

SUMMER WORSHIP August 16, 2020

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 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 usay, 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 August 16, 2020

Dan Smith, Senior Minister, preaching Joanne Paul, Liturgist Peter Sykes, Director of Music Joe Welker, Technical Support Lexi Boudreaux, Videography

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan..

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August 16, 2020

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Sonata in D Major "per organo", K. 287

Domenico Scarlatti

*HYMN 18

Praise to the Living God (vs 1, 3 and 4)

(see page 5)

Joanne Paul

*GREETING

L:

L:

Siblings in the Spirit, God is good!

C:

All the time!

All the time!

God is good! C:

L: Then, come if you are weary,

for God will give you rest! C:

Come if you are hungry for connection, L: for God will fill your heart with blessing! C:

Come if you are looking for transformation in this new normal, L:

for God's love, truth, and justice are real! C:

All: For God's presence is here in this sacred time and space.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith and Joanne Paul

ANTHEM

Domine Fili unigenite (from "Gloria")

Antonio Vivaldi

First Church Choir and Orchestra, December 2018

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace: L:

All: Before you, O God, and before one another,

we confess the harm we have brought on the lives of others,

on our own lives, and on the life of the world.

Forgive us, we pray, for what we have done

and what we have left undone.

and for what we have left unlearned.

Lead us toward wholeness, teaching us, renewing us,

and enabling us to grow in love and in faith.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Do you who are about to witness this sacrament promise this child your love, support and care?

C: We do!

L: Will you help her and this family grow in faith

and witness with them to the love and mercy of Christ?

C: We will, with the help of God!

THE BAPTISMAL VOWS

BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISM OF LYDIA CHRISTINE NARAYAN

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

FINAL BLESSING

L: Siblings in Christ, let us ask God for a blessing!

All: Holy God, Creator of us all,

give to this child strength for life's journey,

courage in the time of trial,

the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the comfort of everlasting life.

And may the grace of Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with us all forevermore. Amen.

PRESENTATION

*HYMN 307 Wonder of Wonders (see page 6)

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Psalm 133

READING Ephesians 4: 1-6

REFLECTION

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH & WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray...(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 <u>at our website</u> or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 417 All My Hope on God is Founded (see page 7)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY Sonata in D Major, K. 288 Domenico Scarlatti



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

SMD



417 All My Hope on God Is Founded



Self-taught in music composition, Howells earned a scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London where he later taught. MICHAEL is named for Howells' son who died in childhood.

Music @ 1982 Novello & Co., Ltd., admin. Shawnee Press, Inc.

FAITH AND HOPE

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Madeleine Youngs for successfully defending her PhD thesis this past Wednesday!
- For Jaime Bonney and Charlie Riggs, who were married recently in a small outdoor ceremony.
- For Kristine Zakarison's daughter, Leda Zakarison, who is a UCC Global Ministry intern living in Beirut, whose room was destroyed by the blast.
- With joy for the birth of Lelia-mina Belhoussein on July 18 to Marni O'Brien and Tarik Belhoussein. Sally and Marc O'Brien are proud and doting grandparents!
- For the people of Beirut and all others affected by the explosions this past week, as they grieve the loss of life and work to rebuild.
- For all students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff trying to navigate the seemingly impossible terrain of school re-opening decisions and plans. May they have strength and wisdom to balance competing demands for ongoing education, caregiving, and safety.
- For our cities and our nation during this time of reckoning with historic and ongoing violence against Black and Indigenous persons and persons of color. We pray for all who are protesting, including those in Portland, Oregon who are facing extreme policing measures. We pray for a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land. We pray also for all who are continuing to grieve the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others.
- For all who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19; for all those who are ill with COVID-19 and their families; and for all of us who are navigating 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. And 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 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. And for Asian Americans as they face unwarranted discrimination and hostility during this Covid-19 pandemic.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; 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; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; and former First Church member Nancy Sanders.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Café, who are experiencing worsening deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption; that may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- 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.
- 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

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR AND CELEBRATION OF KEN ZIEBELL Today, 11:00 a.m., via Zoom Join us for a time of fellowship and connection after the service. A breakout room for pastoral care card-writing will be available if folks wish to write together. We will also be celebrating Ken Ziebell who has concluded his over 15-year tenure as the editor of the EVENT newsletter. Click here to join or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this <u>"virtual visitor card"</u> so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

CARLYLE STEWART, COMMUNITY MINISTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE Good news, Church! Our recent Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will be back this fall in a new grant-funded role as our Community Minister for Racial Justice. Thanks to funding from our <u>BU School of Theology Creative Callings Project</u> grant, Carlyle will be with us, albeit remotely, through January 2021. The part-time role (6 hours/week) will allow Carlyle to plan and lead three First Church online 'townhall' style meetings in September, November and January, with some involving partners from the wider community. He will also be leading weekly theological reflection sessions on biblical and spiritual themes related to our work of becoming an anti-racist church. We celebrate

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

this work of the Spirit in our midst and on our ongoing partnership with Carlyle's whose gifts are perfectly suited for this needed work of spiritual and theological grounding.

SUMMER SCHEDULE Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. through August. We are offering a mix of livestream and pre-recorded worship. We're excited to continue experimenting with the possibilities surrounding virtual services, and we hope you will continue to worship with us online until we can all be together again in the sanctuary. The church building continues to be locked, but is staffed by sextons. We are offering building access from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. If you need access to the building, please email Director of Operations Kirsten Manville and give prior notice of the day and time you would like to enter. This is both for contact tracing purposes and also to let the sextons know to expect you. Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck will also be in the church office for a few hours every Tuesday and Friday afternoon throughout the summer, answering the phone, sorting the mail, and doing other tasks that cannot be done from home.

PLANNING FOR THE FALL Living through a pandemic is not something most of us could have predicted, or even thought of as a possibility. We have all been learning as we go—adjusting to this new way of interacting, doing, and being. One thing has become clear over these last months: this pandemic will be with us for a long time yet. In recognition of this, First Church staff are homing in on a structure for our Sunday schedule that provides remote programming, worship, and fellowship/connection. If at some point this fall, we find that limited in-person gatherings seem feasible, we will plan to "add on" in-person components, but not alter the remote access. Remote will be our default; in-person will be an added bonus. We are working to ensure that, even though we need to remain physically distanced, our connection as a congregation remains strong and is felt deeply by each of you. We look forward to sharing more information about fall worship and programming in future bulletins and in the Fall issue of EVENT.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM COMPLINE PRAYER SERVICE Tuesdays, 8:30 - 8:45 p.m., via Zoom Are you feeling the need to switch up the way you connect with worship this summer? Are you craving some time before bed to center yourself in sacred stillness and the comfort of community? We are offering a participatory evening prayer service this summer on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

Click here to join or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 890 9172 4810

Password: summer

ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS Zoom invitations to all our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning. If you are not receiving our e-newsletter, please sign up by clicking on the E-Newsletter icon at the bottom of our homepage to receive future correspondence. Email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

• Tuesdays FCC Professional Caregivers' Call, 4:00 p.m.

(Note change: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays only)

• Thursdays Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, 5:00 p.m.

(Note change: 2nd and 4th Thursdays only);

Weekly Bible Study, 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.

YOUNG ADULTS ZOOM GATHERING The Young Adults of First Church (mostly 20- and 30-somethings) gather regularly on Zoom for a casual catch up and discussion of faith journeys, with questioning encouraged! Our "Gentle Blasphemy" group meets casually, as able, usually on Wednesdays. Get more info from Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions. Subscribe to make sure you don't miss new videos, including our pre-recorded services. The link to the channel is: https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av

Have an announcement for the bulletin?

Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham

(shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays

to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.

BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH Prayer, Reflection, and Action Summer 2020

The following statement expresses First Church's intentions and commitments for the summer of 2020. We join with a global outcry against recent and past events of violence against black and brown persons. This statement builds on several years of concerted efforts to raise our self-awareness, build relationships, and act towards racial justice and healing. We approach this work with hearts open to listening, learning, and change.



First Church affirms that Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter.

We celebrate the gifts, presence, and leadership of persons of color within First Church and beyond.

We recognize that the problem of racism is a white person's problem and that this is white people's work.

Becoming an anti-racist church means that we are determined not merely to raise our consciousness of racism, but to actively call out and intentionally work for change.

We do this work because we know our individual and collective spiritual health, transformation, and liberation depend on it.

We do this work relying on God's help and knowing that we cannot do it alone.

We invite you to commit serious energy and sacrificial love to at least two of these levels of work.

SOUL LEVEL

@ Say Their Names. North Carolina Laureate Jaki Shelton Green mourns George Floyd and other lives that were taken with <u>Oh My Brother</u>, a work of spoken word and images.

Learn more about how to act on your belief that Black Lives Matter.

CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

By the end of August, over 50 First Church people will have engaged in Faith & Life groups looking at issues of race. There will be further opportunities for congregational-level work in the fall.

SHOW UP AND DO THE WORK

COMMUNITY LEVEL

@ Follow the <u>Greater Boston Interfaith Organization</u> on social media to follow the progress of our efforts with legislators on Beacon Hill. Re-post and re-tweet GBIO to amplify the message.

@ Consider following FCC member Alice Kidder's suggestion to begin your work on police accountability in your town by creating a list of questions about your town's police force. Then find out if grassroots organizations working on the issue already exist and get connected. Alice has joined <u>"Watertown Citizens for Black Lives"</u> and is collaborating with their Police Accountability subcommittee. Can't find a citizens' organization in your town? Consider starting one!

NATIONAL LEVEL

- Join the Poor People's Campaign by visiting: https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/ Read their Policy Platform: https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/moral-justice-jubilee-policy-platform/ and take action.
- Follow the Movement for Black Lives that recently announced a police reform proposal at national level.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

COVID-19 HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM The City of Cambridge has announced the creation of a COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Program to provide short-term financial assistance to individuals and families in Cambridge who are experiencing housing instability due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are encouraged to apply for the COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Program online at www.cambridgema.gov/housingfund.

YOUR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED AS MUCH AS EVER! And our neighbors need YOUR help. Please add some items to your own shopping lists: canned fruits/vegetables, cereal, proteins, sauce for pasta, feminine products. No fresh food, please, and no opened or expired containers. Leave your donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, a quick .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. She will see that they are delivered to the pantry on the one day a month that it is open. *Thanks for remembering our neighbors who are struggling in these hard times.*

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS MOVED! Please note the new web address—and thank you for signing up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday! https://signup.com/go/rfHdKHr

VOLUNTEER TO BAKE SOME GOODIES FOR OUR EVENING MEAL PROGRAM First Church is now serving 500 meals a week to help feed hungry neighbors! If you would like to make a few dozen sweet treats to hand out at one of our evening meals on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday, please visit https://signup.com/go/DCsUUei to sign up. Treats can be dropped off at the Tower Room door at 4:30 on any of those nights. Thank you!

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

REPORT ON GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH'S ORGANIZATION'S (GBIO) RACIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN Congrats to the 2000+ leaders in GBIO member institutions and beyond who "put feet to their faith." They acted in this critical moment to push forward a holistic racial justice agenda, and our collective work has helped move key legislation into joint conference committees where final bills are being negotiated between the House and Senate. The bills in joint committee include:

- POLICE REFORM. A bill on comprehensive police reform including enhanced police training with certification/decertification through POST, reform to qualified immunity, and statutory limits on excessive use of force
- HEALTHCARE. A bill that expands telehealth, makes progress on mental health parity, and provides temporary relief from surprise out-of-network medical billing
- HOUSING. A bill that extends the moratorium on evictions/foreclosures for 12 months and provides relief for small and nonprofit landlords

We will monitor as the bills in conference committee proceed and send action alerts as needed. Please see THIS LINK for a full report and summary of the GBIO's 2020 Racial Justice Campaign. IDM teams and congregational core teams are following up with their members for relational meetings and evaluation. Please save the date and RSVP HERE for our Sept 10 virtual meeting at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate, reflect and look forward. We will send out reminders as the date approaches. Special thanks to First Church GBIO core team leaders, Casey Marsh, Seth Pate, Will Erickson (GBIO Liaison Team) and Phil Jones (GBIO Racial Justice Campaign Team).

SUPPORT FOR LEBANON Earlier this week an explosion in Beirut injured over 4,000 Lebanese people with at least 100 fatalities. Prayers and aid are needed to help recovery, and to begin rebuilding destroyed sections of downtown. The Red Cross of Lebanon is accepting donations at redcross.org.lb

TAKE TWO MINUTES TO ACT FOR POLICE REFORM The policing reform omnibus bill, still in legislative committee, diverts away from what Black and Latinx people most impacted by incarceration are calling for. It is not good enough! Read <u>Families for Justice As Healing's statement</u> on their <u>website</u>. You will see suggestions for action, including support for No Cost Calls from prisons. Sheriffs are exerting pressure to oppose this humanitarian bill. A script for e-mailing or calling your legislators is provided on the website.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG

Looking for meditative chant music during your time at home?

Night Song Director Daryl Bichel offers the following suggestions:



St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, Compline on August 9, 2020 Sung by the Compline Choir (men) https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1192

Choral Music of G.P. da Palestrina https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBEwP95zNGk

Night Song, First Church in Cambridge Recorded July 2020 by members of Canticum vespertinum http://nightsong.org/listen/night-song-16-august-2020/

Night Song musicians prepared their contributions individually in their homes and churches, and Erik Bertrand combined the files for listening. We miss the wonderful resonance of the First Church sanctuary which enhances the music we typically sing, and look forward to returning when it's safe. Included are organ music based on chant melodies, a beautiful arrangement of Psalm 23 for soprano, Gregorian chant and hymns, and prayers written by soprano Beth Spaulding.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, August 16

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via Live Stream, Sacrament of Baptism, Dan Smith preaching

11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Monday, August 17

5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, August 18

4:30 p.m. Professional Caregiver's Call, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Christian Formation, via Zoom

7:30 p.m. "Book of Exodus" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

8:30 p.m. Compline Prayer Service, via Zoom

Wednesday, August 19

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Thursday, August 20

8:30 a.m. Me & White Supremacy Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, August 21

10:00 a.m.

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

1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, August 22

5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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Sunday, August 23

11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Zoom invitations to all our week's programs are in the all-church email that was sent this morning.

Morning Worship via Live Stream, Lexi Boudreaux preaching

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Email Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.

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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

