

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

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
October 18, 2020

Preaching TodayDan Smith, Senior Minister

Assisting in Worship
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach
Laurie Williams, First Church member
Issa Bibbins, guest musician
Joe Welker, for the First Church Shelter and technical support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

October 18, 2020

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 407 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Laurie Williams

L: Siblings in the Spirit, wherever you are, hear God's call to come in and come back!

C: Come into the warmth of this community of healing and justice.

L: Come into this shared space of solace and hope!

C: Come in and be in the presence of God who loves you no matter what.

L: Return to the gifts of wisdom and Sabbath rest.

C: Return to awareness of your God-given beauty and the beauty of all creation.

L: Return to this table set by God, where there is room and hope and life for us all!

C: Friends, gather in this place of grounding, growing and acting!

All: And let us give glory and praise to God,

the fount and source of every blessing!

WORDS OF WELCOME

CANDLELIGHTING

ANTHEM Hush (Somebody's Calling My Name)

traditional

Laurie Williams, voice; Issa Bibbins, piano

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jaz Buchanan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: Loving God, forgive us when we lose our way,

and lead us back to yours.

Lead us from separation to connection, from guilt to responsibility,

from judgment to wonder, from anger to compassion,

from sorrow to joy, from fear to love,

from the unreal to the real, from death to new life!

Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SERMON

Sarah Higginbotham

Dan Smith

Don Moen

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Exodus 33:12-23

READING Matthew 22: 15-22

*HYMN To God Who Sits on the Throne

To God who sits on the throne and unto the Lamb,

To God who sits on the throne and unto the Lamb,

Be blessing and glory and honor and power forever!

Be blessing and glory and honor and power forever!

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT FOR SHELTER LECTURE & AWARDS

Joe Welker

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray... (silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer 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.

*INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kate Layzer

You may give online from your bank account <u>at our website</u> or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN Glory, Glory Hallelujah traditional

Glory, glory, hallelujah since I laid my burden down! (twice)

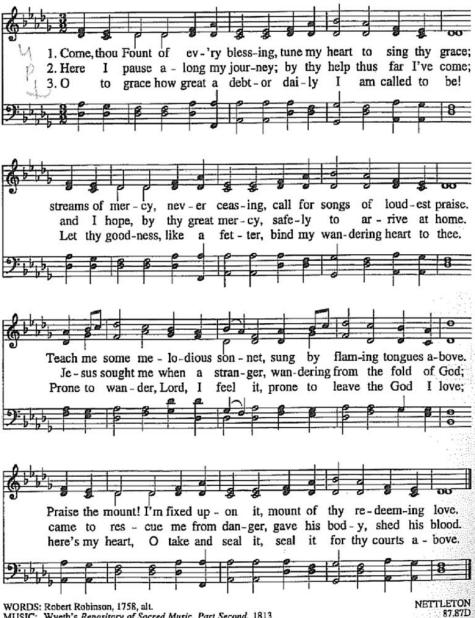
Binding up the broken hearted since I laid my burden down! (twice)

Glory, glory, hallelujah since I laid my burden down! (twice)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 407



MUSIC: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

Robinson, an English barber, became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and, later, a Baptist minister. His text has been sung to this American folk tune since 1813.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For George Williams, whose aunt Mattie Greer died recently of Covid-related complications.
- For Carrie Armsby and her family, including Sarah, Emmett, and Auggie Neill, as they mourn the loss of Carrie's mother Marcella Campbell, who died unexpectedly last week.
- For Dean Eaton and Abby Shuman, as Dean continues to recover from a recent surgery.
- For Annika Johnson and her daughter Freja who are grieving the unexpected loss of Annika's husband and Freja's father, Brian Johnson.
- For Margaret Gooch, with blessings for safe travels and a smooth transition to her new Hattiesburg, MS home, where she expects to keep virtually connected to First Church.
- For Mary Martha Thiel, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- For all those on the West Coast who have been displaced by the recent wildfires, and for the safety and health of farmworkers working amid the triple threat of heat, wildfire smoke, and COVID-19.
- For all those impacted by recent unrest in Armenia and Azerbaijan and who are living in war-torn regions or amidst political violence.
- For all those grieving the loss of family or friends to police violence. We pray for those rallying for reform and for a new birth of racial justice and healing across our land.
- As the COVID-19 death toll reaches 1 million worldwide, we pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones; for all those who are ill and their families; and for all of us who are navigating this strange new world, that we may receive God's comfort, strength, and peace.
- For all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and former First Church member Nancy Sanders.
- For the 14 men who are finding care in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Café, who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption.
- For those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for tranquility for immigrants who live in constant fear and anxiety. And we pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- For God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis. May God empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and for the poor around the world who are most affected by our inaction.

If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Dan Smith or Sarah Higginbotham by Tuesday morning,

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

WELCOME BACK TO ISSA BIBBINS We are delighted to welcome back Issa Bibbins as our guest musician this morning. Special thanks as well to First Church member Laurie Williams, this morning's soloist. For those who would like to learn more about and share support for Issa's music, please visit www.pearlfortheworld.com and be sure to subscribe to his YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/c/IssaBibbins. Help him reach 1000 subscribers!

FORMATION HOUR: PLYMOUTH'S PILGRIMS PART 4 Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Join hosts Dave Dyer and Hilary Hopkins at the 9:30 Hour for this fourth and final exploration of the Pilgrims at Plymouth entitled "They Were Congregationalists." There will be history, questions and discussion; if you would like to do some brief reading ahead of time, find the material at: congregationallibrary.org/PlymouthsPilgrims.

Click here to join directly or go to zoom.us and "join a meeting" using the following information:

Meeting ID: 869 6902 6288 Passcode: 372484

Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

REMOTE CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom and YouTube Premiere Our age-based classes will meet today. All classes should join the Church School Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Then, several classes will watch videos together at 9:45 a.m. on our YouTube channel. Please use the links below to participate.

Church School Zoom

<u>Click here to join directly</u> or go to <u>zoom.us</u> and "join a meeting" using the following information:

Meeting ID: 897 8647 6898

Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

Godly Play Alpha (preschool - 1st grade) - <u>click here</u> to watch your story. Godly Play Omega (2nd - 4th grade) - <u>click here</u> to watch your story.

Bible 101 (5th/6th grade) - click here to watch your mini-lesson.

Faith & Social Justice (7th/8th grade) - no video today; join via Zoom.

FIRST CHURCH VOTER FORUM Today, 12:15 pm, via Zoom For our third Sunday Racial Justice Zoom Coffee Hour, we'll be hosting a conversation about issues related to our upcoming election. We will be joined by Seema Khan, a representative of the Ranked Choice Voting Campaign, who will share about the racial and social justice implications of Ballot Question 2 and answer any questions you may have. In addition, members of our Earth Stewardship will review and invite us all to take UCC Creation Care Voter Pledge (see following page). Join us, learn, and make a voting plan, if you haven't already!

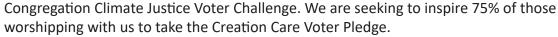
<u>Click here to join directly</u> or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 870 8280 8388 Passcode: AfterCh

Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

- Ten million registered voters who selected the environment as their #1 priority did not vote in 2016.
- Be the Change in 2020!
- Better environmental policies depend on getting everyone who cares about the environment to vote their values:
 - 1. Become a Creation Care Voter and prioritize caring for God's creation in how you vote: I pledge to vote my values
 - 2. First Church has already joined



3. Get the word out! Your witness will inspire others to make the same commitment!





STROLLING FOR SOLACE PART 2 Today, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge The Deacons invite you to a walk through Mt. Auburn Cemetery this afternoon. As before, no need to sign up - just come and walk! If the weather does not cooperate, we will reschedule to next weekend. We look forward to seeing you! You can park in the lot just to the left of the entrance, or on Mt. Auburn St. We will meet at the chapel just in front of the entrance. Beth Spaulding's cell phone number is 781-724-7549. Yesterday's walk was moved to its raindate, next Saturday, October 24. Meet at the Sherman St. parking lot entrance to Danehy Park at 10:00 a.m.; the contact Deacon on Saturday is Nora Willcutts, 617-230-0388.

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

FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR OUR ELECTION As our nation anticipates this momentous election, we offer several times to come together to share our hearts, our hopes, our fears, and our prayers. From now through the election (at least), First Church staff and lay leaders will be hosting thrice-weekly prayers calls over zoom to help center us, settle us, and ground us in God's presence and love. We know that many of us are working as hard as we can in voter turnout and other civic engagement efforts to ensure a just election in which every vote counts. We hope this will be a time that offers us grace and courage "for the facing of this hour." The 30-minute calls will be held on Mondays at 8:00 a.m., Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m., and Wednesdays at noon through election week.

Monday 8:00 a.m. Prayer Call (Meeting ID: 825 0796 0058 Passcode: election)

<u>Tuesday 4:30 p.m. Prayer Call</u> (Meeting ID: 874 7316 7735 Passcode: election)

Wednesday noon Prayer Call (Meeting ID: 895 5332 7974 Passcode: election)

STEWARDSHIP 2021 - THE CALL TO GIVE Our Stewardship Committee is launching its first multi-media campaign! As part of the campaign, we are sending weekly emails beginning Tuesday, October 20, theologically reflecting on our individual callings and on our calling as a church community to give. Rather than mailing a stewardship booklet and pledge card to be returned on Pledge Sunday, this year we are encouraging our church community to review the weekly emails and to pledge early (and vote early)! Looking ahead, on Sundays, November 1 and 8, at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom, join the Stewardship and Finance committees to celebrate our many ministries' work this past year and to look ahead to the future as we dream with God and our Saints. On November 1, we will draw inspiration from our Saints as we review our 2021 proposed budget and on November 8, we will ground our call to give in our spiritual and prayerful decisions. How do we know how much to pledge? How do I pledge online? On Sunday, November 22, we will consecrate our pledges and our gifts during our livestream service. The Fall Congregational Meeting will follow worship on that day, where we will review and vote on the 2021 church budget.

CALL FOR PICTURE BOOK READERS Do you enjoy reading picture books aloud? Sarah Higginbotham is looking for volunteers to video-record themselves reading aloud a book from our Children's Book Corner. On each second Sunday of the month, several "read-aloud" videos will premiere on our YouTube channel for our children to watch during the 9:30 Formation Hour. Sarah will deliver books to your door and talk you through the recording and uploading process. Please contact Sarah to offer your reading gifts to our Church School.

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

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FALL AT FIRST CHURCH

listening sessions to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS All are welcome to participate as leaders in worship via video; click here to access the signup sheet. Put your name and contact information next to the piece of the service you want to lead, and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! Thank you for making online church feel like church! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Our channel now has over 100 subscribers! Check out our 11 separate playlists and over 60 videos. Listen to sermons, play music, watch Godly Play stories, enjoy children's picturebooks, or tune in to conversations on racial justice. Subscribe now so you don't miss anything! The link to the channel is: https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av



RACIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES



First Church members and friends are actively working for racial justice and equity, while also learning how to frame anti-racism as central to our Christian faith.

A CALL TO RETURN: SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICTE As we seek to sustain and grow the work of remembrance, repentance and reparations, we need an ever-deeper reliance on God and on the hoped-filled resources of faith tradition. Community Minister for Racial Justice Carlyle Stewart hosts a series of town hall meetings and weekly sessions that address how our activism for racial justice and equity is grounded in our faith. Check our Racial Justice Ministries playlist on our YouTube Channel every week for new recordings of the Wednesday evening sessions, as well as any Sunday afternoon town hall meetings. Find new videos here or on our Facebook page every Friday. The group will take a break on October 21 and will resume weekly meetings on October 28.

FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS Current Faith & Life groups focused on race and racism include "Feeling Newer To Conversations About Race?," "Stamped - Multigenerational Re-Mix," and a "Reparations Accountability Group," which has been exploring a practice of reparations for individuals and institutions and holding one another accountable for personal commitments to repair.

CALLS TO ACTION First Church is a member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), whose mission is "to build power by developing local leaders so we can act together on issues that matter to our communities." GBIO currently supports legislation in the Massachusetts legislature to promote more police accountability. Visit GBIO's website here. First Church staff and members are also active in the Poor People's Campaign, a national grassroots movement that calls for activism to fight systemic racism, as part of its "Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Poor People's Moral Agenda." Visit the Poor People's Campaign website here.





RACIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

SHORT TAKES ON ANTI-RACISM: Suggestions by First Church's Beloved Community Group

THE LIE THAT INVENTED RACISM

A TEDx Talk by journalist and documentarian John Biewen TEDx Charlottesville, November 2019.





National Public Radio Interview with <u>Historian Ibram X. Kendi of Boston University</u> on *How To Be An Antiracist* NPR, October 30, 2019.

HISTORYTHON: A WALKATHON TO SUPPORT EDUCATION ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICAN

HISTORY First Church member Deb Cunningham invites you to join Primary Source, a Watertown-based nonprofit that supports K-12 educators, in HistoryThon: a walkathon on your own schedule to help "pave the way to understanding." *Anytime between October 10 and November 11*, participate by exploring walks, trails, and sites of historical importance to the African American experience, selected from a list provided at registration. As you walk, you are invited to raise funds to support Primary Source's work. The organization is trying to answer urgent calls from teachers for classroom-ready resources about African American history by digitally publishing their *Making Freedom: African Americans in U.S. History* sourcebook series. It's an invaluable trove of curricular resources for teachers that explores the role and agency of African Americans in shaping our nation from 1600 through today. To register, please visit: www.primarysource.org.

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham

(shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays

to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.

HOMELESS MINISTRIES



SIGN UP TO MAKE BAG LUNCHES FOR THE FRIDAY CAFÉ! Each week, we hand out 100+ bag lunches to neighbors in need. Each contains a sandwich, a piece of fruit, a snack, and something to drink. This is an especially fun activity to do with kids: collecting the ingredients, decorating the bags, making sandwiches, and assembling the lunches. Visit https://signup.com/go/rfHdKHr to claim your spot in the schedule. Thanks!

REMEMBER THE FOOD PANTRY for which donations continue to be welcomed and needed. Proteins, fruits/veggies, cereals. Nothing already open or in glass, please. Leave at any time in boxes on Hilary's porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, .25 mile up Garden St. Winslow is just off Sherman past the firehouse, on the left. Provide a lifeline for your neighbors in need.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, October 18

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Plymouth's Pilgrims Part IV, via Zoom

9:30 a.m. Church School Classes (preK-8th grade), via YouTube & Zoom

11:00 a.m. Live-stream Morning Worship

Dan Smith, preaching, Issa Bibbins and Laurie Williams, leading music

12:15 p.m. Voter Forum Zoom Coffee Hour

2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet at DeCordova Museum, weather permitting

Monday, October 19

5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

5:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, October 20

4:00 p.m. FCC Caregivers' Call, via Zoom

5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Shelter Committee, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. "Relational God" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 21

8:30 a.m. "Stamped - Multigenerational Re-Mix" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom

5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

6:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, October 22

4:30 p.m. Reflection Group on Rohr's Daily Devotionals, via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom

7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, October 23

12:00 p.m. "Dancing with God" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

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

Saturday, October 24

5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, October 25

9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Godly Play, via YouTube & Zoom

9:30 a.m. Bible 101 (5th/6th grade) and Faith & Social Justice (7th/8th grade),

via You Tube & Zoom

11:00 a.m. Live-stream Morning Worship, Joining Sunday

Jaz Buchanan, preaching

12:30 p.m. First Church Shelter Mitch Snyder Lecture & Awards, via Zoom

Zoom invitations to many of our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning.

Committee Chairs and Faith & Life Group Leaders have sent Zoom invitations to registered participants.

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer

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Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,

George Williams, Kimel Williams

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Would you like to give to First Church in Cambridge? Here are easy ways to do it:



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

