

SEASON OF EPIPHANY

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 1636-2020

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

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an Open and Affirming, Just Peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at: www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use Hastings Common, through the same door.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

WORSHIP LEADERS January 26, 2020

Preaching Today Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Leading Worship
Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate
Karen McArthur,
Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Playing the Organ and Directing the Choir Peter Sykes, Music Director **Liturgist** Isabella Yao

Offering the Ministry Moment Hilary Hopkins

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

January 26, 2020

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Sonata, op. 65, no. 4

Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN 18

Praise to the Living God

*GREETING Isabella Yao

L: Siblings in the Spirit, come into this place of mercy and rest!

C: Come, you who thirst for a deeper life and a fairer world.

L: Come, you who hunger for justice, and you who seek healing.

C: Here, God offers grace and peace to us and to the world!

L: Here, God offers light for a new horizon and hope for a new dawn!

C: Then let us sing the light together, pray the light together,

and do the works of light together for the world God loves. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM Locus Iste Anton Bruckner

This space was made by God, a priceless sacrament; it is without reproach.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,

but we have preferred to live in darkness.

Your justice protects the weak and vulnerable,

yet we seek privilege and power.

Your righteousness redeems the poor and needy,

yet we seek wealth and possessions.

Your peace upholds the oppressed and defenseless,

yet we seek the security of weapons and walls.

(cont'd. on next page)

^{*}You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.

Forgive us, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

L: Friends, hear this good news:

God's love lights our way to a new dawn, and God's mercy is working in our hearts even now.

The light of Christ and the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us share this good news and greet one another now

with a sign of Christ's peace.

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 78

There is Love All Around You

The Church School (pre-K - 7th grade) is now invited to leave for church school classes. Teachers will meet their students at the side door or in the Narthex to accompany them to their class rooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) or in Coffee Hour after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Karen McArthur

READING John 1:29-42

SERMON Lexi Boudreaux

*HYMN 230 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Carlyle Stewart

MINISTRY MOMENT First Sunday Food Pantry Collection

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

: 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 OFFFRING

OFFERTORY Jubilate Deo W. A. Mozart

text: Psalm 100

*DOXOLOGY

To God, all glorious heav'nly 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 4 Come, Living God, When Least Expected

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE Benediction (in memoriam) Larry Hill - Peter Sykes

VOLUNTARY Sonata, op. 65, no. 4 Felix Mendelssohn

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. Through the winter season, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For our nation and our world amid ongoing hostilities between the US and Iran, that the international community may intervene to shape a just peace for all; and for the resilience of the people of Iran, Iraq, and Syria amid constant threats and violence.
- For guidance for our nation and our leaders at this time of political upheaval as the historic impeachment proceedings move through the Senate. We pray for a spirit of courage, truthfulness, collaboration, and civility.
- 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 also for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- For all impacted by the deadly wildfires in Australia, flooding in Indonesia, and the earthquake in Puerto Rico. We offer up our sadness, fears, and grief, and pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis, including sea-level rise, coral reef destruction, storms, wildfires, and climate migration. May God awaken and 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 immediately affected by our inaction.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED		

If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Dan Smith by Tuesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

RECLAIMING JESUS: Why? How? And Why Now? Final Session Today, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room It often feels difficult in this day and age to speak of our faith when we are outside of the religious place we might attend. This can be especially true for Christians, when it seems that Christianity with a capital C has been co-opted/defined by a more conservative or even radicalized evangelical right. Jim Wallis's new book, *Christ in Crisis, Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*, and his podcast, "Reclaiming Jesus Now" examine our current political crisis, which Wallis calls a "deeply spiritual and dangerously moral one." He believes that we have become disconnected from Jesus, and suggests that "it is time to return to him, to come home." With Wallis as our guide, together we will consider some ways to find our way back and "reclaim Jesus." Led by Rev. Alex Steinert Evoy and others.

2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON TODAY, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Come one and all to the 385th Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge today following Morning Worship! A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting. We will celebrate another very full year of ministry. We will thank one another for gifts shared and celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders. We will also do some looking ahead as we seek to discern where God is leading us next! Join us for this centuries-old tradition of meeting, prayer, and song! Child care will be provided in Sage Hall and in the Harter Room during the meeting.

YOUTH GROUP TODAY The First Church teens will help clean up today's luncheon before heading to the Frog Pond for ice skating.

CONFIRMATION CLASS Today, 4:00 p.m., Harter Room Our 8th & 9th grade Confirmands meet for a session entitled "Made in God's Image."

NIGHT SONG Today, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary Cap your Sunday and start your week with this beautiful, contemplative, candle-lit musical service that includes choral music, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: FAITH ON TAP AND FRESH BREWED FAITH The Young Adults' group has several upcoming Faith on Tap nights: Tomorrow, January 27, 7:30 p.m. at Regina Pizzeria in Allston/Brighton; February 12, 7:30 p.m. at Warren Tavern in Charlestown; and February 24, 7:30 p.m., at The Burren in Somerville. Plus, with a new "Fresh Brewed Faith" series, the group will try a few breakfast gatherings for a little change of pace: January 24, 8:00 a.m. at Andy's Diner in Porter Square; February 4, 8:00 a.m. at Zaftig's in Brookline; and February 27, 8:00 a.m., at S&S Deli in Inman Square. Questions? Contact Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, February 1, 8:00 a.m., Harter Room Join us for a hearty breakfast and even heartier conversations about topics that connect our faith to our lives and our world. The breakfasts are served in the Kitchen and Harter Room, 8:00–9:30 a.m. One-time visitors, friends, and newcomers are always welcome. Questions? Contact David Torrey, davidtorrey@comcast.net. If you'd like to sign up for the Men's Breakfast e-mail list to receive monthly reminders, contact Kirsten Manville, parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

MIDDLER BOOK & BIBLE STUDY Next Sunday, February 2, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room Join First Church's 5th graders to hear about their learning over the first semester of Church School this year. Prepare by reading *Harbor Me*, a middle reader novel that the students have explored side-by-side with Biblical stories about seeking refuge, finding shelter, and offering hospitality. You can find the novel at book sellers or in your local library. Set aside some time to read the engaging story next Sunday.

NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON Next Sunday, February 2, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Common If you're new (or feeling new) to First Church, looking for ways to get involved, seeking information about our church or our denomination (The United Church of Christ), interested in meeting others who are new to the church, or in connecting with some folks who already know their way around, this luncheon is for you! Join us for a Newcomers Luncheon and meet our ministers and members, learn about our history, explore membership, learn about opportunities for service and action in the community, and hear about our faith formation and educational programs. A light lunch will be served, and childcare will be provided. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Carlyle Stewart, carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION IS NEXT SUNDAY When you go shopping this week, will you pick up a few items to help out your neighbors in need? Cereal, cooking oil, canned fruit and vegetables, proteins—and feminine hygiene products also welcome. After you have gotten some things, remember to bring them next Sunday, February 2.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

BELOVED COMMUNITY LUNCH AND CONVERSATION Next Sunday, February 2, 12:30 p.m., Harter Room At our Annual Meeting today, members of our Beloved Community will update us on how plans are evolving for a project related to our church's slaveholding legacy. This still-unfolding work is, at once, calling us to reach out beyond First Church, while also prompting us to examine our internal structures and ways of being through an anti-racist lens. Come hear and share stories of how this transformation is already taking hold through our shared learning and pilgrimages; and help us shape our next steps, both immediate and longterm. We will offer some suggested reading and discuss various touchstones or benchmarks, so that we can measure our ongoing progress as we continue our journey to become a more diverse, radically inclusive, multi-racial and mutli-cultural community. A light lunch will be provided in the Harter Room and child care will be offered in Sage Hall.

ALL-CONGREGATION FUN NIGHT / MOVIE NIGHT Friday, February 7, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Join us for a potluck supper followed by a screening of "Wonder," the well-received movie adaptation of an award-winning middle-reader novel about a boy with an extreme facial deformity who faces the challenges of entering a new school community. Rated PG, the movie makes an impact with its inspiring message to #ChooseKind. All are welcome to end the week with "dinner and a movie" and a bit of wonder at church! Any and all potluck dishes are encouraged.

OUR HOMELESS MINISTRIES

Drawn by our vision of a world where all people are valued, have shelter and nourishment, are treated with dignity, and are supported in their quest for self-determination...

The mission of First Church Homeless Ministries is to offer a respectful welcome to persons experiencing homelessness and hunger; to address universal human needs and to provide safe shelter, sustenance, and community; and to raise our collective voices through advocacy about the devastating impact of homelessness, addiction, and persistent poverty.

WARM THANKS to everyone who helped to make yesterday's Homeless Ministries Gala a smashing success! Thanks to all your efforts, we filled the hall. Stay tuned for the results very soon!

THURSDAYS AT FIRST CHURCH

PRAYING THE PSALMS: DAILY PRACTICE & WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursday mornings, ongoing, 7:15 - 8:45 a.m., Library We invite you to read, pray, and reflect on one Psalm each day (we began with Psalm 1 on Dec. 1, and are reading Psalms 57 through 63 this week. For the weekly Bible study, we gather for coffee or tea at 7:15 a.m. most Thursdays, beginning with a time of soulful check-in promptly at 7:30. We then dive into some reflection about the Psalms of the week, sharing what we are learning about maintaining a daily spiritual practice, alone and together. Feel free to drop in when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. Our weekly study will continue this week on **Thursday, January 30**, in the Library. Questions? E-mail Dan or Brent (brentbcoffin@gmail.com).

THURSDAY EVENING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION GROUP Thursday evenings, ongoing, 6:30 p.m., The Well (Room 22) Meet for a time of quiet centering meditation. Absolutely no experience is needed or expected. Chairs and a bit of guidance are provided. Come for a respite in the midst of busyness. Questions? Contact Hilary Hopkins: hopkinsjh@verizon.net

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursdays, beginning February 6, 6:30 p.m. Weekly Bible study sessions every Thursday led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will begin February 6. In this season of Epiphany we will start with the Gospels, while also exploring the epistles of the New Testament. We will prayerfully engage with Scripture to experience directly God's word, hoping to uncover its wisdom, teachings, and guidance for us as Christians in the world. We will not study merely as an academic discipline, but with the desire to know God more intimately. We will also learn how prayerfully to read, reflect, meditate, and contemplate the Word with the intention of making devotional reading a daily practice.

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

STRENGTH IN THE STRUGGLE: RENEWING SPIRITS FOR THE WORK OF CLIMATE JUSTICE Tomorrow, January 27, 10:00 a.m., Quincy Point Congregational Church, 444 Washington St., Quincy In cooperation with Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station (FRRACS), local faith leaders invite interfaith colleagues, members of faith and spiritual communities, and all people of good will to a public spiritual witness for climate justice. Enbridge Corporation has begun construction in Weymouth on a dangerous and dirty fracked-gas compressor station. Like Joshua in the Hebrew Bible story, we will sing, pray and march along the "wall" of Enbridge's fence-line, proclaiming that all walls of injustice must fall. We will share grief, honor and support frontline leaders, and renew our spirits as participants in Beloved Community - local and global, human and more-than-human. Gather at Quincy Point Congregational Church at 10:00 a.m. for coffee, orientation, song and prayer/meditation. Then carpool to the construction site at 50 Bridge St., Weymouth, for a procession along the fence-line with song and multifaith prayer/expressions, concluding on the Fore River Bridge, holding signs and banners in support of FRRACS. RSVP at https://bit.ly/2QJNAhi so the leaders can plan appropriately.

CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBIT The Harvard Museum of Natural History is presenting an ongoing exhibit entitled "Exploring the Impact of the Warming Climate on the Planet." Drawing on the latest scientific information about our warming climate, including both its local and global effects, this multimedia exhibit includes engaging video and storm simulations, a "check your knowledge" interactive station, and a dramatic inside look at a high-tech Argo float from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution—one of more than 4,000 deployed worldwide to monitor global oceans and climate. The museum is located at 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge.

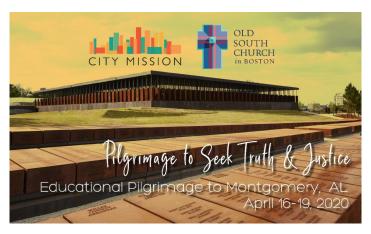
HOW TO CHANGE YOUR CHRISTIAN MIND Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m., Harter Room In 2018, New York Times bestselling author and Harvard lecturer Michael Pollan released a new book: How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us about Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence, opening up new questions about the role of mysticism and spiritual wellbeing in treating mental health. In conversation with this book, Harvard Divinity School student Joe Welker (MDiv '22) explores how Christianity can join in this discussion through its mystic roots, discerning the possibilities and responsibilities of integrating Christianity into the growing psychedelic movement. This is just one Christian's story and an invitation to conversation. Following a presentation, the floor will be opened for questsions and sharing of perspectives.

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

LOOKING FOR CAMPING EQUIPMENT FOR PETITT MISSIONAIRES IN TOGO First Church member Ayawavi Aattisso is seeking donations of tents (for 2-4 people, can be used), air mattresses/pads, flashlights/lanterns (solar if possible), water bottles, rain ponchos to ship to Togo. She leads annual mission trips with teen youth in Togo to an impoverished rural village. The teens need a few supplies to enable them to camp instead of sleep on a bus. For further info contact: sredlich2010@hotmail.com.

FUNDRAISER FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING Saturday, March 21, 7:00 p.m., Hibernian Hall, Watertown Dance all night to provide affordable housing! Clergy and Laity for Affordable Housing (CLAH) invites you to their spring dance, with the Magic of Motown performing. All proceeds will purchase construction materials, and fund the work of CLAH as they create new units and rebuild neighborhoods. Please see Alice Kidder for tickets, or email Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN? You may submit notices of church-sponsored or community events to Sarah Higginbotham via email by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday in order to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.



City Mission Boston and Old South Church in Boston will lead a pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama.

The purpose of this journey is to acknowledge the living legacy of white supremacy in our country, learn the history of white racial violence from Reconstruction to Jim Crow, and begin to appreciate the importance of resisting modern day racism and system injustice in our lives and community.

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

The Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice

Tour of historical sites in Montgomery such as the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, the Dexter Avenue Church Parsonage, Freedom Rides Museum, Rosa Park Library and Museum, National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture, and the Civil Rights Memorial.

Daily Reflections and conversations with local historians and storytellers along the way.

TRAVEL DATES:

April 16-19, 2020

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$250 per person (this is non-refundable)

Please fill out the online form at:

https://citymissionboston.org/pilgrimage

or mail the registration fee to:

City Mission, Inc. 185 Columbia Road, Suite 317 Boston, MA 02121

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Tickets to the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice • Local tours • 2 meals

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FEBRUARY 16, 2020:

The Pilgrimage is limited to 55 participants.

TRAVEL/HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

You will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements. We have reserved a block of rooms at the SpringHill Suites Montgomery Downtown hotel at a rate of \$139 per night.

Last day to book at this rate is Thursday, March 26, 2020.

To make a reservation, use the link at: https://citymissionboston.org/pilgrimage

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: "Reclaiming Jesus," Harter Room

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Lexi Boudreaux, preaching 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preK - 7th grade)

12:30 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon, Margaret Jewett Hall

1:15 p.m. Youth Group, Annual Meeting Clean-up Help, then Ice Skating at Frog Pond

4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Harter Room

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, January 27

6:00 p.m. Deacons' Transition Dinner, Parsonage

7:30 p.m. Young Adults' Faith On Tap, Regina Pizzeria, Allston/Brighton

Tuesday, January 28

5:30 p.m. Staff Model Working Group, Harter Room

Wednesday, January 29

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room

Thursday, January 30

7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, Library

6:30 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation Group, The Well (Rm. 22)

7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

Friday, January 31

1:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

Saturday, February 1

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

Sunday, February 2

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common

10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: Middler Book & Bible Study, Harter Room

10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Lindsay Chapel

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion,

First Church Deacons leading and preaching, Ordination of New Deacons

11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church Offering, MJH

12:30 p.m. Beloved Community Lunch and Conversation, Harter Room

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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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

