

EASTERTIDE

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE

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

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

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

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Preaching Today Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Assisting in Worship Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Davis Dyer, *liturgist*
Phil Jones, *Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) leader*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*
Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Godly Play for all ages, [via Zoom](#)
9:30 a.m. Middle School Formation: Bible 101 and Faith & Social Justice, [via Zoom](#)
11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
12:15 p.m. [Zoom Coffee Hour](#) with Sexton appreciation and listserv orientation
2:00 p.m. Multigenerational Prayer Walk to the Charles River, meet at First Church

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.

GIVE TO FIRST CHURCH

You can give online at www.firstchurchcambridge/give or by texting "\$___" to: 1-844-996-0982.

CONTACT A PASTOR OR STAFF MEMBER

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website.
For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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 /firstchurchcambridge  /FirstChurchInCambridge  /c/FirstChurchInCambridge

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Adagio from Sonata I

Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN 18

Praise to the Living God

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Davis Dyer

L: Siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

C: From God the Merciful, peace to you!

L: And together, let us praise God in the presence of Love —

C: Love divine, stronger than death!

L: Together, let us praise God in the companionship of the Risen Christ —

C: The Risen Christ, source of gentleness, who abides with us now!

L: Together, let us praise God in this time of worship!

WORDS OF WELCOME

CANDLELIGHTING

Lexi Boudreaux

ANTHEM

Blue Green Hills of Earth
First Church Choir, 2018

Kim Ole

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: God of earth and heaven,
when we have not touched, but trampled you in creation,
when we have not met, but missed you in one another,
when we have not received, but rejected you in the poor,
forgive us, we pray, and grant us your peace and mercy.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Jaz Buchanan

READING

Genesis 1:1-5

READING

Psalms 23

All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
She makes me lie down in green pastures;
she leads me beside still waters;
she restores my soul.
She leads me in right paths
for her name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

SERMON

Dan Smith

***HYMN C-3**

Psalms 23

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Phil Jones

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... (*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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess;
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN C-9

Psalm 148

(*see page 6*)

*BENEDICTION

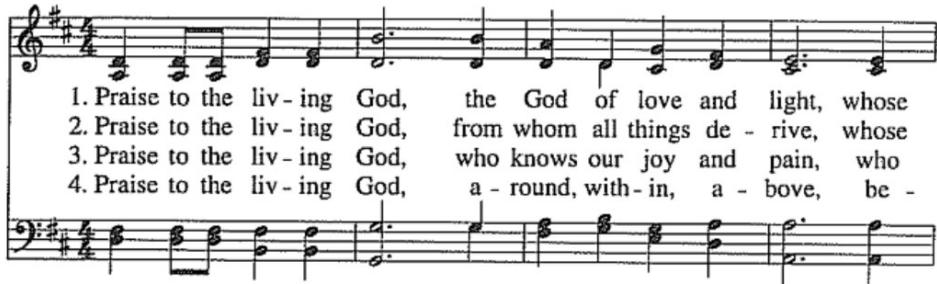
VOLUNTARY

Mother Earth
(All Creatures of Our God and King)

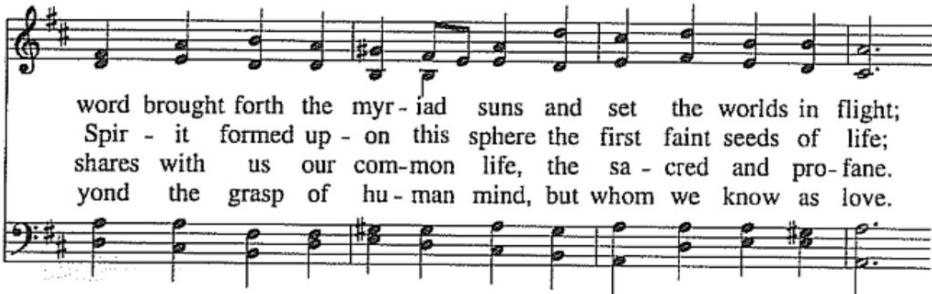
James Woodman

OPENING HYMN

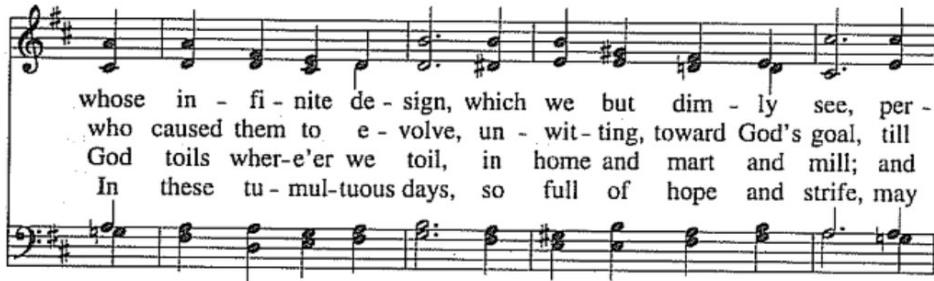
Praise to the Living God



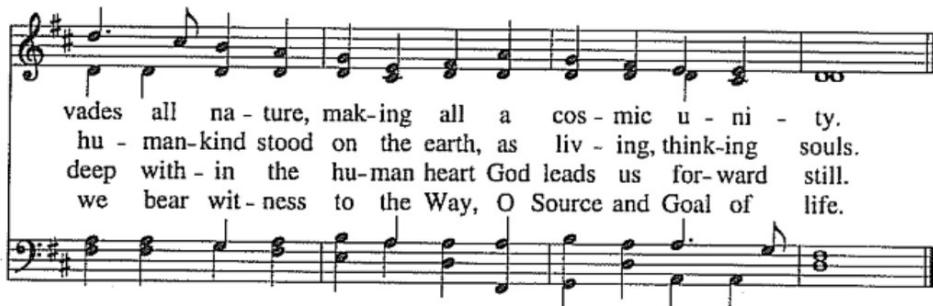
1. Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, whose
2. Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, whose
3. Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, who
4. Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, per -
who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, till
God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; and
In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, may



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

WORDS: Curtis Beach, 1966, alt.
MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

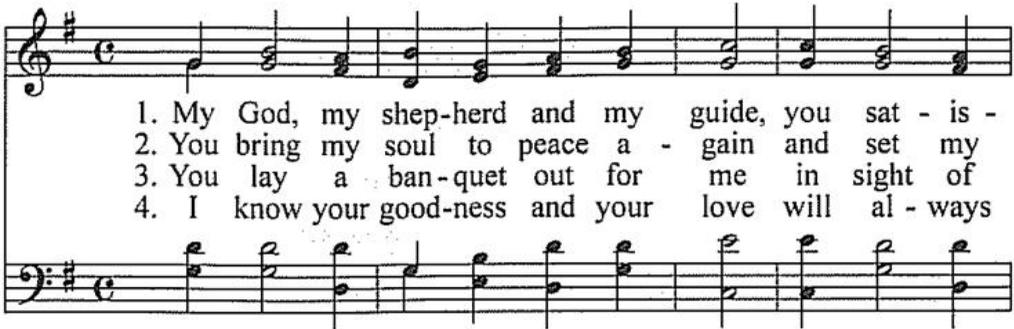
DIADEMATA
SMD

Like many English Anglican organists and composers, George Elvey received his early training as a cathedral choir boy.

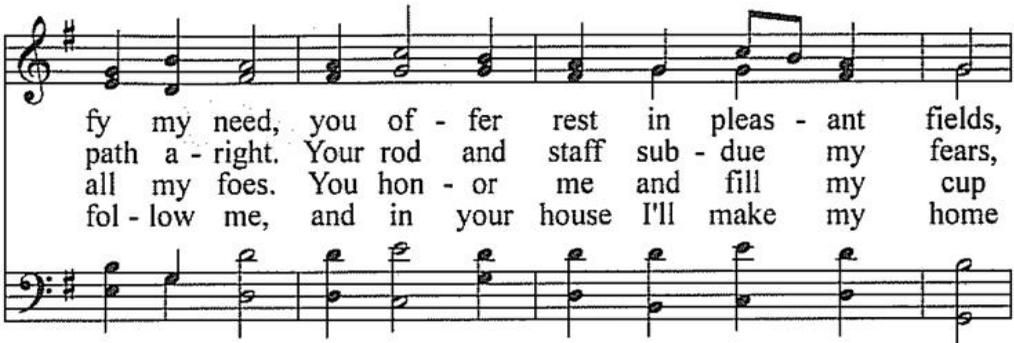
Words © 1966 Estate of Curtis Beach

SERMON HYMN

Psalm 23



1. My God, my shep-herd and my guide, you sat - is -
2. You bring my soul to peace a - gain and set my
3. You lay a ban-quet out for me in sight of
4. I know your good-ness and your love will al - ways



fy my need, you of - fer rest in pleas - ant fields,
path a - right. Your rod and staff sub - due my fears,
all my foes. You hon - or me and fill my cup
fol - low me, and in your house I'll make my home



to wat - ers calm you lead.
in dark-ness you give light.
un - til it ov - er - flows.
for all e - ter - ni - ty.

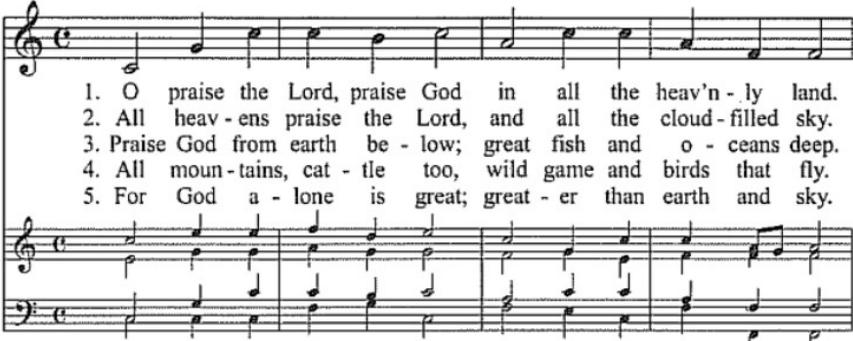
WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

LOW DUTCH

CLOSING HYMN

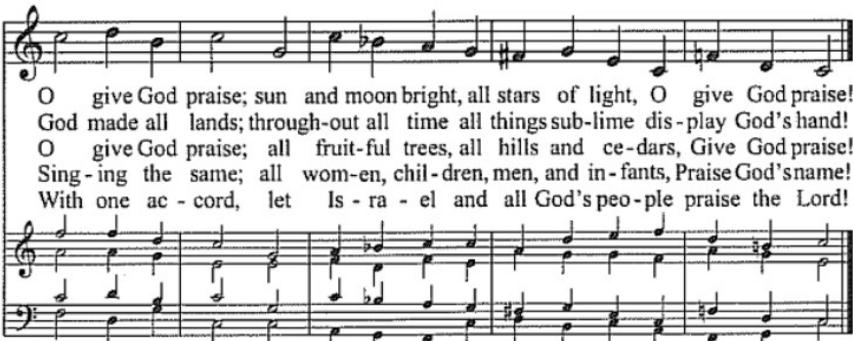
Psalm 148



1. O praise the Lord, praise God in all the heav'n - ly land.
2. All heav - ens praise the Lord, and all the cloud - filled sky.
3. Praise God from earth be - low; great fish and o - ceans deep.
4. All moun - tains, cat - tle too, wild game and birds that fly.
5. For God a - lone is great; great - er than earth and sky.



All an - gels praise our God, and all the sa - cred band.
O let them praise the Lord, for God has set them high.
Fire and hail, frost and snow, strong winds God makes to sweep.
All lead - ers of the earth, judg - es that rule on high.
God prais - es all the saints and strength - ens Is - rael's cry.



O give God praise; sun and moon bright, all stars of light, O give God praise!
God made all lands; through-out all time all things sub-lime dis-play God's hand!
O give God praise; all fruit-ful trees, all hills and ce-dars, Give God praise!
Sing - ing the same; all wom-en, chil-dren, men, and in - fants, Praise God's name!
With one ac - cord, let Is - ra - el and all God's peo-ple praise the Lord!

WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

PROPER TUNE for PSALM 148

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun who was hospitalized this past week for a blood disorder.
- We pray for the family and loved ones of longtime member and former First Church minister Cynthia Shoemaker, who died on Wednesday evening after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease.
- We pray for solace and grace for Linda and Ken Ziebell as Ken transitions from their shared home to a care facility.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux's grandmother Elsie, who is in the ICU in critical condition.
- We pray for the friends and family of Mary Hyde, a beloved Friday Café guest, who died recently in Harvard Square of unknown causes.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Joanne Paul; Linda Ziebell; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; 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 join the family of George Floyd and our nation in a sigh of relief for the guilty verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial. We pray for the family of Ma'Khia Bryant, killed by police in Columbus, OH, within the hour of the announcement of Tuesday's verdict in Minneapolis. We pray for the family of Andrew Brown, Jr., killed by police in Elizabeth City, NC. We lament and decry the ongoing impact of police brutality and killings and pray for all persons of color who continue to live in daily fear of police and racial violence.
- We pray for all those mourning and all those impacted by mass shootings. We pray for those impacted by gun violence and those lobbying for gun control legislation. We pray especially for the family of 19-year-old Xavier Louis-Jacques, who was shot and killed recently in Cambridge.
- We pray for all those impacted by hate crimes and by misogyny. We lift up all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in this time of increased threat and discrimination.
- We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines—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.
- We pray for caregivers and those they care for.
- On this Earth Sunday, we pray for our nation and our world, even as we experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- We pray for immigrants and asylum seekers at our southern border, as well as undocumented people throughout the country, who continue to live in fear as our nation struggles to develop just and compassionate policies.

EARTH SUNDAY

Multigenerational Prayer Walk to the Charles River

Today at 2:00 p.m.

Mark Earth Day with us in worship today, as we celebrate God's creation. Then, meet at 2:00 p.m. for a multigenerational in-person Prayer Walk from the First Church lawn to the Charles River. All are invited to join us for this informal gathering, where we will share readings and prayers for Creation. **The rain date for the Prayer Walk is next Sunday, May 2.**



SEXTON APPRECIATION at Zoom Coffee Hour Today

Join us at Zoom Coffee Hour today to offer our gratitude and appreciation for our hard-working Sextons, who have maintained a consistent and grounding presence at our building through this difficult year of pandemic.

They have been liaisons between the church and Newtowne School, and they have been on hand to help with Homeless Ministries activities. They have let in delivery people and contractors, and they have worked extra hard in maintaining the building's cleanliness.

While most of the staff have worked remotely for the bulk of the pandemic, the sextons have been the eyes, ears, and hands in the building. We hope you will take this time to express your thanks.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



THE FIRST CHURCH LIST: Join Now and Learn How at Zoom Coffee Hour Today

We've launched a new virtual hub for community conversation, and you're invited!

The First Church List is a listserv hosted by groups.io. It is a virtual hub for the First Church community to communicate directly with each other through email messages or online posts on topics of interest. Sign up for the List [here](#), and join us for a "how-to" session at Zoom Coffee Hour today. We hope that you will use the First Church List to:

- **Share** personal announcements and prayer requests.
- **Publicize** events sponsored by outside organizations.
- **Ask** questions or ask for help from your church community.
- **Remind** each other of church events or volunteer opportunities



GBIO LISTENING CAMPAIGN AT FIRST CHURCH: SIGN UP NOW

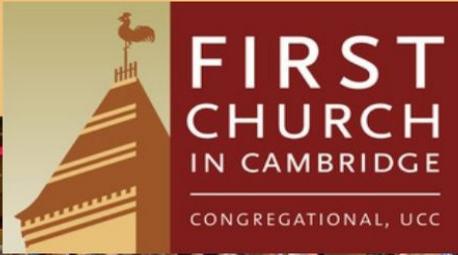
Join the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) as we begin our journey towards a new platform by listening deeply to what's on all of our hearts. First Church will host a series of Listening Sessions for small groups throughout the month of May. We'll host a large gathering with breakout rooms at the 9:30 Formation Hour on May 2, with additional small groups convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 16, 23, and 30. Sign up for a listening session [here](#).

Have a church program or event to promote? Complete the [FCC Request for Promo](#) form.

Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form.

THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, April 26

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 5:00 p.m. Reparations Accountability Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Tuesday, April 27

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

Wednesday, April 28

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, April 29

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Investments Committee, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, April 30

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

Saturday, May 1

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, May 2

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Creative Arts Workshop, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: GBIO Listening Campaign Kick-Off, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 2:00 p.m. Rain Date for Earth Day Multigenerational Prayer Walk

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.