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EASTER

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 4, 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*  
Taj Smith, *Deacon*  
Beth Spaulding, *Deacon*  
Robinson Pyle, *trumpet*  
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

### TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour with Hallelujah Chorus, [via Zoom](#)  
1:00 p.m. Young Adults' Easter Picnic, Cambridge Common

### 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](http://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](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org) • [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)

 /firstchurchcambridge  /FirstChurchInCambridge  /c/FirstChurchInCambridge

## A TIME FOR WELCOME

*To celebrate Easter Communion, we invite you to have on hand a cup of juice and a bit of bread.*

### VOLUNTARY

Concerto in B-Flat Major

G. F. Handel

### \*GREETING

Taj Smith

L: Siblings in the Spirit, wherever you are,  
grace and peace to you this Easter Day!

**C: And to the whole world, peace, love, and light.**

L: Indeed, there is a time for every purpose under heaven:

**C: shadow and sunrise,**

L: despair and hope,

**C: the hallowed silence of death**

L: and the trumpet sounds of new life.

**All: Today is a time for rejoicing!**

L: Open your hearts, and proclaim the ancient and new Easter declaration:  
Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen, indeed!**

**All. Alleluia! Amen!**

*Friends, today is a time for rising and rejoicing! Rise now, wherever you are,  
and let the Spirit join our hearts in singing, seeing each other, across every time and space!*

### \*HYMN 205

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

(see page 4)

### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### ANTHEM

No One Has Seen His Face

Margaret Bonds

*Beth Spaulding, soprano*

*Margaret Bonds (1913-1972) was one of the first Black composers  
to gain recognition in the United States.*

## A TIME FOR CHRIST'S PEACE

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

### \*EASTER PEACE

L: ... How do we accept this gift?  
Our only response can be "Alleluia!"  
Rejoice, and say it with me:

**C: Alleluia! Christ's peace is ours forever!**

## **A TIME FOR GOD’S WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

#### **READING**

Luke 24: 36-49

#### **SERMON**

Dan Smith

#### **\*HYMN C-22**

Come and Taste of Resurrection

*(see page 5)*

## **A TIME FOR COMMUNITY**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **EASTER PRAYERS**

Jaz Buchanan

## **A TIME FOR GIVING**

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

#### **\*EASTER DOXOLOGY**

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

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **A TIME FOR GOD’S FEAST**

### **INVITATION**

### **REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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.*

## COMMUNION MOTET

O Sacrum Convivium  
*First Church Choir, 2019 and 2021*

Thomas Pavlechko

## 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, the will to serve you every day,  
and risen life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## A TIME FOR BLESSING AND SENDING

**\*HYMN 209**

Alleluia, the Strife is O'er

*(see page 6)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

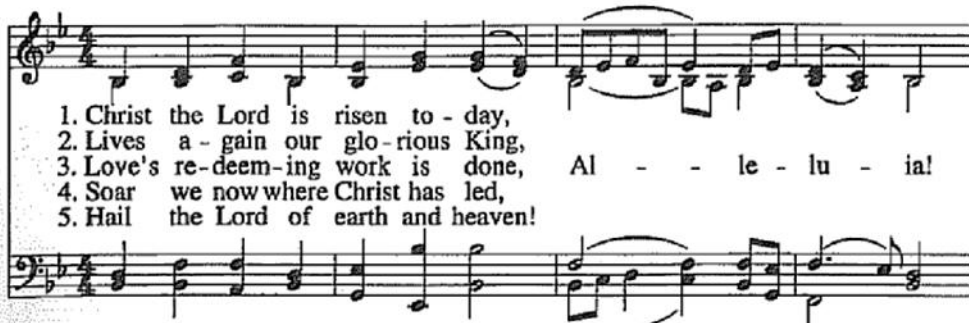
La Vaillance

G. P. Telemann

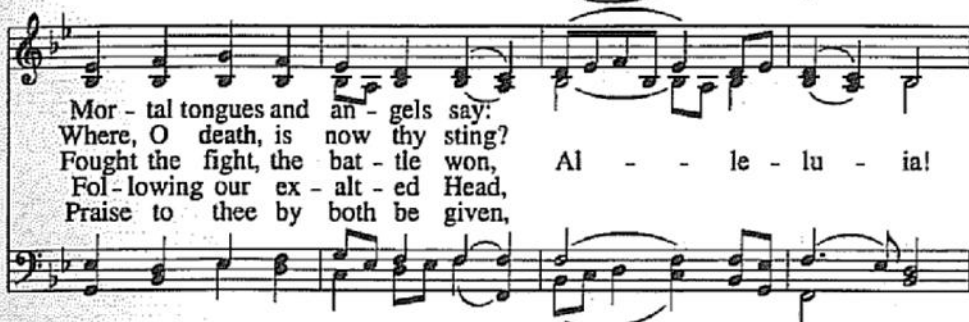
**EASTER ZOOM FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS**

# OPENING HYMN

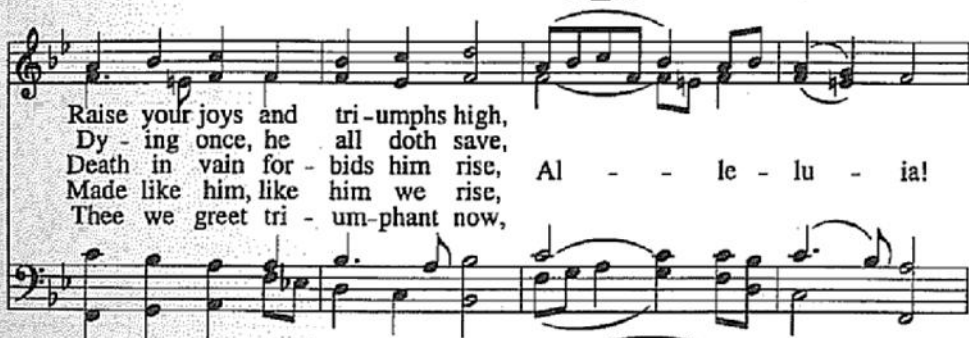
## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,  
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,  
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led,  
 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,  
 Praise to thee by both be given,



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
 Dy - ing once, he all doth save,  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like him, like him we rise,  
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now,



Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?  
 Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,  
 Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

FASTER HYMN

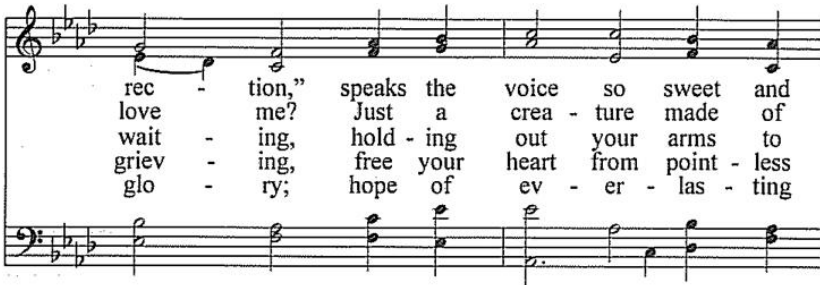


# SERMON HYMN

## Come and Taste of Resurrection



1. "Come and taste of Re - sur -  
 2. Who am I that you should  
 3. Yet you stand here watch - ing,  
 4. "Put a way then all your  
 5. Christ, your name is glo - ry,



rec - tion," speaks the voice so sweet and  
 love me? Just a crea - ture made of  
 wait - ing, hold - ing out your arms to  
 griev - ing, free your heart from point - less  
 glo - ry; hope of ev - er - las - ting



clear: "Rise and take a new di - rec - tion; if you  
 earth. Ev - ery mor - tal frag - ment of me shrinks a -  
 me, si - lent an - swer em - an - at - ing—"Love lasts  
 strife. Be not fear - ful but be - liev - ing: Now be -  
 grace: Deep in this un - fold - ing sto - ry we have



trust me, have no fear."  
 way from such re - birth.  
 an e - ter - ni - ty."  
 gins e - ter - nal life."  
 glimpsed Love face to face.

Our concept of healing is broad:

the love of God in us as  
 "earthen vessels"  
 bringing about wholeness of mind,  
 body and soul;  
 reconciliation with God,  
 with others,  
 with our deepest selves;  
 healing of the environment  
 and of the world's hurts.

Marjorie Williams

WORDS: Kate Layzer

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

*Come and Taste of Resurrection* was commissioned by and is dedicated to Paula Stanley, Deacon of First Church, who for many years coordinated healing services.

# CLOSING HYMN

## Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er



1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -
2. The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
3. The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
4. Christ, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread



ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
le - gions hath dis - persed; let shouts of ho - ly  
glo - rious from the dead; all glo - ry to our  
sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and



has be - gun:  
joy out - burst:  
ris - en Head!  
sing to thee:

Al - le - lu - ia!





## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We celebrate with First Church Nursery Coordinator Lily Worth upon the arrival of Sullivan Stewart Worth, born on April 1. Mother and baby are happy and healthy; Sully's father Jim and big sister Annie are thrilled.
- We celebrate with Caroline Newton and her family as they share the news that her father Ron Paquette's lymphoma has been treated successfully, and he is now cancer free. They are grateful for all the prayers and support of this community.
- We pray for Moana Bentin and her family as they mourn the loss of Moana's sister Katie Bentin-Aimaasu. Katie died recently 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 recently died in his sleep.
- 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; 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. 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 last Friday 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 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 caregivers and for those they care for.
- 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.

## EASTER FLOWERS

*Today's Easter flowers are given  
in celebration and in loving memory of:*

Katie Bentin-Aimaasu  
Donald Beaty Bloch  
Marie Halun Bloch  
Dudne M. Breeze  
Alan & Margaret Broughton  
Sue Butler  
John Cairns  
Lincoln Clark Jr.  
Frank Dorman  
Lois Gagnebin Dresser  
Marval & Ruby Evans  
Justus John Fennel  
Charles Lincoln Gagnebin  
Louis & Charlotte Gagnebin  
Hannah Gilbert  
Wells Grogan  
Allen Happe & Judy McConnell  
C. William Higginbotham  
James & Elizabeth Holtzworth  
Mary Louise Hoff  
Alyson Marie Hopkins  
Doris Keyes Hopkins  
John Milton Hopkins  
Edie Howe  
Ruth Hsiao

Brian James  
Janyce Jennings  
Laura & Harold Jensen  
Janet Johnson  
Ted & Martha Kemble  
John Kiley  
Wilder Daniel Leisher  
Phil & Ann Matthews  
Anne Folkes Miller  
Charles Bruce Miller  
Odo & Vinka Montesi  
Florence Ruth Moran  
Susie Moran  
Henry Nevin  
Bill Newton  
Cleone Pelton  
Harland Riker  
Mick Schettler  
Albert A Smith  
Minnie Taylor  
Michael Wall  
Pauly West  
HC Yip  
Lillian Zoller



*In memory of Cantabrigians lost to  
COVID-19*

*"To all I have served this year"  
(Beth Loomis, hospital chaplain)*

You are invited to come by the church  
between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. today to  
pick up a potted flower plant to spread  
Easter joy. Plants will be arranged on  
on the walkway to our 11 Garden St.  
entrance.

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

With the blessing of our Deacons and other church leaders, our hard-working worship staff will be taking vacation the week after Easter, including Sunday, April 11. Worship and program 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. Then, join our Deacons at a 1:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour to reflect on our experiences. Read all the details and find links to suggested church services [here](#).

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

**THE FIRST CHURCH LIST: JOIN NOW** 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.

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.

Check your email inbox for an invitation from "FirstChurchList@groups.io" — there are instructions for creating your account, as well as community guidelines for using the List. If you haven't received an email by Easter afternoon, [sign up here](#).

**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. [Read more](#) 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.

**EARTH STEWARDSHIP WORSHIP & ACTIVITIES Sunday April 25** Plan to mark Earth Day with us in a worship service celebrating God's creation and a Prayer Walk to the Charles River in the afternoon. Stay tuned for more details.

*Have a program or event to promote? [Complete this form](#) to submit your request.*



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

*Worship and program staff will be away. In case of emergency, please contact the staff person on call at: (857) 285-2097*

**Monday, April 5**

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, [via Zoom](#)
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:30 p.m. GBIO Core Team Meeting, [via Zoom](#)

**Tuesday, April 6**

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, [via Zoom](#)
- 4:00 p.m. Professional Caregivers' Call, [via Zoom](#)
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

**Wednesday, April 7**

- 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics Bible Study: Luke and Acts, [via Zoom](#)

**Thursday, April 8**

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, [via Zoom](#)

**Friday, April 9**

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

**Saturday, April 10**

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

**Sunday, April 11**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: A Practice of Compassionate Listening with Alex Steinert-Evoy, [via Zoom](#)
- All Morning Attend worship around the country. (see suggestions [here](#))
- 1:00 p.m. Coffee Hour with Deacons: a time to reflect on worship experiences, [via Zoom](#)

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