



LENT

**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 few weeks 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

March 29, 2020

Preaching Today

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Leading Worship

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate

Peter Sykes, Music Director

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WELCOME

*Please email your prayer requests to Carlyle at carlyle@firstchurchcambridge.org
up through the first 15 minutes of the service.
Your requests will be prayed aloud during the Prayers for Church and World.*

VOLUNTARY***GREETING**

Sarah Higginbotham

- L: Friends, grace and peace to you, and welcome!
(Silence)
- L: In every sound and silence,
C: 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 wherever we are.
C: We open our hearts to listen for it now.
(Silence)
- L: Come and worship! For God's love surrounds and enfolds us.
God is making a way towards us in the midst of it all.

WORDS OF WELCOME***HYMN C-23**

Come, All You Thirsty

*(see page 4)***MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S MERCY****INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Dan Smith

SILENCE**CONFESSION HYMN**

Lead Me, Lord

*(see page 5)***DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS*****GREETING OF PEACE**

**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.*

***SHARED CHECK-IN**

***HYMN**

Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(sing through twice)**

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD'S WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SILENCE

READING

Romans 12: 1-18

Carlyle Stewart

HOMILY

Dan Smith

SILENCE

MUSICAL RESPONSE OF FAITH

Peter Sykes

MAKING A WAY FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WORD ABOUT OUR HOMELESS MINISTRIES

Kate Layzer

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: In the silence, O God,

C: hear our prayer.... *(silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer)*

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

*You may give online from your bank account at www.firstchurchcambridge.org
(click on the word "Give" at the top of the landing page)
or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.*

*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 IN GOD'S WORLD

*HYMN 368

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

(see page 7)

A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN

*At this time, you are invited to email Dan or Sarah with your comments or check-ins,
to be shared via the live-stream.*

*Dan's email: dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sarah's email: shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org*

OPENING HYMN

Come, All You Thirsty

1. Come, all you thirst - y, to the riv - er,
 2. Come to the good, for - giv - ing riv - er,
 3. Come to the strong, re - new - ing riv - er,
 4. Riv - er of life, what deep com - pass - ion

here where the Word_ runs cool and deep.
 here where the Word_ runs calm and clear.
 here where the Word_ runs sweet and wild.
 feeds your e - ter - nal mer - cy song?

Come with the out - casts, crushed and bro - ken,
 Wash in the truth that frees the spi - rit;
 Come by God's gift, though un - de - ser - ving;
 God's own face shines in you re - flec - ted,

come, you who rage_ and you_ who weep._
 shed the ex - cus - es you_ hold dear._
 come be - cause God_ has called_ you Child._
 call - ing us back_ where we_ be - long._

CONFESSION HYMN

Lead Me, Lord

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-ous-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.'

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8

MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD

378.548

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

CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2. Be - fore God's gra - cious throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4. When we must keep a - part, it gives us in - ward pain,

the fel - low-ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
but we shall still be joined in heart, un - til we meet a - gain.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four verses. The second system contains the continuation of the lyrics for the fourth verse, which has been altered.

Fourth verse words were altered by P. Sykes to reflect our current situation.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all those who are ill with COVID-19, and their families; for medical health professionals and all who are on the front lines of the crisis; and for all of us who are learning to navigate this strange new world, that we may receive God's comfort, strength, and peace.
- For Staff Composer Patricia Van Ness and her family as she mourns the loss of her husband Peter Marks. Peter died last week after a long battle with cancer.
- In joyful celebration with Ally Palmer and her parents Julie Palmer and Becky Moyer. Ally, a 7th grader, placed first in her age group on uneven bars in the Massachusetts state gymnastics competition, making her a state champion!
- For Sally O'Brien and her family as they mourn the loss of her brother, David M. Campbell, who died recently in New Jersey at the age of 68.
- For Linda Ziebell, who is recovering from a recent hip surgery.
- For ongoing strength for 12-year-old Ada Grace LaMaster and the LaMaster family. Ada is making progress in her therapy for transverse myelitis and has transitioned to an accessible apartment with her family.
- For all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Mark Deck, Sarah Fujiwara's brother-in-law; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. In this time of disruption caused by the Coronavirus, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For all those affected by the devastating tornadoes that touched down in Nashville recently. We pray especially for those dealing with insurmountable loss.
- 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. And we pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We offer up our fears and grief, and we pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis. May God 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 affected by our inaction.

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

As we live into this new way of “being the church” together, we want to share the following opportunities to stay connected, to help each other, and to practice our faith together. You can find each event on a page of our website entitled “Staying Connected Through Online Programming” (<https://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/worship-music-spiritual-life/staying-connected-through-online-programming>). The links to join via Zoom are listed under every event.

New to Zoom? For a tutorial on how to join a meeting, go to:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting>

In addition to these online events, First Church Staff and Deacons are reaching out to all our members and friends by phone to do individual and family check-ins. We are asking if you have specific needs at this time and/or if you are able to help meet the needs of people in our community.

FCC CONNECTION & PRAYER CALLS

Every weekday, First Church Staff will offer a noontime Zoom call for connection and prayer. Join these thirty-minute (or so) virtual meet-ups to share a brief check-in, make prayer requests, and pray together.

- Mondays at noon with Dan Smith
- Tuesdays at noon with Carlyle Stewart
- Wednesdays at noon with Dan Smith
- Thursdays at noon with Sarah Higginbotham
(This is an all-ages call; children are especially invited to zoom in!)
- Fridays at noon with Lexi Boudreaux

How to connect to weekday FCC Connection & Prayer Calls via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming weekday starting at noon:

<https://zoom.us/j/154016453>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 154 016 453

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

PRAYING THE PSALMS The group meets **every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom**, beginning with a time of soulful check-in, followed by a 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 virtually when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week.

How to connect to weekly Praying the Psalms meetings via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Thursday starting at 7:15 am:

<https://zoom.us/j/361730234>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 361 730 234

*If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin,
please contact Dan Smith or Sarah Higginbotham by Tuesday morning,*

STAY CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY WITH CARLYLE This group is led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart and meets **every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**, continuing with a focus on the Gospel of John. 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.

How to connect to weekly Bible Study with Carlyle via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Thursday starting at 6:00 pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/486781715>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 486 781 715

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES WITH LEXI Join Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux **every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom** for a place to connect, check-in, and engage in spiritual practices together. We will be reading scripture and practicing different ways of interacting with the prayer practices of our Christian tradition. Offerings will vary weekly, but will include some form of Lectio Divina or reflection practice about the reading for the week. Looking forward to centering ourselves together!

How to connect to weekly Spiritual Practices with Lexi via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Friday starting at 8:00 am:

<https://zoom.us/j/835197538>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 835 197 538

STREET OUTREACH CHECK-IN Join a Zoom call with Kate Layzer **every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.** for an update about how our homeless neighbors are doing in the current crisis, and how the city is responding to needs.

How to connect to a weekly Street Outreach Check-in with Kate via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Tuesday starting at 4:00 pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/744777502>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 744 777 502

FIRST CHURCH CHOIR ZOOM CALL Join Peter Sykes **every Thursday evening at 7:45 p.m. via Zoom** for a virtual check-in.

How to connect to weekly First Church Choir Call via Zoom:

Go to the following url on any upcoming Thursday starting at 7:45 pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/105960814>

Or call this number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 105 960 814

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

MEN'S BREAKFAST VIA ZOOM Saturday, April 4, 8:00 a.m. Our monthly Men's Breakfast, for all who identify as men, will be meeting via Zoom on Saturday. To participate, please go to: <https://zoom.us/j/313937329>. Or call: 929 205 6099. The Meeting ID is 313 937 329. Join us for a time of soulful check-in and conversation!

THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMITTEE INVITES YOU to contribute to our new blog, Water In The Wilderness (waterinthewilderness.org). What has moved you, cheered you, strengthened you in this time? What little stories would you like to share, from past or present, that may move, cheer, or strengthen us at this time? What have been your challenges? Where have you found clarity or wonder? How did you find God today? Any and all, of all ages, are invited to write (or draw) about your experiences and reflections. Send your [short] contribution to Lexi at lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org or submit directly at waterinthewilderness.org.

NIGHT SONG Alison La Rosa, who sings regularly for Night Song, spent last weekend recording and editing a 25-minute Night Song. It's posted for you at <https://youtu.be/RqFdlqjCL1o>. Night Song Director Daryl Bichel invites you to dim the lights, burn some candles and find peace and solace in this recording during the week.

VIRTUAL HOUSE CHURCHES Would you like to virtually connect with a smaller group at First Church for conversation, worship, and reflection through a conference call or video chat platforms such as Zoom? Please sign up to be matched with a group here: <https://forms.gle/BGGtdNbYrdsTU1dZA>
Email Lexi Boudreaux if you have any questions about this new virtual format.

VIRTUAL PRAYER PARTNERS A prayer partner is someone that you can connect with on a regular basis to support you in your spiritual journey and daily life. You can talk about how your spiritual practices have been going or have not been going, share what might be on your minds and hearts during this season, and commit to praying for each other throughout the week. If you didn't sign up for a prayer partner for Lent and still want to be matched with another person in the congregation for one-on-one check-ins please sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/MFxzQuLzhdnbd5um9>
Matches will be notified of their partner on a rolling basis. Email Lexi Boudreaux if you have any questions.

OFFERS TO VOLUNTEER If you are willing to help others in our congregation in need, please fill out this survey for potential volunteers: <https://tinyurl.com/wufnngj>. We will do our best to match you with needs as we learn about them.

HELP WITH HOMELESS MINISTRIES

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE FIRST CHURCH SHELTER In response to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Shelter has expanded into Sage Hall to allow for greater social distancing, and is now open to guests around the clock, thanks to additional funding from the Commonwealth. They would very much welcome donations of the following supplies: coffee, sugar, canned goods, beverages (large containers preferred), and personal hygiene supplies such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant. They are also looking for donations of night stands, if anyone has one they can spare! Donations can be dropped off at the Shelter door any day between 2:00–5:00. Contact Jim Stewart at (617) 694-7894.

THANK YOU FROM FIRST CHURCH HOMELESS MINISTRIES The Friday Café and First Church Shelter are truly grateful for the outpouring of help in response to our bagged lunch and casserole signups. Thanks to all of you, as well as caring neighbors, we are in great shape for the next few weeks! We will publish those links again as the need arises.

STAYING CONNECTED TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS NEED YOU and your generous donations now more than ever! Leave items in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, any time between now and April 10. Hilary is .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. She will see that your donations are delivered when the pantry is open. Needed: cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce, also feminine products, and, maybe, even some cookies. Thank you.

DONATE TO PROJECT BREAD First Church member Gail Breeze had planned to walk in her 24th Walk for Hunger this May. While there is no "walk," the fundraising is crucial. Project Bread supports nearly 100 communities across the state including the following programs: food pantries, meal sites, summer meals for children, nutrition programs, local farms, urban gardens, and more. Now Project Bread is assisting school leaders in setting up 1100 school meal sites so kids can eat while school is closed. Please support Gail in this important endeavor by donating online at: <http://support.projectbread.org/goto/gbreeze> or send a check made out to Project Bread to Gail at One Orchard Circle, Belmont, MA, 02478.

WAYS TO HELP

Looking for ways to support our community during this unprecedented time of need? The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled and vetted a short list of organizations looking for assistance to aid in their work in the COVID-19 response - locally, regionally, and internationally.

Organizations looking for monetary donations:

Cambridge Mayor's Emergency Fund

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/news/2020/03/mayorsdisasterrelieffundforcovid19>

Cambridge Community Foundation

<http://cambridgecf.org/ways-to-give/>

Black Lives Matter Boston

BLM Boston is funding emergency needs of members of the community, including rent and food

<https://www.onesquareworld.org/blm-boston-campaign21.html>

Food for Free

<https://foodforfree.org/donate/>

Greater Boston Food Bank

<https://www.gbfb.org/ways-to-give/>

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

This organization funds several hospitals and clinics in Palestine

<https://afedj.org/give/overview/>

Volunteer needs:

A note on volunteering at this time: needs for volunteers are changing daily, as organizations respond to this fast-changing crisis while still protecting the critical need for social distancing. If you engage in volunteer activities, please continue to consider carefully how best to keep yourself and your community safe. We all depend on each other, now more than ever.

For up to date information on volunteer needs in Cambridge:

<http://www.cambridgevolunteers.org/needed-now/>

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 29 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group online games, via Zoom

Monday, March 30

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith

Tuesday, March 31

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Carlyle Stewart
- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer

Wednesday, April 1

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Thursday, April 2

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call for All Ages with Sarah Higginbotham
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, April 3

- 8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Lexi Boudreaux
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Front Lawn

Saturday, April 4

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, via Zoom

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream

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



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CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
www.firstchurchcambridge.org