

LENT

FIRST CHURCH

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

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 March 1, 2020

Preaching Today Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Leading Worship Dan Smith, Senior Minister Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

> **Liturgist** Moana Bentin, Deacon

Ministry Moment Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

> Playing the Organ and Directing the Choir Peter Sykes, Director of Music

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

March 1, 2020

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WELCOME

VOLUNTARY	Elevation G	irolamo Frescobaldi		
*HYMN 100	By Gracious Powers			
*GREETING		Moana Bentin		
L: L:	Friends, grace and peace to you, and welcome! (Silence)			
L. C:	In every sound and silence, in every heart and hurt,			
L:	in quiet kindness, in bold witness,			
C:	in word and song and breath,			
L:	God's presence meets us here.			
C :	Open your hearts to listen for it now. (Silence)			
L:	Come and worship! For God's love surrounds and enfolds us h	ere.		
	God is making a way towards us in the midst of it all.			
WORDS OF WELCOME				
MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S MERCY				
ANTHEM	<i>Kyrie</i> Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy	Hans Leo Hassler /.		
INVITATION TO CONFESSION				

SILENCE

CONFESSION HYMN

Lead Me, Lord

(see page 5)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*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.

The Church School (pre-K - 7th grade) is now invited to gather in Margaret Jewett Hall to prepare brown bag lunches for the Outdoor Church. The children will return to the Sanctuary with their offering during the announcements and may rejoin their families for Communion.

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WORD

SILENCE					
READING	Isaiah 43:16-21	Carlyle Stewart			
READING	Matthew 4:1-11				
SERMON		Lexi Boudreaux			
SILENCE					
HYMN 323	Lo, I Am with You				
MAKING A WAY FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY					
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Dan Smith			
MINISTRY MOMENT		Lenten Art Project			
INVITATION TO OFFERING					
OFFERTORY Lamb of God, who	Agnus Dei takes away the sins of the world, have Grant us peace.	Mark Sullivan mercy upon us.			
*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION					
Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.					

MAKING A WAY AT CHRIST'S TABLE

*INVITATION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, we fall silent...and remember Jesus, the one who came because words were not enough. *(Silence)* Setting aside our wisdom, our will, and our words,

emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands,

C: we come at his invitation, yearning for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving, which Christ alone can offer.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

L: Come Holy Spirit. By this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

L: May this simple meal enlighten the eyes of our hearts and bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the Body of Christ as one.We do this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion, who taught us to pray:

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.

Kate Layzer

*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. Today, we serve communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward to the servers at one of the stations at the front of the sanctuary to receive the bread and dip it in the cup. (Please exit your pews to the right and return from the left.) The cup is filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten-free. Persons who for any reason are not able to come forward will be served in the pews. May there be no barriers to participation at Christ's table.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- L: Let us give thanks!
- All: Thank you, God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
 Bless us with the gifts of this holy communion -oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, and the will to serve you all the days of our lives. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MAKING A WAY IN GOD'S WORLD

*HYMN 485	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	
*BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL RESPONSE	O Spirit of the Living God	Constance Pyle
VOLUNTARY	Elevation	Dom Paul Benoit

CONFESSION HYMN



This music is from a Samuel S. Wesley anthem of the same name. Samuel Wesley was the grandson of Charles Wesley.

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 all those affected by the coronavirus, especially for those living in isolation and medical staff, and for an increasingly wary world.
- 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 tranquility for immigrants who live in constant fear and anxiety. We pray for all those affected by the recent change in the public charge rule as it pertains to immigration status. And we pray 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. 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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

EXPLORING *THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE* — A LENTEN STUDY Sundays in Lent, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room

The cross and the lynching tree are separated by nearly 2,000 years. One is the universal symbol of Christian faith; the other is the quintessential symbol of black oppression in America. Though both are symbols of death, one represents a message of hope and salvation, while the other signifies the negation of that message by white supremacy.

James Cone, a founder and leader of black liberation theology, introduces *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* with these provocative words. Join Lexi Boudreaux, Dan Smith and Carlyle Stewart for a 5-part series this Lent as we explore and respond to Cone's work and wonder together about what the meaning of the cross is for us. How does injustice in the world influence how we understand Jesus' death on the cross? Where do we find hope, and how is God calling us to make a way out of no way? Copies of the book are available for purchase for a \$20 donation at church. Read the book if you have time, but come join the conversation regardless. You might also enjoy Dr. Cone discussing the book in an interview with Bill Moyers that can be found here: https://billmoyers.com/content/james-cone-on-the-cross-and-thelynching-tree/

SOUP AND BREAD SUNDAY Today, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Plan to stay after worship today for a simple lunch of soup and bread. Catch up with old friends or make new connections as we share a meal together. Take some time to participate in our Lenten Art Project, have lunch with your prayer partner, or just enjoy the opportunity for fellowship.

LENTEN ART PROJECT Sundays in Lent All are encouraged to participate in a multigenerational art project throughout the season of Lent. Beginning today in Margaret Jewett Hall, you will find a large piece of cloth with the outline of a road. Near the cloth will be a selection of fabric, scissors, yarn, and blunt fabric needles. As we explore our Lenten theme of "Making a Way Out of No Way," you are invited to sew a bit of fabric to the road. Over the five Lenten Sundays in March, we will co-create our "way," incorporating the fabric pieces designed, placed, and sewn by members of our community. When you've added your pieces, you are welcome to take an actual stone from the bowl nearby, to keep as a tactile symbol of your participation in the project. The fabric art piece is designed to become a runner for our Communion table in the Sanctuary. We will "install" it on Palm Sunday, as we turn the corner into Holy Week, following Jesus' way into Jerusalem. We hope your experience of Lent will be enriched by this creative collaboration. Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux or Sarah Higginbotham.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING PRAYER Every Communion Sunday, the Deacons and Ministers offer prayers for healing, peace, and reconciliation after worship for anyone who desires them. The healing prayer teams will be positioned in the chancel, located near the baptismal font.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

to share a healing prayer, receive an anointing or laying on of hands, please approach one of the teams at the end of the service and make your need known.

THE FIRST CHURCH DEACONS' FUND is one of the many ways in which our community cares for one another. Church members in need of financial assistance for a one time or short-term emergency may make a confidential request to one of the deacons or clergy. This fund belongs to us and relies on our contributions. We hope people will take advantage of this aid. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons' Fund, if able. Please mark on your check or online contribution "Deacons' Fund." This Fund is also available to reimburse parishioners who use Lyft, Uber or cabs to get to and from church services in severe weather. Please forward or send a receipt to Karen McArthur by email or you can leave a copy in her mailbox in the church office.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION TODAY Every Communion Sunday, we collect food offerings for our Cambridge neighbors experiencing food uncertainty. Breakfast foods, proteins, cooking oil, rice, fruit, and veggies—these are all welcome. Mark your calendar for next month's collection on April 5.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OFFERING On Communion Sundays, it is our practice to prepare 3 dozen lunches for the Outdoor Church to distribute to those in need on the streets of Cambridge. The children of the church lead us in this discipline, leaving worship at 11:20 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and returning with the lunches in time for multigenerational Communion. As always, people of all ages are encouraged to participate by volunteering to deliver the lunches to Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church by 2:00 p.m. Speak with the Deacon serving as Head Greeter today if you'd like to get involved in the ongoing mission project.

CONFIRMATION CLASS Today, 2:00 p.m., The Well (Rm. 22) Our 8th and 9th grade Confirmands meet for a session entitled "Christian Values: Witness, Service, Discipleship & Vocation."

SERAPHIM SINGERS CONCERT Today, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary Following up on last season's "Women's Perspectives" program, this concert, directed by Jennifer Lester and accompanied by Louise Mundinger, organ, features works by women poets and composers, subjects and storytellers, including a newly commissioned work, *Nevertheless,* by Indian-American composer Shruthi Rajasekar; an encore performance of Richard Clark's Woman of No Distinction; Mari Esabel Valverde's Border Lines; Christina Whitten Thomas' *My Cathedral;* Kerry Andrew's *O lux beata Trinitas*; and more. Reduced price advance tickets are available at www. seraphimsingers.org. Tickets are also available at the door.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

HARLAND RIKER MEMORIAL GIFT The Riker family has made an annual gift today in loving memory of Harland Riker, who died one year ago today on March 1, 2019. This gift has enabled us to make robust improvements in our sanctuary sound system, such that we can all better hear the voices, songs, and music of First Church! We are grateful to the Rikers for their generosity and join them in honoring Harland's memory today.

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

Please refer to the "Making a Way Out of No Way - Spiritual Practices for Lent" insert for information on our Lenten programming.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, March 7, 8:00 a.m., Hastings Common 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@comast.net. If you'd like to sign up for the Men's Breakfast email list to receive monthly reminders, contact Kirsten Manville, parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

INSTALLATION OF REV. REEBEE GIRASH AT PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN LEXINGTON, Sunday, March 29, 2:00 p.m., 55 Coolidge Ave., Lexington Reebee Girash, who served First Church as an Interim Minister several years ago, warmly invites First Church members and friends to her installation service at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, in Lexington, where she has been called as Pastor. Clergy, Seminarians, and Members in Discernment are invited to robe and process, gathering at 1:30 p.m. RSVP to Rebee at: pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUGGESTION BOX The Environmental Stewardship group has placed a suggestion box (complete with paper and pens) in Hastings Common. The group invites everyone to participate by offering written suggestions such as prayers, poems, thoughts, ideas, or reflections, expressing their views and feelings about nature and the climate. Share your thoughts, celebrating or questioning. We'd like to hear from you! Contributions may be either signed or anonymous. They may play a role in the church's Earth Day services in April.

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 92 through 98 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, March 5, in the Library. Questions? E-mail Dan or Brent (brentbcoffin@gmail.com).

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursday evenings, 6:00 p.m., Harter Room Weekly Bible study sessions every Thursday continue as we make our way through the Gospel of John, reading 5 chapters every week. This upcoming week, we prayerfully engage with chapters 15-20, reflecting on the theological themes within this text. What is the significance of Jesus' humanity and divinity in his earthly ministry? We study not merely as an academic discipline, but with the desire to know God more intimately. Questions? Contact Carlyle Stewart.

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

WE WELCOME PARTICIPATION IN OUR HOMELESS PROGRAMS If you would like to support neighbors going through hard times by contributing a homemade meal or volunteering your time, contact Rev. Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, or Jim Stewart, Shelter Director.

The Earth Stewardship Group is excited to offer a three-part program in preparation for Earth Week, April 19 - 26.

The series will feature two speakers and a film exploring the climate crisis and its relevance for Christians and people of faith.

Each event will take place at 12:30 p.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

A DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: *FROM PARIS TO PITTSBURGH* Sunday, March 22

Join us for a screening of this 2018 film, referencing the Paris Climate Agreement, that describes some of the human and scientific issues, as well as the political and economic realities, that help define climate change and shape a call to action. From the film's website: "From coastal cities to America's heartland, *From Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. And as the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren't waiting on Washington to act."

A CONVERSATION WITH LAURIE BURT Sunday, March 29

First Church member Laurie Burt, an environmental lawyer and former Commissioner of Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth under Governor Deval Patrick, will speak and answer questions on her observations, action, and faith.

A CONVERSATION WITH WEN STEPHENSON Sunday, April 19

Wen Stephenson, contributor to *The Nation* and former editor at *The Boston Globe* and *The Atlantic*, will share his experience as a climate activist and his understandings from a faith perspective.

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR JOSEPHINE BOLLING MCCALL Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m., Old South Church, Boston Ms. McCall will share the moving story of her father's lynching which took place just weeks before Christmas in 1947 and reveal the scheme to cover up the murder. She will talk about her journey of discovery, which challenges our nation to examine and consider the lasting impact of slavery, America's original sin. Her presentation will be followed by a conversation and a book signing. This event is free and open to the public but you must RSVP by visiting https://tinyurl.com/t7zlfvl. Co-sponsored by City Mission, Old South Church, and First Church in Cambridge.

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.

LICENSES FOR ALL - MAKE A CALL The Work and Family Mobility Act (H.3012) was voted favorably out of the state Joint Committee on Transportation on February 6. This bill would enable all qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license, regardless of immigration status. Jobs With Justice is asking people to take action and call Speaker DeLeo's office (617-722-2500). Ask the Speaker to bring this bill to the floor! Massachusetts should be the next state to allow driver's licenses for all, joining 15 other states that have passed similar legislation. Our immigrant neighbors need the freedom of mobility to work, to take care of their families, and to live their lives.

WILLIAM BELDEN NOBLE LECTURES Tuesday & Wednesday, March 10 & 11, 7:00 p.m., The Memorial Church of Harvard University The second and third lectures in the William Belden Noble lecture series will be given by Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock on the topics of "Voter Suppression: An Assault on the Soul of our Democracy," and "Poverty: An Affront to our Covenant with One Another." The lectures are free and open to the public; doors open at 6:00 p.m.

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 fund CLAH's work, as they create new housing units and rebuild neighborhoods. Please see Alice Kidder for tickets, or email Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 1 - First Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Study, Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, Lexi Boudreaux, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Outdoor Church Offering
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship & Refreshments, Soup & Bread, Lenten Art Project, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 2:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, The Well (Rm. 22)
- 3:00 p.m. Seraphim Singers Concert, Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 4

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:00 p.m. Parsonage Soup Supper, 44 Garden St., Cambridge

Thursday, March 5

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Harter Room
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room
- 9:00 a.m. Women's Retreat, Sanctuary and MJH

Sunday, March 8 - Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Study, Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preK-7th grade)
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship & Refreshments, cake reception for Wendy Vander Hart, Lenten Art Project, MJH
- 12: 30 p.m. Church School Teacher Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

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 617-547-2724, ext. 22 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 Carlyle Stewart carlyle@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

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