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EASTERTIDE

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE

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

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...  
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

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

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

## Sunday, May 16, 2021

<b>Preaching Today</b>	Karlene Griffiths Sekou, <i>First Church member</i>
<b>Leading Worship</b>	Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Creative Worship &amp; Arts</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i> Julie Pridham and Laurie Williams, <i>liturgists</i> Touissant the Liberator, <i>guest musician</i> Kevin Newell, <i>tech support</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Gaylen Morgan, <i>First Church member</i>

### TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Meeting God in our Bodies, [via Zoom](#)
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School Classes, [via Zoom](#)
- 11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
- 12:15 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour: brief check-in
- 12:30 p.m. GBIO Listening Sessions, [via Zoom](#)
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet on church playground (weather permitting)

### 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.

*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](#).

## GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Lied

Louis Vierne

\*HYMN

Over My Head

(see page 4)

\*GREETING

Julie Pridham

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

Julie Pridham and Dan Smith

DRUMMING

Touissant the Liberator

## 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

Laurie Williams

#### READING

Genesis 4:1-11

#### DRUMMING

#### SERMON

Karlene Griffiths Sekou

## \*HYMN 407

Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

*(see page 5)*

### SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

#### PRAYERS FOR 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 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.**

#### 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.**

## GOING FORTH

**\*LEAVE-TAKING BLESSING FOR JULIE PRIDHAM**

**\*HYMN**

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

*(see page 6)*

**\*DRUMMING**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Arabesque

Louis Vierne

# OPENING HYMN

## Over My Head

*African-American traditional*

1 O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.  
 2 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.  
 3 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.  
 4 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.

O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.  
 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.  
 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.  
 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.

O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air,  
 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air,  
 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air,  
 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air,

there must be a God some - where.

*This African-American spiritual was widely sung during the 1960s folk-song movement. It was also a freedom song for the civil rights struggle and sometimes included the stanza: "Over my head I see freedom in the air."*

Tune: African-American traditional  
 Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981

SERMON HYMN

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.  
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.  
came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

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.

NETTLETON  
87.87D

# CLOSING HYMN

## Have Thine Own Way, Lord

$E^b$ 
 $A^b$ 
 $E^b$ 
 $B^b7$

1 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
 2 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
 3 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
 4 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the pot - ter, I am the clay.  
 Search me and try me, Mas - ter, to - day.  
 Wound - ed and wea - ry, help me, I pray.  
 Hold o'er my be - ing ab - so - lute sway.

$A^b$ 
 $E^b$ 
 $E^b7$ 
 $A^b$

Mold me and make me af - ter thy will,  
 O - pen mine eyes, my sin show me now,  
 Pow - er, all pow - er, sure - ly is thine.  
 Fill with thy Spir - it till all shall see

$E^b/B^b$ 
 $E^b7$ 
 $E^b$

while I am wait - ing, yield - ed and still.  
 as in thy pres - ence hum - bly I bow.  
 Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine.  
 Christ on - ly, al - ways, liv - ing in me.

Words: Adelaide A. Pollard, 1901, P.D.  
 Music (ADELAIDE 9.9.9.9): George C. Stebbins, 1907, P.D.



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

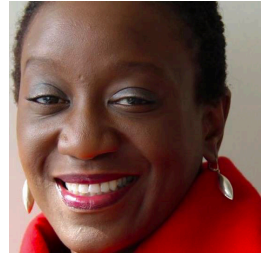
- We pray with grateful hearts for First Church Moderator Julie Pridham as she prepares to move to Flagstaff, Arizona, in June.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux and her family as they mourn the loss of her grandmother Elsie Pitre Smith, who died this past Tuesday.
- We pray for Ingeborg Haug and the Haug-Weller family as they mourn the loss of Ingeborg's brother Hans Gert Wengert, who died peacefully on May 5.
- 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 all who are in treatment for cancer: Carol Wilson-Braun; 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; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode.
- We pray for peace and justice in Palestine and Israel in a time of heightened tension and deadly violence, especially in Gaza, Jerusalem, and the Aqsa Mosque and the Temple Mount.
- 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 lament and decry the ongoing impact of police brutality and killings and pray for all persons of color who continue to live in daily fear of police and racial violence. We also 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 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 the friends and family of the 17 (known and reported) transgender people who have been murdered in the US in 2021, a rate of almost one death per week. We pray for lawmakers to make compassionate, equitable, and just decisions as they are faced with bills that seek to discriminate against transgender people.
- 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 experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### *Guest Preacher This Sunday*

#### **Karlene Griffiths Sekou, Guest Preacher**

We welcome Karlene Griffiths Sekou as our guest preacher. Karlene is an international human rights advocate, public health professional, grassroots organizer, and culture worker. We celebrate that Karlene was recently approved for ordination by an Ecclesiastical Council of the Metropolitan Boston Association, UCC. She is the first person of African descent to be sponsored by First Church in Cambridge for such an honor. Karlene is currently pursuing a PhD in Religion; her research interests intersect ritual practices, performance aesthetics, gender, and political anthropology within social movements and public spaces. We also welcome local drummer Touissant the Liberator as a guest musician in our worship today.



### *Adult Formation Series*

#### **Meeting God in Our Bodies: An Exploration of Womanist Theologies Today at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom**

In this second session of a two-part series, First Church member Karlene Griffiths Sekou will discuss how womanist theology informs our perception and understanding of our bodies and what that has to do with our collective liberation.



*GBIO Listening Campaign is underway!*

**Join a GBIO Listening Session After Worship Today and May 23 & 30, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom**

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. Join us today after worship, or join a subsequent session after worship next Sunday or the following. [Sign up here](#) for subsequent week, or [just show up today!](#)

We look forward to greeting you and hearing your story.

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



*Young Adults' Gathering*

### **Gentle Blasphemy Zoom Call**

**Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom**

We'll catch up as we approach the season of Pentecost! Bring life updates, faith questions, and doubts and hopes. Open to all, though most of us range from 18 to early 30's. Email Phil to receive the Zoom link: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org)

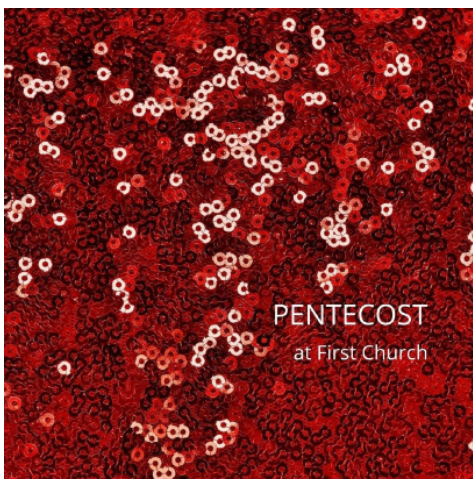
*Connect with First Church Friends*

### **Walk with the Deacons**

**Saturday, May 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m.,**

**Mt. Auburn Cemetery**

The Deacons invite you to a walk at Mt. Auburn Cemetery next Saturday afternoon. Gather in front of the Visitor's Center at 2:00 p.m., where a Deacon will lead us in prayer before we take an easy stroll through the cemetery together. Questions? Contact Amy Matias: [amy.matias@verizon.net](mailto:amy.matias@verizon.net)



*Pentecost is Next Sunday, May 23*

**Pentecost Worship** Join us for livestream worship next Sunday on Pentecost—we invite you to wear red/bold colors/sparkly/gender-bending flare! Fun hats, polka-dotted bow ties, sequin dresses, funky pajamas... the Holy Spirit is celebrating you and speaking through you—your truth—with style. You are sacred, just as you are. We'll share our flare together during Zoom Coffee Hour after worship. And that's not all: many thanks, in advance, to Issa Bibbins and his daughter Marcia Bibbins for their powerful music, as well as to Wyatt Jackson for blessing us with sacred movement.

This will be Jaz Buchanan's last Sunday of the program year with us; she will be participating in a Clinical Pastoral Education program at Beverly Hospital this summer. We look forward to having Jaz return to her Pastoral Associate role with us in the fall.



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, May 17

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

## Tuesday, May 18

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. FCC Caregivers' Call, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Committee, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee, via Zoom

## Wednesday, May 19

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics Bible Study: Luke and Acts, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Young Adults' Gentle Blasphemy, via Zoom

## Thursday, May 20

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

## Friday, May 21

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

## Saturday, May 22

- 2:00 p.m. Walk with Deacons, Mt. Auburn Cemetery
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

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

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