



ADVENT

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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

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 November 29, 2020

Preaching Today
Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Assisting in Worship
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Peter Sykes, Music Director
Beth Spaulding, Co-Chair of Deacons
Joe Welker, tech support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland J. S. Bach

INTROIT O Come, O Come Emmanuel

THE WORD OF GOD Isaiah 40:1-5 Dan Smith

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING Lexi Boudreaux

L: God, we light this first candle of Advent.
We kindle it with hope.

**C: May that hope sustain us in this time,
and guide us in our work for compassion and justice.**

***HYMN 115** Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People *(see page 4)*

***GREETING** Beth Spaulding

L: Together, we gather in God's love from wherever we are,

C: from sanctuaries near and far, yet still as one body of faith.

L: We still our minds and hearts in this moment God has given us.

**C: Returning to the first day of creation
when God created the heavens and earth,
light and dark, and said that it was all good,**

L: gather now and find wisdom in the dark and in the light that God created.

C: Find grace in the shadows and dimly lit corners of life.

L: Find strength in the waiting and in all the sacred mysteries among us.

C: Come now, and let us prepare the way for God's glory revealed!

***WORDS OF WELCOME**

ANTHEM Comfort Ye Katherine K. Davis
Beth Spaulding, soprano

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION Jaz Buchanan

SILENCE

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: **God, help us to remember that you are always present with us.
You are present in the darkness: in the comfort and quiet amid the unrest,
You are present in the light: in the hope and clarity amid the uncertainty,
Be with us now, as we welcome both the light that shines
and the darkness that gives it life, recentering ourselves within you.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

SONG

**Give me light in the darkness, light in the darkness,
light in the darkness to sing my soul awake.**
(sing through twice)

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 1: 26-38

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 123

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (verses 1 and 2)

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Kate Layzer

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

***ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

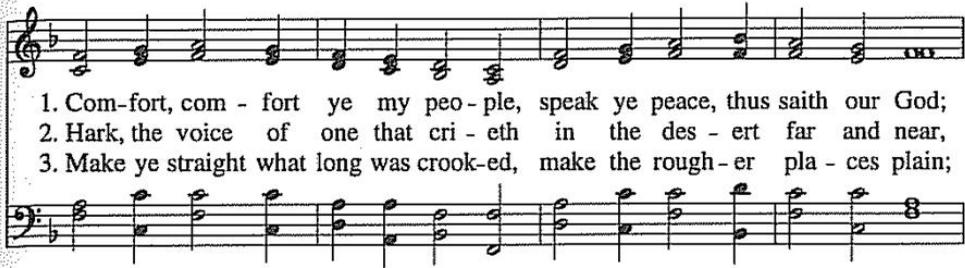
***HYMN 116** People, Look East (verses 1, 3, and 4) *(see page 6)*

***BENEDICTION**

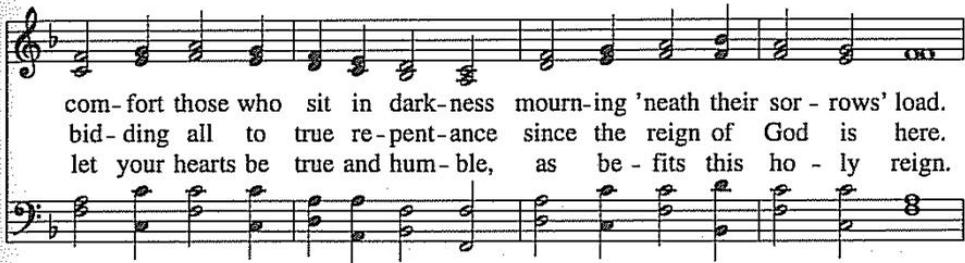
VOLUNTARY From Heaven Above To Earth I Come J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



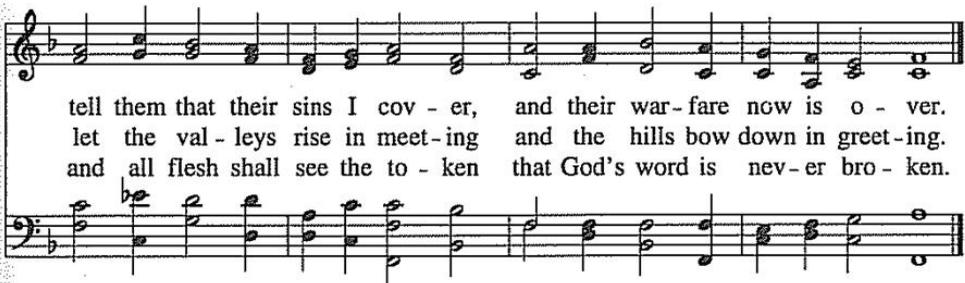
1. Com-fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,
3. Make ye straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
bid - ding all to true re - pent-ance since the reign of God is here.
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits this ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johann Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

PSALM 42
87.87.77.88

SERMON HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

verses 1 and 2

→ 1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, with
 → 2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be, all
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born in

wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame; "All
 gen - er - a - tions praise and hon - or thee, thy
 me be as it pleas - eth God," she said. "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, and

hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry," Most
 son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name." Most
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say: Most

high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

WORDS: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834 - 1924), alt.
 MUSIC: Basque carol; harm. Anthony Prower, 1989, adapt.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE
 10 10.12 10

CLOSING HYMN

People, Look East

verses 1, 3, and 4

→ 1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 → 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 → 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 that in course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day -
 Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, *The Oxford Book of Carols*, 1928
 MUSIC: French carol; harm. Barry Rose, 1980

BESANÇON
87.98.87

PRAYERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

- We pray for Devin Hansen, who is recovering after an emergency appendectomy on Monday.
- We pray for former First Church Sexton Tina Jenner, who is in the hospital for an infection in her back, even as she prepares for hip surgery.
- We pray for Giselle Korn, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 at school in Utah.
- We pray for Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel, whose daughter Sarah has been hospitalized and is undergoing tests for a serious medical illness.
- We pray for former First Church member Stew Sanders and his family as they mourn the loss of his wife Nancy Sanders, also a longtime FCC member, who died last week.
- We pray for Jim Roche, who is recovering from a recent heart procedure.
- We pray for Caroline Newton's father Ron Paquette, who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- We pray for Denis Collet, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law, who is recovering from recent surgery.
- We pray 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; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all who are experiencing significant loneliness in isolation as we keep physical distance from each other during this holiday season. We pray for strength and God's peace as we continue to live in uncertain and scary times.
- As the death toll from COVID-19 continues to rise, we pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We pray for health care professionals and essential workers, that they may know they are supported and cared for.
- We pray for all impacted by the devastation and loss of life left in the wake of two major hurricanes, Eta and Iota, especially in areas hardest hit in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding warmth and sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and for the guests of the Friday Cafe, who are finding food and fellowship and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.
- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for solace and security for immigrants and all those who live in constant fear and anxiety over their status in this country. We also pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We pray that God may grant us the strength to confront and combat the many realities of the climate crisis, and that we and our leaders may be empowered to take bold steps to care for God's creation. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.

ADVENT BANNERS

This Advent, thanks to a generous donation from Andrea Seek and Laurie Williams, we are featuring three new banners with images designed by Vermont artist Janet McKenzie. The Deacons are pleased to support this project as part of our ongoing efforts to lift up historically and biblically underrepresented images and voices of women and persons of color. A picture of each week's banner will appear in the bulletin, along with a meditative text or prayer.

This week, we introduce **Annunciation**, when the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary, telling her that she will give birth to a son and his name will be called Jesus. Our meditative text is the Magnificat, Mary's song of response to this news, found in Luke 1:46-55 and also in our hymnal as Hymn 124, written by former First Church member and UCC minister Ruth Duck:

*My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,
who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.*

*The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
to those who seek their Maker's will in ev'ry time and place.*

*The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away.
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.*

*The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
for God has come in pow'r to save, to set all people free.
Rememb'ring those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,
our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.*

ADVENT BANNERS



TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

MULTIGENERATIONAL FORMATION: GODLY PLAY FOR ALL AGES Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Children up to 4th grade and all adults are invited to hear the story of “The Circle of the Church Year” on this first Sunday of the liturgical year. Come wonder about how the church tells time with First Church friends of all ages!

[Click here to join the Church School Zoom directly](#), or go to zoom.us and “join a meeting” using the following information:

Meeting ID: 897 8647 6898

Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

Multigenerational Godly Play - [click here](#) to watch your story.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FORMATION: BIBLE 101 AND FAITH & SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASSES Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Our 5/6th and 7/8th grade classes will meet separately from Godly Play to continue with their curricula.

[Click here to join the Church School Zoom directly](#), or go to zoom.us and “join a meeting” using the following information:

Meeting ID: 897 8647 6898

Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

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

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

OUR ADVENT SONG is based on “Give Me Birds at the Dawning,” written by Betsy Binstock and arranged by Peter & Mary Alice Amidon, from *Twenty-five Anthems for Interfaith and Community Choirs*, copyright 2016, Amidon Music Publishing. The words have been adapted to fit the Advent season.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom Join us for a virtual time of connecting and sharing our joys and concerns with one another.

[Click here to join Zoom Coffee Hour directly](#), or go to zoom.us and “join a meeting” with the following instructions:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

NEW FIRST CHURCH WEBSITE COMING SOON Our ancient (in tech years) website is undergoing an overhaul by Theory One Design, with whom we collaborated to create our current site. Expect updated photos and video, streamlined menus that will be easier to navigate, a mobile-friendly version, and more! We plan to launch the new site as we enter the season of Advent, allowing us to begin the new liturgical and calendar years together with a more helpful online presence that will keep us all the more connected through these times of social distancing and beyond! Stay tuned, and plan to join us for an after-worship Zoom Coffee Hour Website Orientation on December 6.

CALL FOR HOLIDAY PHOTOS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES BY DECEMBER 14 Since we won't be seeing each other in person this Christmas Eve, we are hoping to, at least, *view* as many of your faces as possible in a slideshow we'll play during our Christmas services. Please send a holiday photo by Monday, December 14. Feel free to get creative with whatever holiday cheer you can muster: show us your Christmas tree or plant or pets or decorations in the background; display your Advent wreath or homemade lantern from the Advent Workshop; dress up for the occasion, whether in your Christmas best, or holiday jammies, or in an ugly Christmas sweater! We'd love to have lots of participation from our First Church diaspora as a small way to bring us together while we are apart! Send photos via email to Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck: bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org.

PASSING THE LIGHT: A REQUEST FOR VIDEOS BY DECEMBER 14 We will be re-creating our tradition of passing candlelight in the sanctuary virtually this year for our online Christmas Eve service. Please sign up to get more information on how to submit a video of yourself for this part of our worship together. We will help you submit something, so don't let technology fears deter you from participating! For questions, contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org. [Sign up on this google form.](#)

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

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. 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.

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS: Spiritual Practices for Advent 2020 John's Gospel reminds us that the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it! This is a good and needed word for this pandemic and post-election time—one to remember, ponder and pray. And yet, how does having only negative connotations of darkness relate to our current moment of racial reckoning? Can we find goodness and blessing in the shadows and the light, in the knowledge that God created the day and the night and called them both good? In darkness and in light, how can we wait, labor, and prepare for the light, joy, and new birth that come at Christmas?



ADVENT WORKSHOP Next Sunday, December 6 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Gather 'round your screen with your workshop supply kit and home-gathered supplies to create 4 different types of lanterns to guide you through the season. Sarah Higginbotham and Nancy Cyr will provide encouragement and instruction, but take a look at this [craft instruction sheet](#) ahead of time to be prepared. If you were not able to pick up a supply kit yesterday, please reach out to Sarah as soon as possible to arrange a pickup or delivery time before next Sunday.

ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA—HOLY READING Sundays, December 6, 13 & 20, 9:30 am, via Zoom

Join Dan, Lexi, and Jaz in a short conversation about reimagining advent themes of light and darkness and a time for spiritual practice called lectio divina, “holy reading.” In this ancient contemplative practice, we’ll read Advent scripture passages together and be invited to meditate on how God’s word intersects with our lives. Together, through word and silence, we’ll listen for God’s movement in our hearts, as we prepare to receive the light of the Christ child.

CANDLE-LIGHTING AND PRAYER TIME Sundays, December 6, 13 & 20, 4:00 p.m., Lindsay Chapel This Advent we are offering some time on Sunday afternoons for folks to pray and to light a candle in the Chapel. The capacity will be limited to four people at a time, and masks are required. In this time of reimagining what the symbols of light and dark mean to us, take some time to reconnect with the church building, spend some time in prayer, and give some light to the world.

ADVENT AT FIRST CHURCH

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY: RECLAIMING MARY Saturday, December 12, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., via Zoom The women of First Church are gathering together on Zoom for a time of worship, spiritual practice, reflection, and fellowship to observe Advent. Come as you are to explore what Mary might mean to us as a spiritual ancestor, a matriarch within our sacred scriptures, and the one who clears a path for God to work in our world. This time together will be for connection and grounding in our faith. To let us know if you plan on coming, [please sign up here](#). Everyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to join!

FIRST CHURCH UN-PAGEANT AND CHRISTMAS PARTY GO ONLINE! Sunday, December 20, 11:00 a.m., via Live-Stream Worship You'll need to make your costumes at home, but the Un-Pageant will go on! Think shepherds in bathrobes, wise folks in fleece blanket robes, and angels in white t-shirts and halos of tinsel from your tree! If you want to be a lamb, don't forget the sheep ears! Join from wherever you are, with whatever costumes you can muster. This year, we'll start with our usual live-stream (with a much smaller cast than usual). But then we'll end on Zoom, singing cacophonously with joyful hearts. Our traditional post-service Christmas party will follow! If you'd like to appear on screen in your Un-Pageant finery during the live-stream and can record yourselves earlier in the week, be in touch with Sarah to receive instructions.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Thursday, December 24, 6:00 p.m., via YouTube Premiere "Come all ye faithful" and celebrate with us from home by joining together on line for a candlelit service of lessons and carols. Worship with us this silent and holy night as we give thanks for Emmanuel - God with us - and as we fill our sanctuary and our homes with the warmth, light, and joy of Christmas!

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Friday, December 25, 11:00 a.m., via YouTube Premiere Join us for this First Church Christmas Morning tradition. Greet the new day and the Christ child with a short online prayer service and a special harpsichord offering by Peter Sykes of William Byrd's *The Bells*.

HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

SUPPORTING LOCAL FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AS THEY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS In the Advent season, we remember years past when our pulpit area filled with coats or toys ready for donation to various organizations helping people from our community who don't have everything they need. This holiday season, our opportunities to give and support communities in need might look different, but the need is greater. The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled the following list of opportunities for donation. In the case that you and your family are in a position to support these organizations, we hope that you find this list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Molly Baker (mollybaker96@gmail.com) of the Missions and Social Justice Committee.

1. City Mission Christmas Shop Each year City Mission collects thousands of gifts – clothes, toys, books and household goods. Many of these donations come from members of First Church. These gifts are made available to the City Mission's Homelessness Prevention clients and other community partners who distribute gifts to their own clients. For a complete list of NEW items to donate, please visit [City Mission's website](#). You can drop off gifts at FCC between November 29 and December 6 (8 am to 4 pm). Call the sexton on duty at (617) 642-3980 to let you in and receive the gifts.

2. City Mission Boston Coat Drive "Coat Boston" helps ensure Boston children have warm, new winter coats for the city's cold weather. All sizes from 9 months to Adult are needed. You can drop off new coats at FCC by December 1, anytime between 8 am to 4 pm. Call the sexton on duty at (617) 642-3980 to let you in and receive the coats. You can also mail the coats directly to First Parish of Westwood, Attn: City Mission, 252 Nahatan St, Westwood, MA 02090.

3. Christmas at The First Church Shelter At Christmas, each Shelter guest receives a \$50 gift card for personal purchases. Would you like to sponsor one this year? Your donation will truly be appreciated by a Shelter guest. [Donate on the FCC website](#).

4. The Friday Café With a severe shortage of beds across Massachusetts, unhoused neighbors will need to layer to survive this winter. Friday Café is accepting donations of men's and women's warm pants, shirts, jackets, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and sleeping bags. You can also visit their [Amazon wish list for essential items](#).

HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

5. Black Lives Matter Boston – Financial Support for Local Students Resources are needed for housing, food, and COVID-19 related needs. Additionally, students are in need of their own laptops to access online learning for school work. Give directly via their [PayPal \(Phoenix Printemps\)](#), or you may donate via BLM Boston’s official [Fiscal Sponsor Building Audacity via PayPal](#). You may also mail a check to: Building Audacity, Inc., 79 Allen Avenue, Lynn, MA 01902.

6. Food Pantry Holiday meals are coming up in December, and your neighbors are in need. Always welcome: proteins, cereal, canned fruit and veg, cooking oil. Treats of olive oil, maybe even cookies. Special items too: diapers, feminine hygiene products. Bring your donations at any time during the month to Hilary’s house, 30 Winslow St. in Cambridge, .75 mile up Garden St. from First Church, just past the [closed] firehouse. Leave things in the cooler on the porch (tug on the friction lid) and ring the bell. Thank you!

7. Solutions at Work Toy Drive SAW is accepting donations of gently used clothing, books, toys, and baby equipment to offer to clients as a part of the clothing and toy exchange program. Alternatively, they offer a wishlist for certain items, which you can access [here](#). They are accepting donations through December 20. Donations can be shipped to 1151 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. Or to arrange for drop-off or pick-up, please call SAW at 617-401-5335.



HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

REMEMBERING OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR FRIENDS: THEIR MISSIONS AND THEIR WARES Out of sight in 2020, but not out of mind! The organizations that we support at Christmastime, by buying their products at our annual Alternative Christmas Fair, need our help this year as much as ever. Even though you will not be greeting them in person at a merry hubbub in MJH, you can order some goods, or make donations, at their websites. Look for the “Shop” or “Shop Now” and the “Give” or “Donate” tabs on the websites below. International orders probably won’t arrive in time for Christmas gifting to others, but if you see something you like, why not gift yourself and your household? And donations are easy and always received with gratitude.

1. [Zienzele Foundation](#)

Mission: To promote self-reliance for poor women and children in Zimbabwe, and educational assistance to orphans, through small enterprise.

Products: Traditional Zimbabwean hand-woven baskets in an array of designs, colors and sizes.



2. [Healthy Tomorrow](#)

Mission: To eradicate excision (FGM) of young girls in Mali, through public education, legal campaigns, village meetings, and media.

Donations only, but visit the website for short videos and musical offerings.

3. [Heifer Project International](#)

Mission: to move small-scale farmers in Africa from subsistence to sustainability through financial investment, and connection to training, technology, and markets. Check out [the livestock program](#): Give a struggling farm family a goat, alpaca, sheep, a flock of chicks, or a heifer!

Colorful “[Honor cards](#)” mailed when you donate in someone’s name.



HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

4. [Solutions at Work](#)

Mission: To break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, providing resources and opportunities to strengthen self-confidence, achieve self-sufficiency, and help others. A Children’s Clothing Exchange; professional attire for job-training and re-entry program; connections to job training, and workshops for self-empowerment.

5. [LGBT Asylum Task Force](#)

Mission: To provide housing, financial aid, and empowerment, for LGBT individuals seeking asylum in the U.S.; education for policy change around the globe.

6. [Canaan Fair Trade](#)

Mission: To aid Palestinian farmers by supporting Fair Trade of olive oil products in global markets.

Products: All-natural plain and flavored olive oils and olive spreads.



7. [Red Winds Councils](#)

Mission: To support the spiritual renewal and social justice struggle of Mayan indigenous people.

Products: Authentic hand-made textiles, clothing, accessories, décor, jewelry, medicine pouches, masks, carvings, and more.

8. [A Thread of Hope](#)

Mission: To support Mayan families, improve their living standards, preserve cultural traditions, and foster women’s leadership through Fair Trade relationships.

Products: Loom-woven fabrics, shawls, faith-based items, ornaments, beadwork, masks, ponchos, booties, dolls, playsets, and more.

9. [Muddy River Herbals](#)

Mission: To use and promote ecologically sound methods of growing healing herbs and botanicals in Eastern New England.

Products: culinary, healing, bird-friendly, pollinator-friendly, personal care and native plants and seeds. Online classes.

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

DONATE TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA Hurricanes Eta and Iota have hit Central America with devastating consequences. Our Community Minister in Latin America Monica Maher invites our help through the Friends Peace Teams Peacebuilding *en las Américas* program, of which she is a part. Partners in Honduras and Guatemala have been particularly affected. The situation, already dire due to Covid, hunger and violence, is now much worse. Please consider supporting those impacted through fervent prayers for their safety and a donation to Peacebuilding *en las Américas*. [Donate today.](#)

COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES FUNDRAISER Sunday, December 6, 5:00-6:30 p.m., via Zoom Join CMM for “Sharing Our Stories: Towards an Inclusive American Narrative,” featuring Rev. Eugene Rivers (Seymour Institute), Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor (Old South Church), and Jean-Luc Pierite (North American Indian Center of Boston). The online panel will be moderated by Dr. Kevin Peterson of the New Democracy Coalition. We are encouraging hors d’oeuvres and drinks during the program and then dinner in family settings after the program. Make it a safe, social occasion! This event falls on the Sunday prior to the UN Declaration of Human Rights Day, December 10. For further information and to register: cmmfall2020.eventbrite.com

FREE COVID TESTING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, AND PRAY IN CAMBRIDGE

The City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) are offering [free COVID-19 testing](#) for Cambridge residents and, we are told, for all who work and pray in Cambridge. The PCR tests are anterior nasal swab tests and not the nasopharyngeal swab test that go all the way back in the nasal passages. No identification or Social Security number is required. All sites are wheelchair accessible. Available testing appointments can book up quickly, but please keep checking back as new appointments will be added when they become available. When you sign up for an appointment, you will be asked for your address and to “Select all that apply: *I am a Cambridge resident *I am an employee in Cambridge *I am a City of Cambridge employee *None of the above.” If you don’t live or work in Cambridge, be sure to select *None of the Above and then list in the address line that follows: “Member of First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA.” To schedule an appointment, [sign up online](#) or call 617-349-9788.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY The following organizations welcome financial donations. They work providing food to people who are living with food insecurity.

[Food For Free](#) supports low-income Cambridge residents. It offers fresh produce as well as other kinds of food. In some cases it will also deliver food to people who are unable to come to their food pantry.

[Greater Boston Food Bank](#) provides food to over 500 partner agencies in Eastern Massachusetts. It will also help people locate and apply for other food resources.

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

FAITH FOR EARTH: A CALL FOR ACTION Updated for the current moment through a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Parliament of the World's Religions Climate Action Program, this book describes the essential, unshakeable reverence that all religions have for creation and nature. It offers information and inspiration to learn more about our planet, to share your knowledge and commitment to care for it, and to become part of the flourishing global interfaith movement that is increasingly bringing people together to protect and sustain life on Earth. First Church's Earth Stewardship group encourages you to [learn more and download your copy here.](#)

MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG Looking for meditative chant music during your time at home? Night Song Director Daryl Bichel offers the following suggestions:

St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle

Compline, 15 November 2020

<https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1884>

This compline liturgy contains the hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past" and choral music by Thomas Tallis and John Shepherd. The voices are beautiful. When I listened to the choral portions of this, I was especially aware of the great low notes of the bass.

Musical Consolations, Seraphim

November 2020

https://youtu.be/L2m_8WW4W8k

This is the fourth in a series of virtual concerts produced by Seraphim this season. It mourns the loss of now more than 250,000 Americans to COVID-19. In these pieces the pain is palpable, but the music gives a glimpse of overcoming grief without forgetting those lost.

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

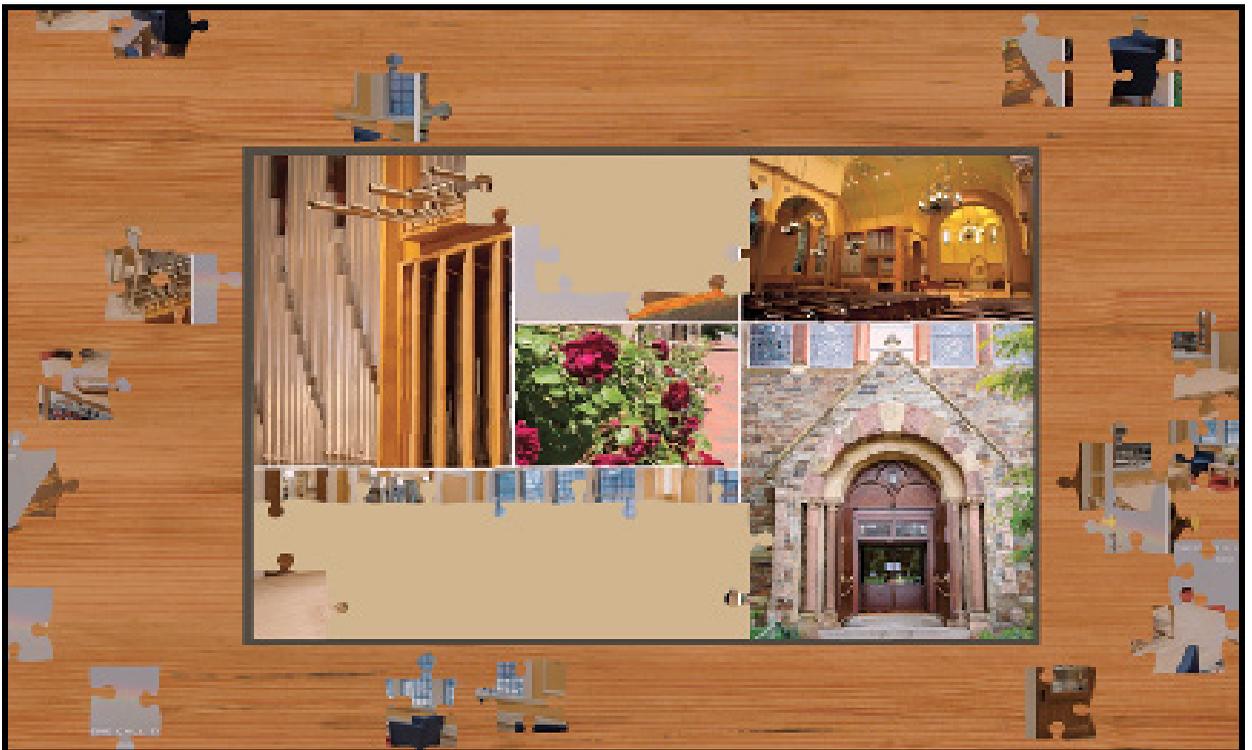
Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.



STEWARDSHIP 2021
FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
THE CALL TO GIVE
THANK YOU



Thank you to all who have pledged their financial support for 2021. We are grateful for each and every dollar pledged! We're still piecing together our progress, and would love to place your piece in our puzzle.



The Stewardship Committee wants to send your thank you gift to you this week!

[Make your pledge online](#)
and then
[check out how we've pieced together our progress.](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, November 29 First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Multigen. Formation: Godly Play (presch.-4th grade & adults), via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Bible 101 (5/6th grade) &
Faith & Social Justice (7/8th grade), via Zoom
11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

Monday, November 30

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

Tuesday, December 1

- 4:00 p.m. FCC Caregivers' Call, via Zoom
4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, December 2

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
5:30 p.m. "A Call to Return: Spiritual Reflections on Racial Justice"
with Carlyle Stewart, via Zoom

Thursday, December 3

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

Friday, December 4

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

Saturday, December 5

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

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Advent Lectio Divina, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Advent Workshop, via Zoom
11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Morning Worship, Jaz Buchanan, preaching
12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with New Website Orientation
2:00 p.m. Youth Group City Mission Service Project, meet on playground
(weather permitting)

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

To join our all-church email list, [please sign up here.](#)

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

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

Shelter Director

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

Director of Operations

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

Facilities Manager

Kris McQuage-Loukas
617-547-2724, ext. 44
facilities@firstchurchcambridge.org

Office Assistant

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

Technical Support

Joe Welker

Sextons

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

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