



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
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 0

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

February 9, 2020

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Liturgist

Beth Spaulding, Deacon

Healing Team Participants

Dean Eaton, Joanne Paul, and Nora Willcutts, Deacons

Playing the Organ and Directing the Choir

Yoo-Kyung Kim

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Prelude No. 2 in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN 252

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

*GREETING

Beth Spaulding

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

A Gaelic Blessing

Roland Martin

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

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded 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.*

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 C-23

Come, All You Thirsty

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

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 84

Lexi Boudreaux

- L: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts!
- C: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**
- L: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O God of hosts,
my Sovereign and my God.
- C: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**
- L: Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart
are the highways to Zion.
- C: As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**
- L: They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
- C: O God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!**
- L: Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.
- C: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

L: For God is a sun and shield; God bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.
C: **O God of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

READING

Isaiah 58: 5-12

REFLECTION

Dan Smith

INVITATION TO A TIME OF HEALING PRAYER

BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS

HYMNS

340 Peace Before Us
394 I Have No Bucket, and the Well Is Deep
400 There Is a Balm in Gilead
417 All My Hope on God Is Founded

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Carlyle Stewart

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Laudate Dominum
text: Psalm 150

Giuseppe Pitoni

***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 C-3**

Psalm 23

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Benediction (in memoriam)

Larry Hill/Peter Sykes

Glory to the Creator, who gives us life;
glory to Christ, the servant of love,
and glory to the Spirit, who empowers us forward.

VOLUNTARY

To You, O Lord, Will I Sing Praises

August Reinhard

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 its leaders in the wake of a divisive impeachment trial and State of the Union address.
- For all those affected by the spread of the corona virus in Wuhan, China, and around the world. We pray for healing and for strong, swift leadership in containment efforts.
- 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.
- 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.

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

FIRST CHURCH BUILDING TOUR Today, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room Meet Facilities Manager Kris McQuage-Loukas and then be guided through our building for a tour of rarely seen spaces. Join us for an orientation to all of the many activities and projects that go on in our building which is a center of community, justice-making, arts, learning and recovery for dozens of groups each and every month!

CAMBRIDGE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY COALITION (CISC) INFORMATION & UPDATE SESSION FOR FIRST CHURCH Today, 12:30 p.m., Harter Room As we mark the third anniversary of becoming a “sanctuary church,” join First Church’s CISC leaders and volunteers to hear updates on the Coalition’s ministry with a family living at University Lutheran Church. Current and former volunteers are especially encouraged to attend and to share their experiences of walking this journey. Those who are not yet involved, but wish to learn more, are also warmly invited.

CONFIRMATION CLASS Today, 2:00 p.m., The Well (Rm.22) Our 8th and 9th grade Confirmands meet for a session entitled “Ancient Creeds and Modern-Day Covenants.”

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 two upcoming Faith on Tap nights: **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: **February 27, 8:00 a.m.**, at S&S Deli in Inman Square. Questions? Contact Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBERS GATHERING Sunday, February 16, 12:30 p.m., Harter Room Newcomers, new members, and those who have joined First Church within the past few years are encouraged to participate in this session, where we will talk about the upcoming spiritual practices in Lent and how members can go about building and deepening relationships throughout the season. This will prepare us to begin our New Member Partnerships Program after Lent, a chance for newer friends to experience regular relationship-building and communication with partners about matters of Faith and Church life. Partners will also serve as guides and liaisons for new members as they acclimate to First Church.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR LENT Sunday, February 23, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room Join Lexi and Carlyle for a session of preparation on the Sunday before the season of Lent begins (February 26). We'll be offering a variety of opportunities to help our church gain a better understanding of our faith and the significance of this holy season, while strengthening our connections with one another. We will have the opportunity to deepen our relationships with each other through prayer partners and accountability groups. We will explore the theological significance of Jesus' ministry, and the events leading up to his crucifixion through weekly Bible study, starting with the Gospel of John; and in our 10 O'clock Hour sessions, we will read, discuss, and reflect on James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, which will provide us with a new vision of the cross and how it relates to oppressed communities throughout the world. Come learn about these opportunities in advance of the season.

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday, February 25, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall All are invited to our annual all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras, Tuesday, February 25, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. We'll decorate our "Alleluia" banner and bury it in the Sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for heating or serving) to share. RSVP to Sarah Higginbotham, so she can plan the pancake production.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

PRAYER PARTNERS IN LENT Would you like to be assigned a prayer partner this Lenten season? Are you looking for a way to stay accountable to your Lenten commitments, but can't commit to coming to Cambridge more than you already do? Do you want to go deeper with members of our community, but aren't sure how? We are repeating a successful spiritual practice experiment from last year's Lenten season. We are offering to match interested individuals in our congregation to walk with each other as prayer partners during the Lenten season. More details are to come, but, in the meantime, if you have questions or would like to sign up, please be in touch with Lexi Boudreaux.

ASH WEDNESDAY "ASHES TO GO" Wednesday, February 26, Morning Service, 7:30 - 8:00 a.m., and Evening Service, 7:30 p.m. On Ash Wednesday we will acknowledge our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God, and receive ashes as a sign of mortality. Join us for an evening Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 p.m., in Lindsay Chapel. For those who cannot make the evening service, we will be holding a short morning service, 7:30 - 8:00 a.m., with the Imposition of Ashes at the back of the Sanctuary near the Narthex. Ashes to go will also be available, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m., in the same location.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., First Church in Cambridge Join us this year for First Church's 2020 Women's Retreat. We will be resting in some time for silence, exploring creative expression, and enjoying a nourishing lunch and connections, old and new. Everyone is welcome! Whether you are new to First Church, have been here for decades, or somewhere in-between, this is a time for reflection, Lenten preparation, and being blessed by the gift of community. Come for all or part of the day. Your unique presence is cherished! Breakfast, lunch, ride sharing, and childcare will be provided. Wearing comfortable clothing, bringing a water bottle, and something to write in is encouraged! It's a retreat after all! Questions? Please contact lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

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 71 through 77 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, February 13**, in the Library. Questions? E-mail Dan or Brent (brentbcoffin@gmail.com).

THURSDAY MEDITATION GROUP ON HIATUS until after Easter. It's dark in the evenings, so it's hard for folks to come out. Let's resume when the evenings get longer. In the meantime, you are invited to continue your meditation practice at home, making time for the calm center of silence.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m., Harter Room Weekly Bible study sessions every Thursday have begun, with the reading of the first five chapters of the Gospel of John. We prayerfully engage with Scripture to understand the theological themes within this text. What is the theological significance of Jesus' presence and earthly ministry as the "Word become flesh," and how can we deepen our understanding of this mystery? We study not merely as an academic discipline, but with the desire to know God more intimately. These sessions throughout the month of February are preparing us to enter the Lenten season. Questions? Contact Carlyle Stewart.



Greater Boston Interfaith Organization

Come to a GBIO In-District Meeting with your State Representative to advocate for Health Care Reform!

The 40+ congregations that make up GBIO are in the midst of a state legislative campaign to improve three aspects of our health care system:

1. Limiting the cost of prescription drugs (particularly those for chronic conditions)
2. Stronger parity requirements for mental health and substance abuse disorder
3. Eliminating surprise out-of-network billing

The Senate and Governor have both advanced strong bills around these issues, but the House has not. To change that, we've organized meetings with State Reps to let them know how much these issues matter to us, and to give them stories to take back to their leadership.

If you can, please come to the meeting with your legislator. If you can't, consider coming to a different meeting instead to show your support! And if you've got a personal story around these issues, we'd love to hear it.

If you are planning to come, please email:

Phil Jones (p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com) or
Will Erickson (wericks2002@gmail.com).

Remaining Meetings

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.
Reservoir Church in **North Cambridge**
with Reps **Barber, Connolly and Donato**

Monday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.
Beth El Temple Center in **Belmont**
with Reps **Garballey, Rogers and Day**

Monday, February 24, 6:30 p.m.
First Church Boston in the **Back Bay**
with Reps **Livingstone and Michiewitz**

Tuesday, February 25, 7:00 p.m.
Hancock Church in **Lexington**
with Reps **Ciccolo, Gordon and Stanley**

To find your Legislator:

<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

To learn more:

www.gb.io/health-care

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR CHRISTIAN MIND Today, 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 questions and sharing of perspectives.

MALE SURVIVORS UNITED You are invited to join together with an anonymous community of like-minded adult men affected by unwanted or abusive sexual experiences. Leave isolation behind and join our monthly phone calls for free peer support, by male survivors for male survivors. Our group is nonprofessional. We are peers, not therapists. Together we help each other reclaim our voices and our lives. The calls are at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the 2nd Sunday of each month. ***This month's call is this afternoon.*** For more information see: malesurvivorsunited.org or contact First Church Deacon Bruce Hoppe confidentially at: bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org

SEEKING BEDROOM RENTAL IN HARVARD SQUARE A married couple connected to First Church is seeking to rent a bedroom with bathroom access Mondays-Fridays in the Harvard Square area, beginning March 23. If interested, please call 617-999-0308.

LOOKING FOR CAMPING EQUIPMENT FOR PETITS 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



DAN SMITH AND CARLYLE STEWART AMONG LEADERS OF MONTGOMERY PILGRIMAGE

Carlyle and Dan will join City Mission Boston and Old South Church in Boston in leading 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 The 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.

REGISTRATION:

- \$250 per person (this is non-refundable).
- Travel and accommodations are on your own. (Helpful details/discounts can be found on the registration website.)
- The deadline to register is **Sunday, February 16.**
- The Pilgrimage is limited to 55 participants.

For more information and to register: <https://citymissionboston.org/pilgrimage>

Questions?: Contact Dan or Carlyle.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, February 9

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. First Church Building Tour, Harter Room
- 10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Lindsay Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preschool - 7th grade)
- 12:30 p.m. CISC Information & Update Session, Harter Room
- 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, The Well (Rm. 22)
- 2:00 p.m. "How To Change Your Christian Mind" with Joe Welker (MDiv '22), Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet in Hastings Common
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, February 10

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, Harter Room

Wednesday, February 12

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee, The Well (Rm. 22)

Thursday, February 13

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Harter Room
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

Friday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 16

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Adult Formation)
- 10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Lindsay Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Kate Layzer, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Project, MJH
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, February 17 - Church Office & Building Closed for Presidents Day

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Minister of Stewardship & Finance

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Minister of Street Outreach

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Pastoral Associate

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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



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636
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