

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.

Sunday, May 2, 2021

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

Preaching Today Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Assisting in Worship Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Nora Willcutts, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*
Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: GBIO Listening Campaign Kick-Off, [via Zoom](#)
9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Creative Arts Workshop, [via Zoom](#)
11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
12:15 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
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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617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

 /firstchurchcambridge  /FirstChurchInCambridge  /c/FirstChurchInCambridge

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Pastorale

César Franck

*HYMN 226

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Nora Willcutts

- 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 AND CANDLELIGHTING

Nora Willcutts and Sarah Higginbotham

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lead Me, Lord

Wesley, Hymn 271



Lead me, Lord, Lead me in thy right - eous-ness,
make Thy way plain be - fore my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, on - ly, that
mak - est me dwell in safe - - - ty.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Acts 8:26-40

SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

*HYMN 384

We, Your People, God, Confessing

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jaz Buchanan

MINISTRY MOMENT

Sally O'Brien

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

SHARING THE 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 be 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 wherever you are. May there be no barriers to participation in this meal, in this holy communion!

COMMUNION MOTET

Panis Angelicus
First Church Choir, 2018

Camille Saint-Saëns

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –
for 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.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 445**

Be Thou My Vision

(see page 6)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Elevation

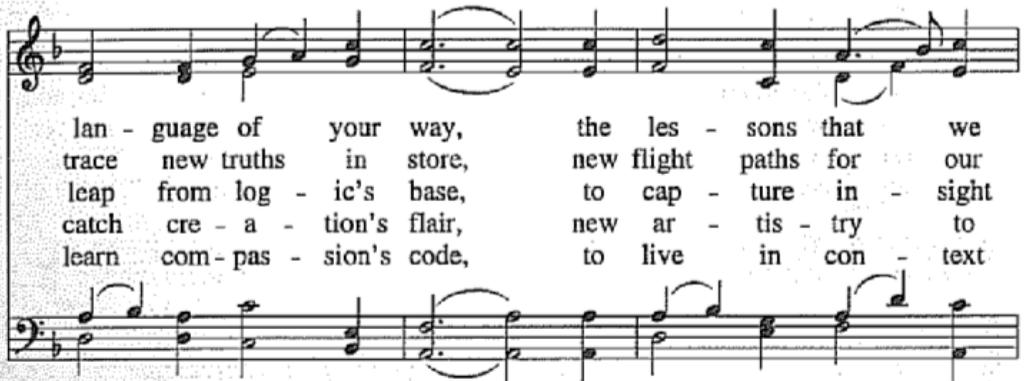
Dom Paul Benoit

OPENING HYMN

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God



1. Come, teach us, Spir - it of our God, the
2. Ex - cite our minds to fol - low you, to
3. En - gage our wits to dance with you, to
4. In - spire our spark to light from you, to
5. De - light our hearts to wor - ship you, to



lan - guage of your way, the les - sons that we
trace new truths in store, new flight paths for our
leap from log - ic's base, to cap - ture in - sight
catch cre - a - tion's flair, new ar - tis - try to
learn com - pas - sion's code, to live in con - text



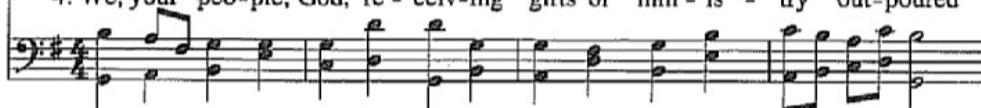
need to live, the faith for ev - ery day.
spir - it space, new mar - vels to ex - plore.
on the wing, to sense your cos - mic grace.
cel - e - brate, new har - mo - nies to dare.
of your love, great teach - er who is God!

SERMON HYMN

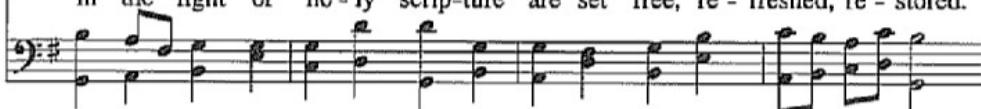
We, Your People, God, Confessing



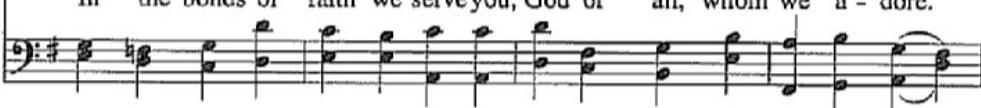
1. We, your peo-ple, God, con-fess-ing Je-sus Christ your Son as Lord,
2. We, your peo-ple, God, re-joic-ing in your vast cre-a-tive power,
3. We, your peo-ple, God, com-mun-ing through the Ho-ly Spir-it, here,
4. We, your peo-ple, God, re-ceive-ing gifts of min-is-try out-poured



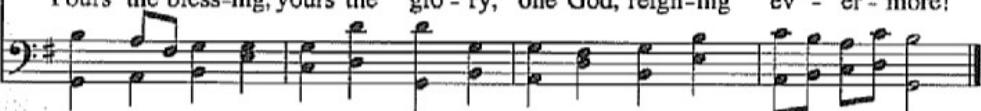
gath-er here in com-mon wor-ship prais-ing your In-car-nate Word.
bind our-selves, each with the oth-er, cov-e-nant in love this hour.
joined to-gether as dis-ci-ples, in o-be-dience now draw near.
in the light of ho-ly scrip-ture are set free, re-freshed, re-stored.



Through the power of Christ with-in us we are strength-ened to pro-claim
Through bap-tis-mal rite we en-ter, ris-ing, new-ly born to be
At the ta-ble where the em-blems of Christ's sac-ri-fice are spread,
In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of all, whom we a-dore.



gos-pel truth in wit-ness, ser-vice of-fered in Christ's ho-ly name.
u-ni-fied with your whole peo-ple here in per-fect lib-er-ty.
here we cel-e-brate his pres-ence with the cup and bro-ken bread.
Yours the bless-ing, yours the glo-ry, one God, reign-ing ev-er-more!



CLOSING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

nought be all else to me save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my Re - deem - er, my love thou hast won;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Rul - er of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We joyfully celebrate with Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux, who was unanimously approved for ordination in the United Church of Christ at her Ecclesiastical Council on April 22.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun, who is recovering at home after a recent hospitalization and diagnosis of a rare blood disorder.
- We pray for the family and loved ones of longtime member and former First Church minister Cynthia Shoemaker, who died on April 21 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 and settles into a care facility in Bedford.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux's grandmother Elsie, who has transitioned from the ICU to a rehab facility with palliative care.
- We pray for Connie Gagnebin and her family as they mourn the loss of Connie's mother Nancy Clark, who died last week at the age of 100.
- 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.
- We pray for the people of India in the midst of a terrifying pandemic surge, that they may receive all possible assistance to treat the sick and bring infections under control; and for the global community, that they may offer prompt and effective support.
- 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 recent 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 the verdict in Minneapolis. We pray for the family of Andrew Brown, Jr., killed last week by police in Elizabeth City, NC. We pray for the family of Mario Gonzalez, killed two weeks ago by police in Alameda, CA. 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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.
- We pray for our nation and our world 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.

Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.



*Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.*

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

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



All Ages Welcome

MULTIGENERATIONAL PRAYER WALK TODAY 2:00 p.m., meet at First Church lawn Join with other FCC folks of all ages for a multigenerational in-person Prayer Walk from the First Church lawn to the Charles River. Postponed from last Sunday, we look forward to this informal gathering, where we will share readings and prayers for Creation.



GBIO Listening Campaign is underway!

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



Upcoming Adult Formation Series

MEETING GOD IN OUR BODIES: AN EXPLORATION OF QUEER AND WOMANIST/FEMINIST THEOLOGIES Sundays, May 9 & 16, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Join Jaz Buchanan, Taj Smith, Lexi Boudreaux, and Karlene Griffiths Sekou for a two-part Adult Formation series on how our theology meets us in our bodies. We will be exploring how our theology affects our perception and understanding of our bodies and what that has to do with our collective liberation. At our first session on May 9, Jaz, Lexi, and Taj will lead a discussion based in feminist and queer theologies. At our second session on May 16, Lexi and Karlene will approach the topic through the lens of womanist theology.



Upcoming Young Adults' Gathering

YOUNG ADULTS' WALK TO SPY POND Sunday, May 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m., meet at entrance to Minuteman Bikeway at Alewife Station Join the Young Adults for a walk to a beautiful pond- side park in Arlington. We'll walk, catch up, and maybe toss a frisbee around, too. All "young adults," from recent high school grads and up, are invited! And mark your calendars: our next walk will be Saturday, May 29. Questions? Contact Phil (youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org).

Find more events and news on our website: firstchurchcambridge.org



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 3

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:30 p.m. Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Core Team, via Zoom

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

Tuesday, May 4

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. FCC Caregivers' Call, via Zoom

Committee meeting links
are provided to committee
members via email.

Wednesday, May 5

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics Bible Study: Luke and Acts, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Financial Operations Subcommittee, via Zoom

Thursday, May 6

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

Friday, May 7

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

Saturday, May 8

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

Sunday, May 9

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Meeting God in Our Bodies, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Children's Book Corner, via YouTube Premiere
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Newcomers' Gathering

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