

EASTERTIDE

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 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 26, 2020

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate
Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship & Finance
Peter Sykes, Music Director

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Allein Gott in die Höh sei Ehr'

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 18

Praise to the Living God, verses 1 and 4

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Sarah Higginbotham

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,

C: 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

Affectus meus tibi superfluit

Patricia Van Ness

To the two who paused in sadness walking to Emmaus;
 to Simon Peter, warrior and child;
 to the Centurian; to Pilate; to Judas,
 my tenderness for you overflows
 and pours from the empty tomb, like song.
(First Church Choir, Easter 2001)

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Dan Smith

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

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

*GREETING OF PEACE AND SHARED CHECK-IN

OPENING THE WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Psalm 104:1-11; 30-35

Bless the Creator, O my soul.
O God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.
You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys
to the place that you appointed for them.

You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
May the glory of the Creator endure forever;
may God rejoice in these works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to my Creator as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to you,
for I rejoice in you.
Bless the Creator, O my soul.
Praise God!

EARTH DAY MEDITATIONS

Lexi Boudreaux and Carlyle Stewart

*HYMN 262

As the Sun Doth Daily Rise

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE SOLAR PANELS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

(adapted from *Companions on the Planet, An Arbor Day Prayer during the Fifty Great Days of Mission 4/1 Earth*, by the Rev. Rodger Goode)

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray:

Creator of mountain grandeur and meteor showers,
You are ever at work in the infinite space of the universe,
and in the smallness of each ant, beetle, butterfly and bee.

We marvel at your majesty
yet are awestruck at the intricate simplicity of life:
Dew glistening on spider's web, bird song jubilant,
each new day a miracle dawning.

On this Earth Day Sunday, we give you thanks for trees and clear skies:
We rest in their shade; breathe in their oxygen; feast on their fruit.
Trees anchor the ground beneath our feet and purify the air around us:
their cycles are a silent, faithful witness to your goodness and providence.
We give you thanks for all life on earth nourished by your hand!

**C: Let your presence be known among us today
as we recognize the gifts of creation all around us.
Bless them with growth, and bless us with wisdom
to steward our environment into a new life where all may flourish.**

(cont'd. on next page)

**We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our True Vine,
and we now pray the words that he 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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Karen McArthur

*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**

**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.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 461**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

(see page 6)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Allein Gott in die Höh sei Ehr'

J. S. Bach

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please stay with us for a Congregational Meeting. First Church Moderator Mary Robinson will conduct the meeting through our live-stream in the Sanctuary. Members and friends are invited to connect simultaneously to a Zoom meeting where questions and comments will be received via the chat function. Members will be asked to vote in the Zoom meeting.

To attend the Zoom meeting, please cut and paste this link into your browser:
<https://zoom.us/j/98207438986?pwd=WUFBcXNuTVRrZllyYkx4c2JqRHR3UT09>

Or open Zoom on your device and use the following information:

Meeting ID: 982 0743 8986

Password: 507951

If you have any difficulty joining the Zoom call,
please email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org).

You are invited to remain muted on the Zoom call and use the chat function
to ask questions or offer comments.

Meeting Agenda

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.

***A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER REGARDING ENERGY EFFICIENT BOILERS**

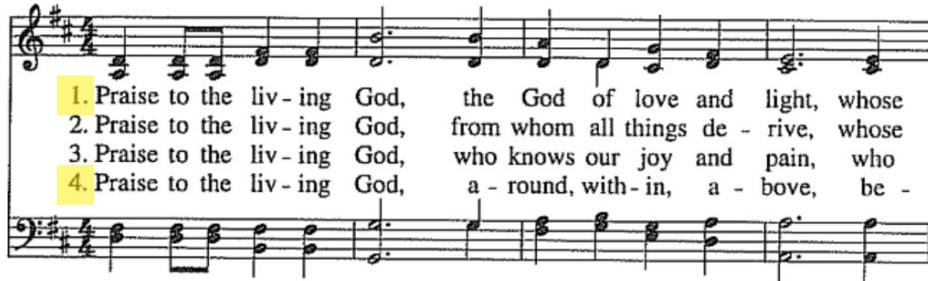
In 2019, four of First Church's five aging boilers failed. One was repaired, which gave us just enough heat to get through what proved to be a mercifully mild winter. We have received a proposal from Capitol Engineering to replace all five boilers with energy efficient modulating condensing boilers. 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.

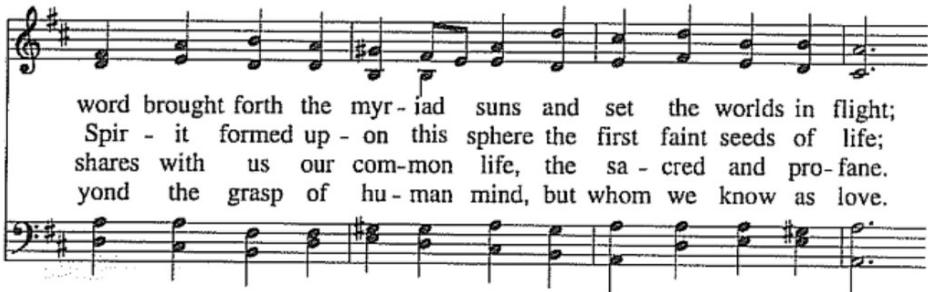
OPENING HYMN

Praise to the Living God

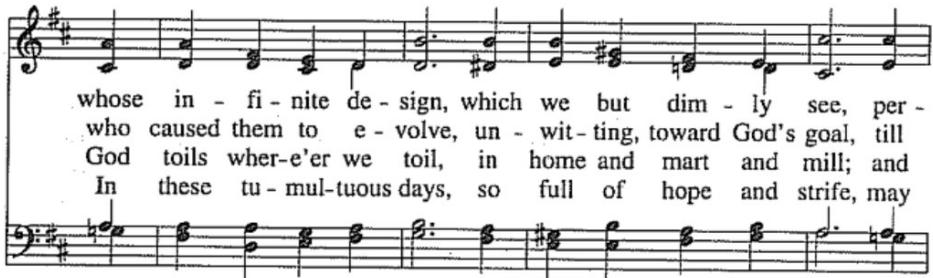
verses 1 and 4



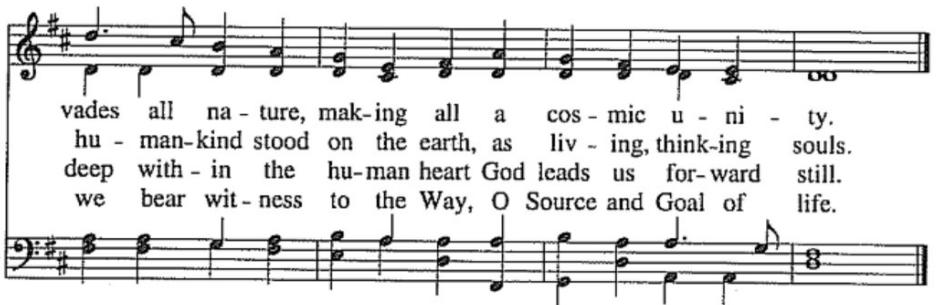
1. Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, whose
2. Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, whose
3. Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, who
4. Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, per -
who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, till
God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; and
In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, may



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

WORDS: Curtis Beach, 1966, alt.
MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

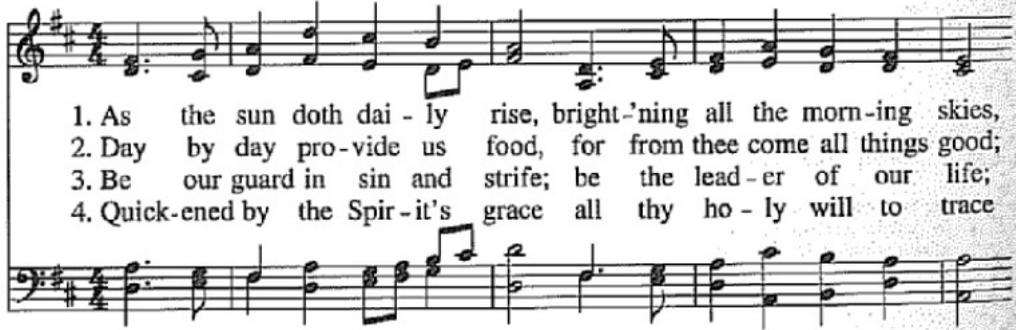
DIADEMATA
SMD

Like many English Anglican organists and composers, George Elvey received his early training as a cathedral choir boy.

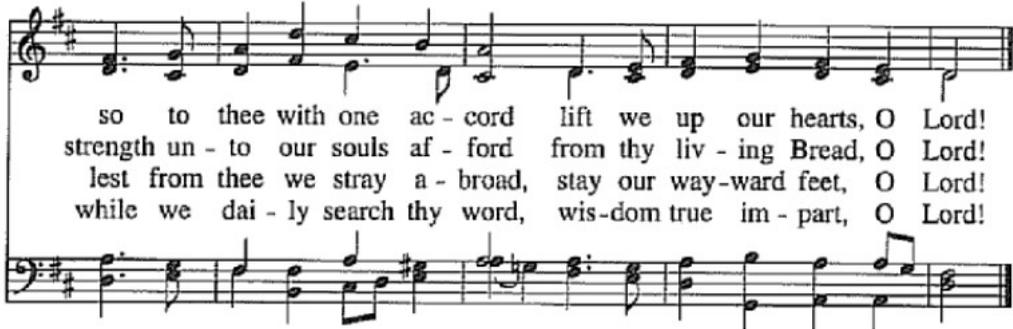
Words © 1966 Estate of Curtis Beach

SERMON HYMN

As the Sun Doth Daily Rise



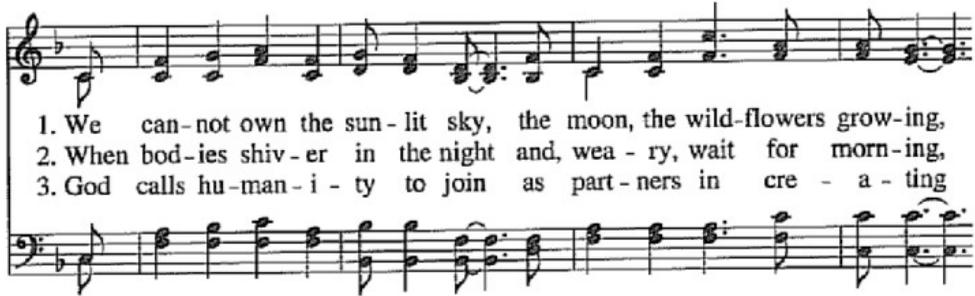
1. As the sun doth dai - ly rise, bright-'ning all the morn-ing skies,
2. Day by day pro-vide us food, for from thee come all things good;
3. Be our guard in sin and strife; be the lead-er of our life;
4. Quick-ened by the Spir-it's grace all thy ho - ly will to trace



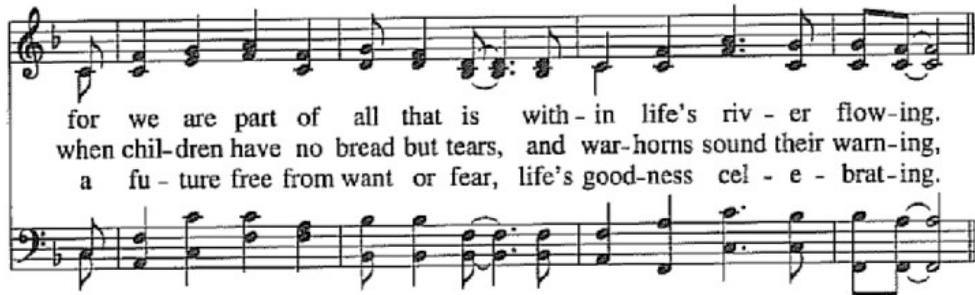
so to thee with one ac - cord lift we up our hearts, O Lord!
strength un - to our souls af - ford from thy liv - ing Bread, O Lord!
lest from thee we stray a - broad, stay our way-ward feet, O Lord!
while we dai - ly search thy word, wis-dom true im - part, O Lord!

CLOSING HYMN

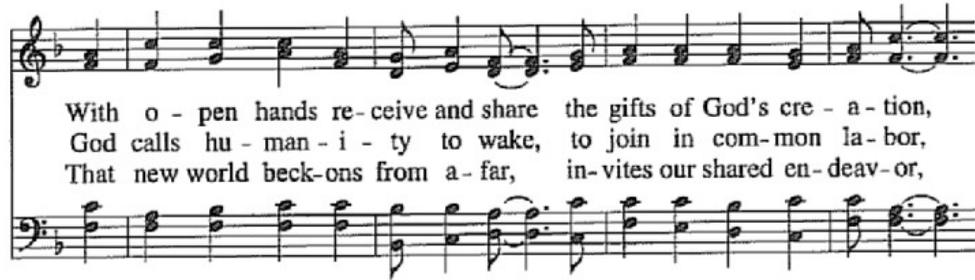
We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky



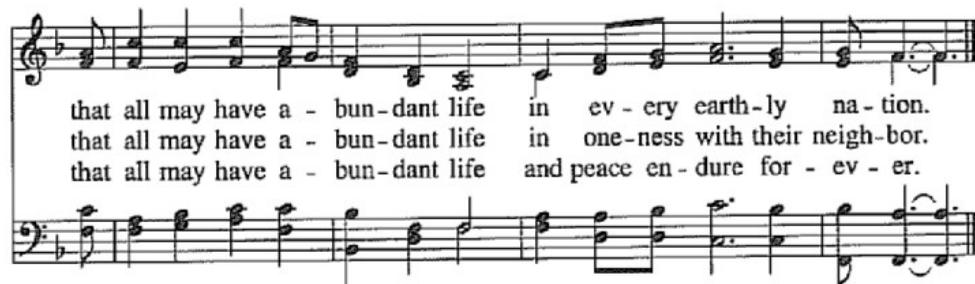
1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers grow-ing,
2. When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,
3. God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-a-ting



for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv-er flow-ing.
when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,
a fu-ture free from want or fear, life's good-ness cel-e-brat-ing.



With o-pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion,
God calls hu-man-i-ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor,
That new world beck-ons from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or,



that all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-ery earth-ly na-tion.
that all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
that all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Devin Hansen, as she grieves the loss of her cousin Charles “Sonny” Denicola, who died last week at the age of 82.
- 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 all those killed or injured in this week’s mass shootings in Nova Scotia, Canada; for families, friends, and neighbors as they mourn this tragedy in their community; and for victims of gun violence everywhere.
- 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 all essential workers, who continue to put themselves at risk to care for the sick and most vulnerable, maintain our food supply, deliver supplies, keep our public services running, and lead us through this crisis.
- 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 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; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann’s sisters; and Jeff, Hilary Hopkins’s nephew.
- 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, 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 AT FIRST CHURCH

(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.

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE, REVISITED Today, 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."

NIGHTSONG MUSICAL OFFERING Follow this link to music for the Easter season, as interpreted by Night Song pianist Ben Schwendener and recorded in his home studio on April 18 & 19: <https://soundcloud.com/benschwen/night-song-41920>.

SEARCHING FOR SERMONS AND BULLETINS If you are using this stay-at-home time to organize your papers, you may come across materials of interest to the First Church Archives. Among the items we are looking for are copies of Rev. Mary Luti's sermons (2000-2008) and church bulletins from the year 1979. Questions? Please contact Archives co-chairs Kate Judd (juddkate@aol.com), Lindsay Miller (lindsaymiller984@gmail.com), or Chris Reynolds (rdandm@comcast.net). Thank you!

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

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 **Kate Layzer** (this week)
- **Tuesdays** at noon with **Carlyle Stewart**
- **Wednesdays** at noon with **Karen McArthur** (this week)
- **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.
- **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.

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL We have launched our First Church in Cambridge YouTube channel. We have started with pre-recorded reflections and devotions, led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart, that began on Easter Monday. We also look forward to beginning 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>

STAYING CONNECTED TO FIRST CHURCH

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m., via Zoom All First Church members who identify as male are invited to join our virtual breakfast this Saturday. We will do a check in of all those who join and ask for stories about experiencing the quieter outdoors—urban, suburban, and rural—and any interactions in these times of stress and social distancing. An email reminder will go out this week; if you wish to be added to the email list, please contact Kirsten Manville. All are most welcome; bring your own bagels.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY WRITING GROUP Are you interested in exploring your relationship to writing as a spiritual practice? Are you looking to connect to a group of women to support you in maintaining a writing practice? Would you like to explore devotional writing as a part of your prayer life? Join us once a month via Zoom for accountability, feedback, and fellowship. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 17, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Questions? Email Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux if you would like to be in touch before then to start your writing practice.

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.

OUR HOMELESS MINISTRIES

COVID-19 CAMBRIDGE HOMELESS UPDATE For those who have expressed concern about the wellbeing of homeless neighbors during the current pandemic, here is the latest news on the evolving response from the City and Commonwealth.

A new temporary city shelter at the Field House—part of the War Memorial Recreation Center at Rindge and Latin High School—is now in operation. The new shelter is intended to reduce numbers at the existing shelter at 240 Albany St. and provide a 24/7 shelter-in-place option where guests can be screened and medically observed.

First to be transferred to the new site were guests of the Warming Center in Central Square (now closed), followed by residents of 240 Albany St. All were tested for COVID-19 before being admitted; 13 out of 85, or 15 percent, were found to be positive (high numbers, but significantly lower than those found among homeless residents of Boston and Worcester). These residents have been transferred to regional isolation centers managed by the Commonwealth; any requiring care will be treated at Cambridge City Hospital or in an isolated medical wing at the Field House.

Meanwhile, urgent needs continue to be addressed in patchwork fashion. You may have heard that the City has partnered with local restaurants to provide prepackaged meals at several distribution points, including the First Church Shelter and the Friday Café. The Friday Café, the Outdoor Church of Cambridge, and the Harvard Square Churches meal program have also teamed up with a generous donor to provide bottled drinking water to residents of Porter, Harvard, and Central Square starting next week. There remain many gaps, especially in the availability of showers and clothing. We will need to think creatively about how to address these needs as the pandemic extends into late spring and potentially much longer. Finally, a special thanks to all who have contributed meals and bagged lunches to Shelter and Friday Café guests! They are really helping, and are very much appreciated.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

OUR NEIGHBOR CITY OF CHELSEA is in high need of funding for food programs and support for the city in this time of Pandemic. The National Guard is distributing food, but the wait lines are longer, and many cannot get out to wait. Teams are delivering food to doors, but they need help. Chelsea's largely immigrant population is out of work and sustaining high transmission rates of the virus due to close living quarters and lack of quarantine due to being essential workers in food or other work. The One Chelsea Fund set up by the United Way is probably the best way to give. It is money to be distributed by the Chelsea Collaborative and other organizations that have been tirelessly sewing face masks and delivering food. If you have funds to spare, please give as you are able! Cut and paste this link into your browser:
https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/the-one-chelsea-fund/?fbclid=IwAR2B793mWnlUznLajuORGaHNdsEUI7KlxPgr25jDhkWe_kXRFSiK4pq54aM

The First Congregational Church and Pastor Ellen Rohan Ball have also been active as they are able. Please contact Ellen Rohan Ball erohanball@aol.com for any questions. Thanks so much for your consideration!

FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS NEED YOU "Oh!" said the manager at the food pantry, when we arrived last week with 25 big bags. "I didn't think we would see you today - wonderful!" Leave your donations 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, especially; canned fruit and veggies; proteins; pasta and sauce; also feminine products; and, maybe, even, some cookies. Thank you for your generous donations!

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>

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

GBIO LETTER TO GOVERNOR BAKER RE: CORONAVIRUS JUSTICE CONCERNS Over 70 clergy and faith leaders in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (of which First Church is an active, dues-paying member) sent a letter recently 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. Several GBIO leaders were on a Zoom call with the Governor last week to share these concerns directly.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY



RIP MEDICAL DEBT DONATIONS The Metropolitan Boston Association is welcoming donations to the UCC Medical Debt Relief Program. Every \$100 in donations brings about forgiveness of \$10,000 in medical debt for people facing insolvency or whose medical debt is 5% or more of their annual income. They must also live in this region. We have given as a congregation, but individuals can also give.

You can learn more and find the link to donate by going to:
<https://www.sneucc.org/RIP-medical-debt>

You can also give by check to the Southern New England Conference - UCC, (Notation: RIP Campaign), 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702.

The deadline for contributions to this fund is May 18. If you have questions, please call Sally O'Brien, Chair of Missions & Social Justice, at 617-538-2183.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Monday, April 27

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Kate Layzer

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Connection & Prayer Call with Karen McArthur

Thursday, April 30

- 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, May 1

- 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, May 2

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

Sunday, May 3

- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: The Liturgical Year with Beth Spaulding, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via live-stream
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, via Zoom

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
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11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
www.firstchurchcambridge.org