

EASTERTIDE

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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



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

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
April 19, 2020

Preaching TodayDan Smith, Senior Minister

Leading Worship
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate
Peter Sykes, Music Director

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

FIRST CHURCH	IN CAMBRIDGE
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April 19, 2020

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY Fanfare Jacques Lemmens

*HYMN 215 Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day (see page 4)

*GREETING Kate Layzer

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

C: From God the Merciful, peace to you!

L: And welcome! Be at home, in the presence of Love,

C: Love divine, stronger than death!

L: Welcome! Be at home, in the companionship of the Risen Christ,the Risen Christ, source of gentleness, who abides with us now!

L: Be at home in God and in this time of worship!

And lift up your hearts in praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM Christ's Chanticleer A. F. Schultz

First Church Choir, Easter 2016

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

^{*}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.

*GREETING OF PEACE

*SHARED CHECK-IN

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Carlyle Stewart

READING Luke 24:13-35

SERMON Dan Smith

*HYMN 302 Come to Me, O Weary Traveler (see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray... (silence, intercessions, 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

O Jesus, risen now to bless, do thou thyself our hearts possess; that we may give thee all our days the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN C-3 Psalm 23 (see page 6)

*BENEDICTION

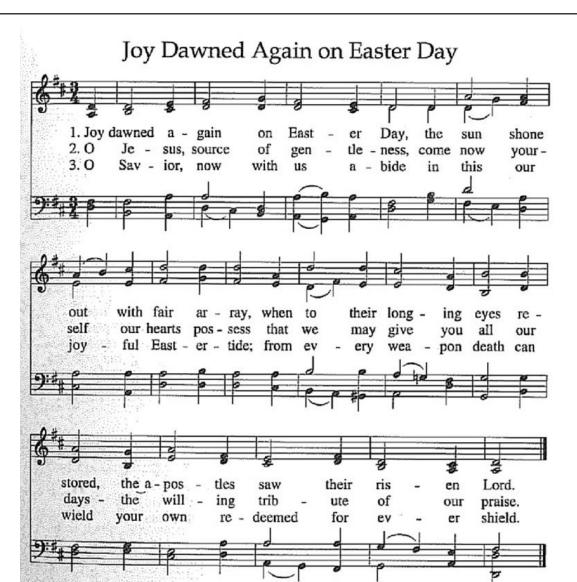
*CHORAL RESPONSE Ultimate Jude Paul Sawyer

VOLUNTARY Christ lag in Todesbanden J. S. Bach

CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN

At this time, you are invited to email Dan or Kate with your prayer concerns or check-ins, to be shared via the live-stream.

Dan's email: dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Kate's email: klayzer@gmail.com



Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



ORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990

USIC: William P. Rowan, 1992, adapt.

lvia Dunstan, whose text was inspired by Matthew 11:28-30, was an lained minister of the United Church of Canada. William Rowan is a man Catholic director of music ministries in Lansing, Michigan.

AUSTIN 87.87

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Psalm 23

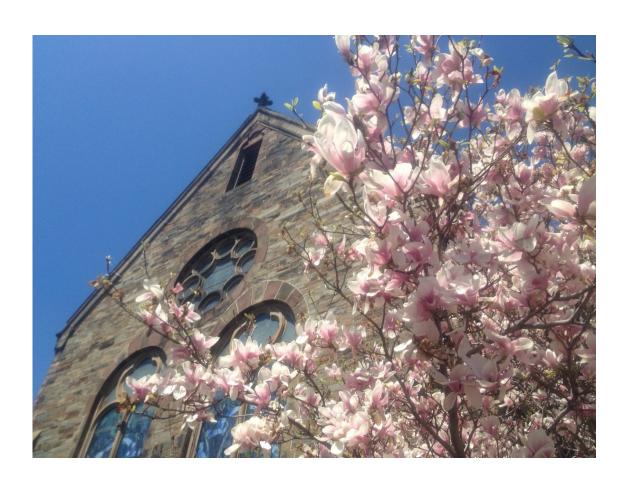
C-3



WORDS: New translation by Denise Karuth

MUSIC: New England Psalter, 1698

LOW DUTCH



YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Gail Buschmann and her family as they grieve the loss of Gail's mother, Ruth Buschmann, who died last Saturday at the age of 96.
- For Carlyle Stewart and his family as they grieve the loss of Carlyle's grandmother Jean Marlene Stewart, who died on April 3 of complications related to COVID-19.
- For all those who are ill with COVID-19, and their families; 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 Kelsey Peterson's penpal, TK, who is an inmate at the Massachusetts Treatment Center in Bridgewater, where there have already been several deaths from COVID-19. We pray that he and other inmates everywhere remain healthy and that their souls are finding comfort under incredibly perilous circumstances.
- For all healthcare workers in clinics and hospitals and nursing homes. We pray also for all home health aides and all who are working on the front lines of this crisis. Prayers have been requested for First Church member Dewey Cyr, a nurse who has been assigned to a Covid-only floor at Brigham & Women's Hospital. May God give her and all First Church healthcare workers strength, knowledge and safety to ease suffering and come out on the other side.
- For all young families who are at home, living in close quarters, doing their best to work and parent at home without usual supports of school, daycare, playdates, and playgrounds. Prayers for strength and patience and grace and self-compassion!
- For African Americans and communities of color around the country that are facing disproportionately high rates of coronavirus death and infection, revealing entrenched inequalities in resources and access to healthcare.
- For all who are experiencing unemployment or underemployment during this crisis, including undocumented workers who cannot find a safety net in our government's response.
- For Sarah Fujiwara's brother-in-law, Mark Deck, who underwent surgery for pancreatic cancer on Thursday.
- In celebration with Peggy and Norm Bendroth, whose grandson Tycho was born on April 2.
- In celebration with Peggy and Mike Stevens, whose grandson Theo was born on April 3.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- In celebration with First Church member Katie Omberg, who has been newly called to be the Bridge Pastor at Saugus Congregational Church.
- For Hilary Hopkins's nephew Jeff, his wife Julie, and his mother Heather, as Jeff struggles with advanced lung cancer.
- 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.
- 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.

TODAY'S FORMATION PROGRAMS

(ALMOST) EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHURCH YEAR Today and every Sunday through May 17, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom What is All Saints Day about anyway? Why don't we sing Christmas carols during the first few Sundays of Advent? Where did Maundy Thursday get its name? Beginning Sunday, April 19, and running through Sunday, May 17, Beth Spaulding, Deacon and liturgical year enthusiast, will lead a journey through the church year. We'll meet via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., giving us time for a stretch break before worship.

"ASK THE MINISTER" SESSION Today, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Because of the unforeseen challenges of this time, virtual connection has been a gift and it has allowed us to come together online for worship, spiritual formation, and prayerful reflection together. We invite you to join a Zoom meeting after worship today to bring questions of faith, such as "How do we maintain or strengthen spiritual practices during this time? How can we become more involved with the work of the church?" Newcomers, First Church members, and any others are all welcome. Questions about how First Church has adapted as a community or any other questions pertaining to programming and your topics of interest are encouraged.

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE, REVISITED Today and Sunday, April 26, 2:00 p.m., via Zoom As we began Lent together, we experienced several powerful sessions exploring themes from James Cone's book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree.* Sadly, these in-person sessions were curtailed by our need to stay at home. Though initially a Lenten Study, the themes of this book are just as important now, as we see black and brown families and communities facing a disproportionately higher impact of COVID-19-related illness, death, and economic distress. Please join Lexi, Dan, and Carlyle for two Zoom followup sessions to continue our ongoing conversation.

The Zoom Meeting ID and Password for each of these meetings may be found in the all-church email sent on Monday, April 13, entitled "First Church Zoom Links and Passwords."

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

FCC CONNECTION & PRAYER CALLS Every weekday, First Church Staff 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

PROGRAM OFFERINGS In addition to our daily Connection & Prayer Calls, we are offering the following programs and conversations via Zoom:

Tuesdays

Street Outreach Check-in with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Parent Check-in with Dan Smith, 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Praying the Psalms with Dan Smith & Brent Coffin, 7:15 a.m. Weekly Bible Study with Carlyle Stewart, 6:00 p.m. First church Choir Call with Peter Sykes, 7:45 p.m

Fridays

Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, 8:00 a.m.

To find the Zoom links and passwords, please refer to the all-church email sent on Monday, April 13, entitled "First Church Zoom Links and Passwords."

FIRST CHURCH COVID-19 and FAITH BLOG: WATER IN THE WILDERNESS Our new blog, waterinthewilderness.org, is a source of connection during this time. There you will find reflections, prayers, spiritual and practical resources, plus an online form to talk with one another! Sign up to receive email notifications for new posts and create a login to comment on posts and to use the forum. We welcome submissions for the blog. Contact Lexi Boudreaux for any questions.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND CONNECTION

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE LAUNCH In the Easter season, we have launched our First Church in Cambridge YouTube channel. First Church staff and leaders are uploading videos pertaining to their ministries or areas of interest. We have started with pre-recorded reflections and devotions, led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart, that began last Monday. We also look forward to begin live-streaming on our Youtube channel in the upcoming weeks. The recorded uploads consist of scripture lessons, devotions, and reflections that explore how our faith tradition can inform us about current events and strengthen us throughout this challenging time. The link to the channel is: https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av

ZOOM MEDITATION & SLOW FLOW RESTORATIVE YOGA WITH GANDHI-SOLANKI Saturday, April 25, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom These are uncertain times indeed and even though we are in the safety of our homes, we need to be able to relax and go deep within our minds to find that inner peace. This 45-minute virtual Meditation and Slow Flow Restorative Yoga will provide a balance of flowing movement and breath awareness with a slow and steady pace. It is open to all age groups and you can do it from the comfort of your couch or yoga mat. It is intended to induce deep relaxation and it is a perfect way to unwind in a welcoming environment of your own home. To register, cut and paste this link into your browser:

https://forms.gle/biF7d7KvgX1WGgrf6. All the registrants will receive a zoom link. For more

https://forms.gle/hiEZdZKvqX1WGgrf6. All the registrants will receive a zoom link. For more information contact Gandhi at (617) 230-4069 or ras6729@g.harvard.edu

EXTENDED FIRST CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURE

For a pastoral letter with an update about our building closures and other COVID-19-related changes, please see our website (www.firstchurchcambridge.org) and click on the link in the yellow banner at the top of the page.

Church leaders and staff have decided that *all First Church-sponsored worship, meetings, and events will be postponed, cancelled, or shifted to online formats through at least May 4.*All wider community events that are hosted at First Church will also be postponed, cancelled, or shifted to online formats during this time period. We will be revisiting this plan regularly, revising as needed, and communicating updates weekly.

CALL TO A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Congregational Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 385th year at 12:15 p.m., Sunday the 26th of April, 2020, via teleconference (Zoom) meeting from the Sanctuary at 11 Garden Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the following purposes:

- 1. To approve the purchase and installation of upgraded high-efficiency boilers in the summer of 2020, and that the church finance the project by borrowing a seven-year interest-free loan, and the church repay the loan by funds drawn from the church's Capital Reserve at a rate of \$30,000 per year over seven years as recommended by Executive Council.*
- 2. To receive an update about staffing.
- 3. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council
23 March 2020

*A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER REGARDING ENERGY EFFICIENT BOILERS

In 2019, four of First Church's five aging boilers failed. One was repaired, which gave us just enough heat to get through what proved to be a mercifully mild winter. We have received a proposal from Capitol Engineering to replace all five boilers with energy efficient modulating condensing boilers. These boilers are capable of achieving efficiencies of up to 98% and are expected to use at least 25% less natural gas to heat the building than our existing models, which will both save money on fuel and reduce our carbon footprint.

The cost of the project is estimated to be at most \$211,000 and possibly significantly less. The Massachusetts government offers zero-interest loans as an incentive for businesses and non-profit organizations to convert old heating equipment to new higher efficiency models. We qualify for a zero-interest loan with a seven-year term. Effectively, we'd pay the \$211,000 at a rate of \$31,143 per year instead of all at once. We would pay the \$31,143 payments out of our regularly budgeted capital reserve, so we expect no impact on the financial sustainability of the congregation. Although we may need to delay some other capital projects, replacing the boilers with energy efficient models has been in our long-term capital improvements plan for some time.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR 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.

GIVING TO AND RECEIVING FROM OUR FIRST CHURCH DEACONS' FUND

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. In these times of unexpected financial hardship and job loss, we hope people will take advantage of this aid.

This fund belongs to us and relies on our contributions. You are also invited to make a gift (beyond your pledge) to the Deacons' Fund, if able. You may contribute online to the Deacons' Fund, or text "\$xxx Deacons" to 844-996-0982. If you like to mail a check, please email Karen McArthur.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

SUGGESTED WAYS TO DONATE FROM THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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. Please go to: https://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/news/ways-to-help

GBIO LETTER TO GOVERNOR BAKER RE: CORONAVIRUS JUSTICE CONCERNS. Over 50 clergy and faith leaders in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (of which First Church is an active, dues-paying member) sent a letter this week to Governor Baker advocating around three areas of urgent concern to our communities:

Housing — protecting homeowners and tenants from foreclosures/evictions/bad credit reporting because of late payments, and pressing for additional funding for emergency rent support.

Criminal Justice — immediately lowering the population of incarcerated persons behind bars to reduce the spread of the virus and prevent predictable deaths among them, and/or personnel.

Healthcare — making sure our frontline hospital persons have enough supplies for PPE, and that there is no price gouging on much needed supplies. We will also continue with our Healthcare Campaign because, now more than ever, we need accessible affordable healthcare.

To read the full letter, please visit https://www.gbio.org/news and stay tuned for updates on this and other GBIO campaigns.

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 May 8. 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 YOUR OLD DEVICE TO VINFEN First Church member Steve LaMaster supports 7 DMH-funded clubhouse programs that have closed their sites and converted their operations to virtual and food outreach for people with psychiatric disabilities in 7 municipalities. He is looking for used laptops with cameras or Android/ iPhones that could be used by outreach staff to call, text, and connect to vulnerable clients. Please contact Steve at lamasters@vinfen.org if you can help.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...

-Psalm 24



image from nasa.gov

This Wednesday, April 22, marks the 50th anniversary of the the first Earth Day in 1970, when millions of people worldwide called for an end to the degradation of the environment.

At that time there was a great deal of enthusiasm for preserving clean air and water for future generations. Many of the goals sought on that first Earth Day have been realized. But many have been frustrated, and even more challenges have arisen. Recently much effort has been expended to roll back some of the progress that has been accomplished.

As Christians, we acknowledge that creation is sacred and a cause for celebration, as a gift from God.

From April 22 to April 24, activists, performers, thought leaders, and artists will come together for an empowering, inspiring, and communal three day livestream mobilization. Please find it here: https://www.earthdaylive2020.org

The fights against the coronavirus and the climate crisis go hand-in-hand. As we work to flatten the curve of this pandemic, we must strive toward the longer term goal of building a society rooted in sustainability and justice.

-First Church Earth Stewardship Group

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, April 19

- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Year with Beth Spaulding, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via live-stream
- 12:30 p.m. "Ask a Minister" Session, via Zoom

2:00 p.m. The Cross and the Lynching Tree, Revisited, via Zoom

Monday, April 20

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith
- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community Meeting, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, April 21

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Carlyle Stewart
- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, April 22

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Dan Smith
- 4:30 p.m. Parents' Zoom Call with Dan Smith

Thursday, April 23

- 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 mm. Chair Call via 700m
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, April 24

- 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

Sunday, April 26

- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Year with Beth Spaulding, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via live-stream
- 12:15 p.m. Congregational Meeting, via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. The Cross and the Lynching Tree, Revisited, via Zoom

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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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

