



---

SUMMER WORSHIP

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

August 23, 2020

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate  
Dan Smith, Senior Minister  
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate  
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts  
Peter Sykes, Director of Music  
Joe Welker, Technical Support

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

## GATHERING

## VOLUNTARY

Praeambulum

Louis Vierne

## \*HYMN 3

God of Abraham and Sarah (verses 1, 3, and 4)

*(see page 4)*

## \*GREETING

Peter Sykes

L: Siblings in the Spirit, God is good!

C: **All the time!**

L: All the time!

C: **God is good!**

L: Then, come if you are weary,

C: **for God will give you rest!**

L: Come if you are hungry for connection,

C: **for God will fill your heart with blessing!**

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

C: **for God's love, truth, and justice are real!**All: **For God's presence is here in this sacred time and space.**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

## ANTHEM

Bwana Awabariki  
*First Church Choir, 2018*

Swahili hymn

## CONFESSING

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jaz Buchanan

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

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

## A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Isaiah 51:1-6

READING Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON Lexi Boudreaux

\*HYMN 428 Christ Beside Me *(see page 5)*

## 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 [at our website](#) 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 384**

We, Your People, God, Confessing (Verses 1, 2, and 4)

*(see page 6)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

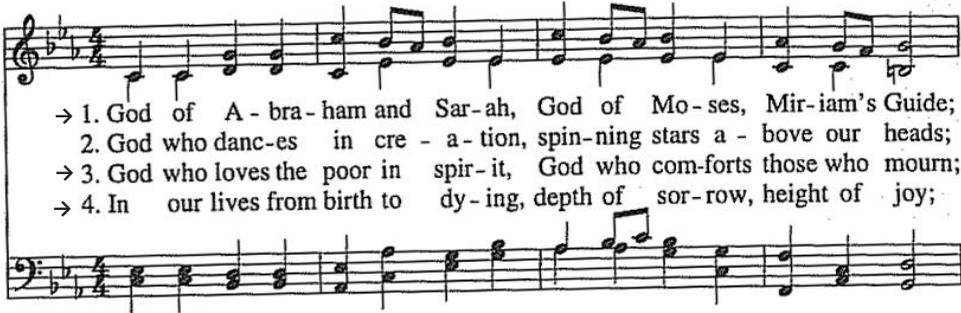
If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee

J. S. Bach

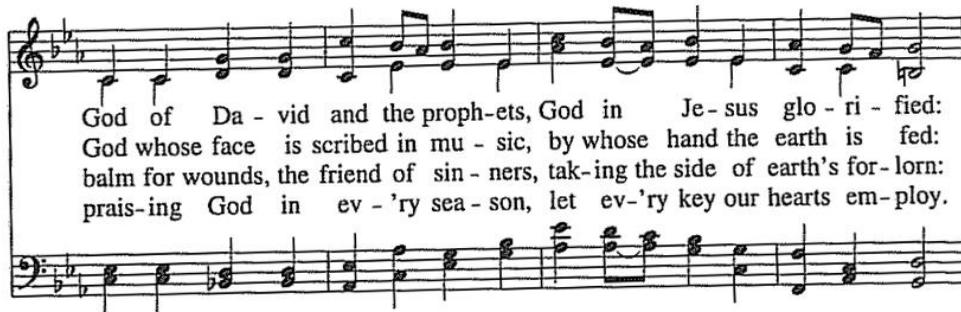
# OPENING HYMN

## God of Abraham and Sarah

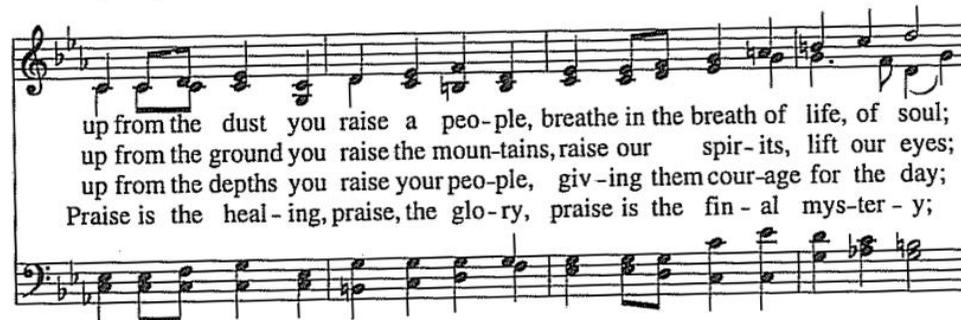
verses 1, 3, and 4



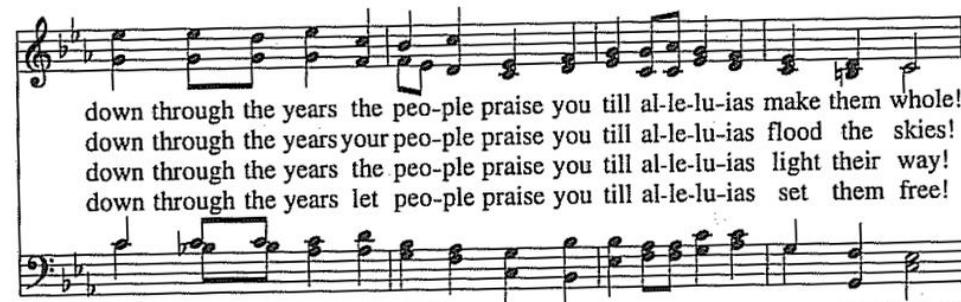
→ 1. God of A - bra - ham and Sar - ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;  
2. God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;  
→ 3. God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;  
→ 4. In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;



God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:  
God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:  
balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn:  
prais - ing God in ev - 'ry sea - son, let ev - 'ry key our hearts em - ploy.



up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;  
up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;  
up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;  
Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;



down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!  
down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!  
down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!  
down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

WORDS: James Gertmenian, alt., © 1986  
MUSIC: Melody, James Gertmenian, © 1986; harm. Ronald Huntington, alt., © 1986

CONSTANTINE  
87.87D

SERMON HYMN

# Christ Beside Me

1. Christ be - side me, Christ be - fore me, Christ be -  
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -  
3. Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me, Christ be on

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. Below it are piano accompaniment staves in treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are arranged in three numbered lines corresponding to the vocal melody.

hind me, Love of my heart. Christ with - in me,  
round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing,  
all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines corresponding to the vocal melody.

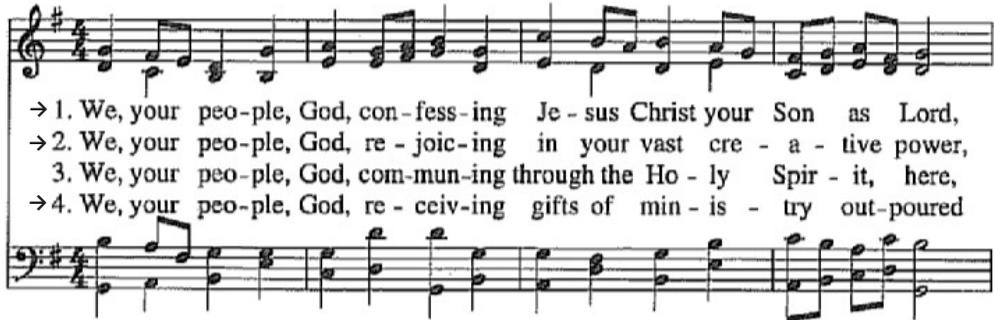
Christ be - low me, Christ a - bove me, nev - er to part.  
Christ in my sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.  
in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me, Christ ev - er be.

The third system concludes the piece with a final vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three lines corresponding to the vocal melody. The piano part ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

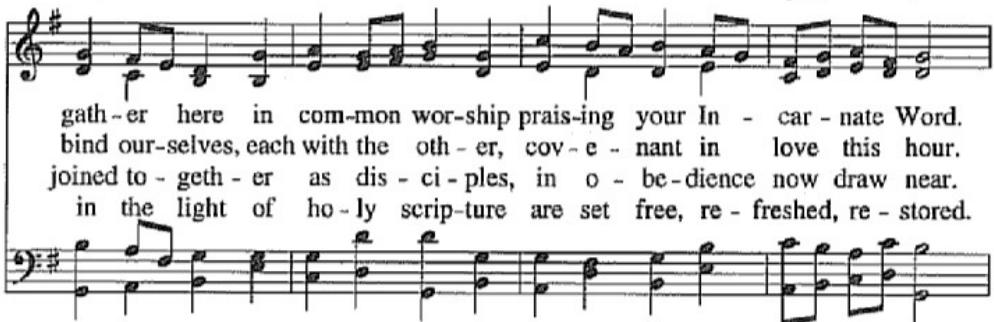
## CLOSING HYMN

# We, Your People, God, Confessing

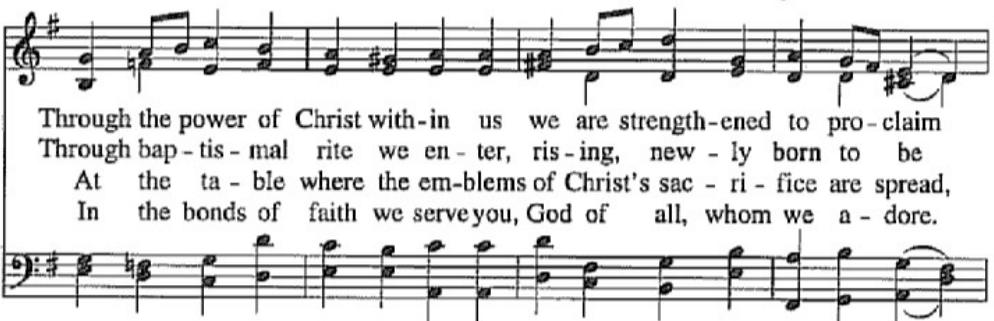
verses 1, 2, and 4



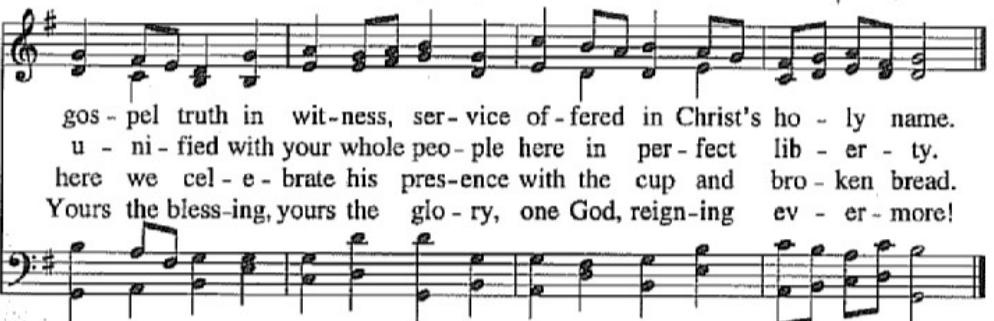
→ 1. We, your peo-ple, God, con-fess-ing Je - sus Christ your Son as Lord,  
→ 2. We, your peo-ple, God, re - joic-ing in your vast cre - a - tive power,  
3. We, your peo-ple, God, com-mun-ing through the Ho - ly Spir - it, here,  
→ 4. We, your peo-ple, God, re - ceiv-ing gifts of min - is - try out-poured



gath - er here in com-mon wor-ship prais-ing your In - car - nate Word.  
bind our-selves, each with the oth - er, cov - e - nant in love this hour.  
joined to - geth - er as dis - ci - ples, in o - be-dience now draw near.  
in the light of ho - ly scrip-ture are set free, re - freshed, re - stored.



Through the power of Christ with-in us we are strength-ened to pro-claim  
Through bap-tis-mal rite we en-ter, ris-ing, new - ly born to be  
At the ta - ble where the em-blems of Christ's sac - ri - fice are spread,  
In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of all, whom we a - dore.



gos - pel truth in wit-ness, ser-vice of - fered in Christ's ho - ly name.  
u - ni - fied with your whole peo-ple here in per - fect lib - er - ty.  
here we cel - e - brate his pres-ence with the cup and bro - ken bread.  
Yours the bless-ing, yours the glo - ry, one God, reign-ing ev - er - more!

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For the homeless community as they grieve the death of “Pikachu,” who was killed on his bike by a tractor trailer in Harvard Square on August 18; for his niece and others who witnessed the tragedy; and for the Boston area bicycle community as they mourn yet another fatal bicycle accident.
- For Madeleine Youngs, who successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis last week.
- 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 the people of Beirut and all others affected by the recent explosion, as they grieve the loss of life and work to rebuild.
- 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 protestors who are facing extreme policing measures. We pray for a new birth of justice and healing throughout our land.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Today, 11:00 a.m., via Zoom** **ZOOM COFFEE HOUR 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.

[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 [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community. Newcomers’ gatherings will take place in a breakout room at Zoom Coffee Hour on second Sundays through the fall season, starting on September 13, Regathering Sunday.

**WELCOME TO JAZ BUCHANAN, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE** Jaz is incredibly grateful and delighted to join the FCC community! She grew up in New Jersey and graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2013 with a BA in Women’s Studies and English. She then started working in higher education at Columbia University and pursued a MS in Nonprofit Management. Shortly after moving to NYC, Jaz joined and volunteered at Metropolitan Community Church of New York, where she fell in love with parish ministry. She married her beautiful wife Jackie, and they moved with their cat Mr. Bumble to Somerville. In her first year as a Master of Divinity student at Harvard Divinity School, she served Metropolitan Community Church in Boston. Most recently, she served United Parish in Brookline as a seminarian. She is currently pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ. In her spare time, Jaz enjoys ballet, long walks, and watching (and rewatching) *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

### **WELCOME BACK TO CARLYLE STEWART, COMMUNITY MINISTER OF 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 [BU School of Theology Creative Callings Project](#) 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 ‘town-hall’ 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 the work of the Spirit in our midst in our ongoing partnership with Carlyle, whose gifts are perfectly suited for this needed work of spiritual and theological grounding.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**YOUNG ADULTS ZOOM GATHERING** The Young Adults of First Church (mostly 20- and 30-some-things) 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. **Today, yes TODAY 8/23 you can join the group for an outdoor stroll to Fresh Pond.** We’ll gather on Cambridge Common across from the church at 2:00, wrapping up around 4:30. If you have questions or trouble finding the group, call Phil at 585-610-7919.

## FIRST CHURCH IN THE NEWS AND IN THE WORLD

### FIRST CHURCH FEATURED IN DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL’S FAITH AND LEADERSHIP ARTICLE

[‘400 years of tears’ -- how three churches in the present are beginning to atone for the past.](#)

Thanks to Duke Divinity School Leadership Education program and online Faith and Leadership magazine for featuring First Church in a recent article about congregations that are wrestling with their slaveholding past. Dave Kidder, Peggy Stevens, and Dan Smith are each quoted in the long-form piece. To read it, click on the link above.

### DAN SMITH JOINS PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE ON HARVARD AND THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY

In November 2019, Harvard President Lawrence Bacow announced the multi-year Presidential Initiative on Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery. Senior Minister Dan Smith was honored to be invited by Bacow to serve on the Presidential Committee, guiding the Initiative’s work. Given First Church’s historic ties to Harvard and our recent work examining the legacy of slavery at First Church, Dan is currently co-chairing the “Campus and Community” sub-committee which is focused on sharing Harvard’s slaveholding history and examining its ongoing impact at Harvard and in the wider communities of Cambridge and Boston. To learn more, you can visit the [Initiative website](#). First Church is welcome to attend Initiative programming and events; please stay tuned for updates from Dan as the Committee’s work unfolds.

## 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.  
*(On hiatus until the fall.)*

**FALL FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS: CALL FOR GROUP LEADERS** We had over 70 people participate in our lay led small groups this summer! We had so much fun that we plan to do more of them this Fall. Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom this Fall? Contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux to discuss your idea for a Fall Faith & Life Group. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, ageing, job transitions, etc.) Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. At the same time, you can get to know First Church friends who share your interests. We need each other now more than ever. If you are looking for a great way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship this is for you! Questions? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

**BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY** If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BIPOC) member of First Church, please consider joining an upcoming Zoom meeting designed as an active listening session to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin ([moana.bentin@gmail.com](mailto:moana.bentin@gmail.com)) with questions or to receive an Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

**ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS** If you would like to participate as a leader in worship via video, this is your chance to sign up! ALL are welcome to contribute; [click here to access the signup sheet](#). Put your name and contact information next to the piece of the service you want to lead, and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! We will be sending more of these out as we get closer to other Sunday dates. Thank you all so much for making online church feel like church! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: [lexi@firstchurchcambridge.or](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.or)

**NEW COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE** Covid-19 has changed our lives in fundamental ways, including how we do ministry together. We have been worshipping and doing the work of the church online for months, and still we are learning new ways to live into the “new normal” of digital ministry. It is becoming more and more vital that we find ways to do ministry not just on Sunday mornings, but in our daily lives together, whether that be on a Zoom call, by reading a Facebook post, by watching a YouTube video, or by contributing to our blog. This ministry is made possible through effective ways of communicating the good news that we and our world dearly need in this time. In the midst of it all, we are also in the middle of a new website project, imagining our new website as a virtual hub for our life together. ***We are forming a new team of First Church folks to think about how we are doing virtual ministry and to help with creating content for these platforms.*** Do you love Twitter or Instagram? Have you always wanted to start a podcast? Or perhaps you don’t know what your specific interest is yet, but all of this sounds really new and interesting to you? Please contact Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux if you’d like to join this team.

**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>

## BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

### Prayer, Reflection, and Action

Summer 2020

White silence is violence.  
**Black Lives Matter**

firstchurch

*The following statement expresses First Church's intentions and commitments for the summer of 2020. This statement builds on several years of concerted efforts to raise our self-awareness, build relationships, and act towards racial justice and healing.*

**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 [Oh My Brother, 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.

#### COMMUNITY LEVEL

☪ Follow the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization](#) 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. 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.

## LOOKING AHEAD AT FIRST CHURCH

**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.

**REGATHERING SUNDAY, September 13!** Join us on Sunday, September 13, as we “regather” the First Church community from near and far for a morning of online programming and a special live-stream service! From 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. or so, plan to join a Zoom call for an orientation to our fall programming for all ages. Learn about how we can all stay connected through this extended season of social distance. Then take a break for a walk or a cup of coffee and come back at 11 for worship from our sanctuary, with greetings from a host of First Church members! After church, connect with old friends and meet new ones via Zoom coffee hour with break-out rooms. We may not be able to gather in person yet, but we can surely gather and re-gather in Spirit, giving thanks to God for our community that connects us even when we are apart.

**SNEUCC CENTERING PRAYER: A SPIRITUAL RESOURCE FOR THESE TIMES** Wednesdays, September 9 & 16, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. The Health & Wellness Team of the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNEUCC) is pleased to offer Centering Prayer in our series of webinars to promote resilience in the SNEUCC. Terry Shaughnessy, Centering Prayer Retreat Leader and Spiritual Director, will introduce participants to the meditation/prayer practice known as Centering Prayer, which has deep Christian roots, is easy to learn, and provides a tremendous resource for navigating these times of pandemic. In this two-part webinar, we will learn about the “prayer of quiet” and how some measure of silence, outside and within us, is necessary for spiritual growth as well as for strengthening the spiritual immune system. For more information and to register, please visit [https://www.sneucc.org/#events/ Questions?](https://www.sneucc.org/#events/Questions?) Contact Debbie Ringen [ringen@sneucc.org](mailto:ringen@sneucc.org)

## 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](http://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!

*Have an announcement for the bulletin?*

*Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham ([shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org)) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.*

## WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**REPORT ON GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH 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** 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](http://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 [Families for Justice As Healing's statement](#) on their [website](#). 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.

**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. John Cantius, Chicago: 11:00 a.m. Mass, Sunday August 16, 2020**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTiCJcF6mkg>

Hear excellent singing of chant by the priest and schola of men, and organ with a fantastic trumpeter. The mass setting is *Missa Marialis*, plainchant, 12th century.

**St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, Compline**

**July 5, 2020 (men):** <https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1838>

**July 26, 2020 (women):** <https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1845>

**May 3, 2020 (men):** <https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1818>

I wasn't able to find the podcast from last Sunday, but read in one post that they've been having trouble with audio. Here I'm listing two of my favorites from July 5 and July 26, and one I haven't listed before from May 3. After having listened to these podcasts for a few months now, I have to admire how beautiful the singing is. Of note is how wonderfully the hymns (and even the psalms) are treated, the text of every verse thought out in regard to dynamics, and, in the case of the hymns, the use of alternative voicing and harmonizations to bring out the text.

**Cantos Gregorianos del Monasterio de Santo Domingo de Silos**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCw90A5Dc\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCw90A5Dc_4)

Santo Domingo de Silos Abbey is a Benedictine monastery in the village of Santo Domingo de Silos in the southern part of Burgos Province in northern Spain. The monastery is named after the 11th-century saint Dominic of Silos, but dates back to the 7th century. The monks there are currently internationally famous for singing Gregorian chant. Their technique is surpassed by other choral ensembles, but the singing has a wonderful vibrancy and is musical.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Sunday, August 23

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via Live-stream, Lexi Boudreaux, preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### Monday, August 24

- 5:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### Tuesday, August 25

- 7:30 p.m. "Book of Exodus" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 8:30 p.m. Compline Prayer Service, via Zoom

### Wednesday, August 26

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 6:30 p.m. Missions and Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

### Thursday, August 27

- 8:30 a.m. *Me & White Supremacy* Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr's Daily Devotionals, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

### Friday, August 28

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

### Saturday, August 29

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

### Sunday, August 30

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via Live-stream, Kate Layzer, preaching
- 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.***

***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](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org)) this morning to have today's email forwarded to you.***

## 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  
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer  
617-851-5074  
kate@thefriday.cafe

### Pastoral Associate

Lexi Boudreaux  
617-901-7557  
lexi@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

### Technical Support

Joe Welker

### Sextons

Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,  
George Williams, Kimel Williams  
617-642-3980

Would you like to give to  
First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



Text \$ \_\_ to 1-844-996-0982



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