



SUMMER WORSHIP
Bulletin Announcements
July 19, 2020

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

July 19, 2020

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Peter Sykes, Director of Music
The Blanc Family
Mark Destler
Henry Gates
Holly Marple

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

**Please find the link to pre-recorded worship for July 19 [here](#).
The liturgy is provided within the video.**

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Gail Breeze and her family as they grieve the unexpected loss of Dudne Breeze on July 5.
- With great joy for Director of Operations Kirsten Manville and Tim Foley, who were married on June 27.
- In celebration with Ariel and Domenik Ackermann as they welcome their son Sylvester Salem Ackermann, born Tuesday, June 30.
- For Abby Shuman, whose only sibling and best friend Andrew died in 1988 at age 18 and would have been 50 years old on July 16.
- For Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode, who is receiving palliative care due to her declining health.
- For Andrea Fiorillo and her family, who are mourning the loss of Andrea's father, Dante Fiorillo.
- 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 protesting and 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.
- 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 Asian Americans as they face unwarranted discrimination and hostility during this Covid-19 pandemic and for those who have already become the victim of hate crimes, including assaults and beatings.
- 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; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

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.
- 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.

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

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

NEWCOMERS' COFFEE Today, 9:15 a.m., via Zoom Have you been joining us for online worship and want to learn more about First Church? Pour a cup of your favorite coffee, tea, or cocoa, and join Sarah Higginbotham and a few FCC leaders for a pre-worship Zoom meeting next Sunday. Get to know a bit more about our church community and how you might connect more deeply with our ministries. Questions? Contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org).

[Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 871 1358 6448

Password: welcome

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 11:00 a.m. Catch up with First Church friends at Zoom Coffee Hour.

[Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993

Password: coffee

SUMMER PASTORAL CARE CARD-WRITING Following our tradition of writing pastoral care cards on the lawn during summer coffee hours, we will begin hosting a breakout room for people interested in writing pastoral care cards together during our weekly Zoom coffee hours. You are invited to write a card to someone listed in the prayer section of the bulletin; addresses will be provided in the breakout room. Gather up some blank cards and stamps, and join us in this ministry of pastoral care beginning today.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

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.

SUMMER SCHEDULE Sunday Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. in July and August. During the summer months, there will be a mix of livestream and pre-recorded worship. We are 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. As Massachusetts and Cambridge continue to update their reopening plans, we will continue to closely monitor their guidelines and recommendations. Any change to the above information will be communicated in a timely manner, both here in the bulletin and via the First Glance E-newsletter. Please email Kirsten if you have any questions: parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS Summer Faith & Life Group Registration is now closed. If you are interested in joining a group please contact Lexi Boudreaux so that you can be directly connected with the leader. Email: lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

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. All are welcome.

[Click here to join](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 890 9172 4810

Password: summer

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

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.
- **Thursdays** FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.;
Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, 5:00 p.m.;
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-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. 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://www.youtube.com/channel/UClwc4vJ4K6IYLLYLwNaW3aQ>

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.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

FOOD INSECURITY IS RISING Leave your food pantry donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge. 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 on the second Saturday of the month, which is when the pantry is open. NEEDED: cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce; also feminine products (pads, tampons). No fresh food. Please be sure your contributions are unopened, unexpired, and not in glass containers. Thank you for your generous donations!

THANK YOU FROM THE SHELTER The Shelter guests, Jim Stewart and his staff, and Shelter Oversight Committee members want to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who have made money donations and dropped off meals, masks, and other supplies. The guests feel well-cared for, and are grateful that you are thinking of them.

FIRST CHURCH SHELTER LUNCH HELP Would you be able to make lunch for the guests living in the First Church Shelter? For the last several months, many generous members of our church and wider community have provided meals for the daytime shelter hours. Since the First Church Shelter will continue a 24/7 operation through the summer, now is the time to expand the circle of helpers! Sandwiches or simple entrees would be very appreciated. [Sign up here](#) to save your date.

THE FRIDAY CAFÉ BAGGED LUNCH SIGNUP HAS OPENINGS! Sign up to prepare 10 bagged lunches for hungry neighbors some upcoming Friday by visiting: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa628ab9-friday to claim your spot. Many thanks!

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!

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 the following 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](#).

☪ The "Exploring a Practice of Reparations" Group holds its first meeting on Monday, July 27, 5:00-6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Dan Smith dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org or Alice Kidder flintkidr@aol.com.

☪ Learn more about how to act on your belief that [Black Lives Matter](#).

CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

☪ Join a monthly after-church Zoom coffee hour check-in to share progress with your commitments and ideas for our shared work. This month's conversation will take place next Sunday, July 26.

COMMUNITY LEVEL

☪ Celebrate the State Senate's passage this past week of the "Reform, Shift + Build Act" (S.2800); email or call your State Senator to thank them if they were part of the 30-7 majority who voted in favor. Join the efforts of the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization](#) to influence State Representatives to pass a similar measure by a veto-proof majority.

☪ Looking for the "big picture" on policing reform? We recommend [this Commonwealth Magazine article](#).

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.

**SHOW
UP
AND
DO
THE
WORK**

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. John Cantius, Chicago: High Mass, Sunday, July 12

This continues to be one of my favorites as it includes a great deal of chant plus the priest is a good singer.

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

St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle: Compline Podcast, Sunday, July 5

There is no video, but just close your eyes and pretend you're actually there. This contains some very stunning choral singing, one on a part: Jason Anderson, director; Gregory Bloch, reader; Joel Bevington, cantor.

Program:

ORISON: 'Phos hilaron' from *The Evening Service* - Stephen Sturk (b. 1950)

PSALM 113 - Plainsong, Tone IV.5

HYMN: All who love and serve your city

NUNC DIMITTIS: from *The Evening Service* - Stephen Sturk

ANTHEM: 'In pace' from *Three Latin Motets* - Grayston Ives (b. 1948)

<https://complinepodcast.org>

The Rosary - All 15 Mysteries, Gregorian Chant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Muo1NNKUK80>

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, July 19

- 9:15 a.m. Newcomers' Coffee, via Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via YouTube premiere, Lexi Boudreaux, preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Monday, July 20

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

Tuesday, July 21

- 4:00 p.m. FCC Professional Caregivers Call, via Zoom
- 8:30 p.m. Compline Prayer Service, via Zoom

Wednesday, July 22

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

Thursday, July 23

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 4:30 p.m. Shared Reflections on Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, July 24

- 8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, via Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, July 25

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

Sunday, July 26

- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship via live-stream, Dan Smith, preaching, Issa Bibbins, guest musician
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with "How to Become an Anti-Racist Church" conversation
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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



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



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
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