for a feet/hand washing ritual and Holy Communion. You can find the <u>Zoom invitation</u> on our events calendar.



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. Please bring a candle, a piece of paper, and something to write or color with to this service of prayer and song. You can find the <u>Zoom invitation</u> on our events calendar.

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. Our music for will be a vibrant blend of live and recorded music. Robinson Pyle (trumpet) and Beth Spaulding (soprano) will be live in the Sanctuary, and the First Church Choir will sing a communion anthem *O Sacrum Convivium* by Thomas Pavlechko with this year's video and new audio added to audio from 2019. Our first hymn *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* will have the entire congregation twice over—audio from 2019 and video and new audio from 2021!

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

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. <u>Read more</u> on our website about *an important survey you can complete by this Thursday* to help this work.

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. 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. <u>Read more</u> on our website about this two-part series taking place 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. Find the report on our website and plan to join us on April 18 for the next conversation.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

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

BI-WEEKLY FCC PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS' CALL First & Third Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom You can find the <u>Zoom information</u> on our events 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. Contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

A STAFF SABBATH

A STAFF SABBATH: MONDAY, APRIL 5 - MONDAY, APRIL 12

With the blessing of our Deacons and other church leaders, our hard-working worship and program staff will be taking vacation the week after Easter, including Sunday, April 11. Worship staff will be off from April 5 through April 12. Sextons will be off during the week of school vacation, April 19 to 23. Homeless Ministries staff have also been strongly encouraged to take well-deserved time off as they are able to share coverage for their daily and weekly ministries of care and feeding. *In case of emergency, please contact the staff person on call at: (857) 285-2097*

For worship on Sunday, April 11, we invite you to attend church at one of several locations across the country, where we trust you will find powerful music, preaching, and prayer. Check out our list of suggested options, or perhaps ask a friend or family member if you could join them at their congregation's service.



We are eager to hear what you learn; we even have some reflection questions for you to ponder! The Deacons will be hosting a special Zoom Coffee Hour at 1:00 p.m. (to allow for longer services and different time zones), where you can share your experiences and responses. We expect your feedback will lend new ideas and enrich our worship life together.

Sunday Worship suggestions:

<u>Trinity United Church of Christ</u>, Chicago <u>Washington National Cathedral</u>, Washington D.C. <u>Ebenezer Baptist Church</u>, Atlanta <u>Middle Collegiate Church</u>, New York City <u>Society of St. John the Evangelist</u>, Cambridge

Questions:

What did you notice? What surprised you? What moved you the most? What did you miss about FCC? What ideas do you have to share with us?

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS are welcome at any time. 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. The lovely woman who coordinates the food pantry to which you have all been so faithful in donating has asked that for the next little while we **donate condiments, such as: mayo, pickles, bbq sauce, spices and seasonings, etc.** And, of course continue with those proteins, veggies and fruits, peanut butter, etc. Thank you all so very much!

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** <u>this survey</u> 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.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 28 - PALM SUNDAY

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

Monday, March 29 - Videos and Photos for Easter Hymn Project due by midnight

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. "Contemplative Practices" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. "Exploring Reparations" Faith and Life group, via Zoom

Tuesday, March 30

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

Wednesday, March 31

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. "Back to Basics Bible Study" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. "Racial Justice&Healing: A Caucus for White Men" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 8:15 p.m. Midweek Lenten Prayer Service, via Zoom

Thursday, April 1 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. "Supporting our Lenten Changes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, via Zoom

Friday, April 2 - GOOD FRIDAY

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

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service, via Zoom

Saturday, April 3

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY

- 11:00 a.m. Livestream Easter Worship, Dan Smith preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

Monday, April 5 - Monday, April 12: Staff Sabbath

Zoom invitations to our week's programs can be found on our <u>events calendar</u>. Faith & Life Group leaders have sent Zoom invitations to registered participants. Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith 617-547-2724 ext.23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org

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

Shelter Director

Jim Stewart 617-661-1873 jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org

Director of Operations Kirsten Manville 617-547-2724, ext. 21 parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck 617-547-2724 bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org

Sextons Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance, George Williams, Kimel Williams 617-642-3980