

FF 2022

Palm Sunday Hybrid Morning Worship April 10, 2022

FIRST CHURCH

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

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here. FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL **386 YEARS** ON THE WAY 1636 – 2022

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship	Lexi Boudreaux, Transitional Minister Dan Smith, Senior Minister Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate Ebony West, Ministerial Intern Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts Peter Sykes, Music Director Susie Longfield Bell Choir Director
	Susie Longfield, <i>Bell Choir Director</i> Stephen Weller, <i>liturgist</i>
	Lee Prouty, tech support
Bulletin Cover Image	Freddie Funck, Youth Group member

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
10:15 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m.	Palm Sunday Gathering and Processional, Church Lawn
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Classes for PreK-7th grade
12:00 p.m.	Refreshments on the Lawn and <u>Zoom</u> Coffee Hour
1:15 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8/9th graders, Harter Room
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

New to First Church?

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

Give to First Church

You can give online: <u>www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give</u> or by texting "\$_" to: 1-844-996-0982.

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find <u>contact information</u> for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

> Have a church program or event to promote? Complete the <u>First Church Communications Request</u> form.

Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the FCC Website Changes form.

GATHERING

For those gathering in the sanctuary, please remain masked while in Morning Worship. Masks are optional once you leave the Sanctuary.

VOLUNTARY	All Glory, Laud and Honor	J.S. Bach	
Those worsh	NAL HYMN (insert) All Glory, Laud and Honor niping in person are gathering on the lawn with palms and uring the hymn.	processing into the	
*GREETING		Sarah Higginbotham	
L:	Friends, grace and peace, and welcome! Now is the needed time		
C :	to let God's love and light surround us,		
L:	to let Jesus be our center,		
C:	to let the ties that bind draw us close;		
L:	to lay down our cloaks,		
C: to lay down our hurts, and open our hearts.			
L:	In quiet kindness, in bold witness,		
C:	let us sing Hosanna and lift high our palms! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!		
WORDS OF	WELCOME	Stephen Weller	
ANTHEM	Hosanna to the Son of David!	Vittoria	
CONFECCING			

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: God of love and grace, show us what you would have us see when we bring Jesus near to our hearts.
Teach us to surrender to his love and mercy.
Release us from our self-centered longings.

(cont'd. on next page)

*You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.

Transform us and recenter our lives in your love: for ourselves, our neighbors, our enemies, and our world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN (insert) A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-3rd arade) and Middler (4/5th arade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Bible 101 (6/7th grade) students can meet their teachers in the Narthex. Children and teachers will return to the sanctuary for the final part of the service.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

You are invited to take a few moments to center yourselves and open your heart to the word God may have for you to hear today. When we begin reading, you are welcome to lift up your palm.

READING

Luke 19:28-40

HOMILY

SILENCE

SHARING OUR LIFF TOGFTHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

- God be with you. L:
- **C**: And also with you.
- Let us pray... (silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer) 1:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. All: 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. -2-

Lexi Boudreaux

Dan Smith

Jaz Buchanan

Ebony West

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already

*DOXOLOGY

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

ENTERING INTO HOLY WEEK

*HYMN (insert) I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

On the last verse of the hymn, please make your way into a circle to surround the church for a blessing of our intentions and the ties that bind us together in this Holy Week and beyond. For those who prefer not to stand for this time, chairs are available at the front and back of the church.

*SILENCE

*BLESSING FOR SARAH'S SABBATICAL

*HYMN (insert)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*BENEDICTION



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment <u>here</u> or by scanning the QR code.



PEACE HYMN



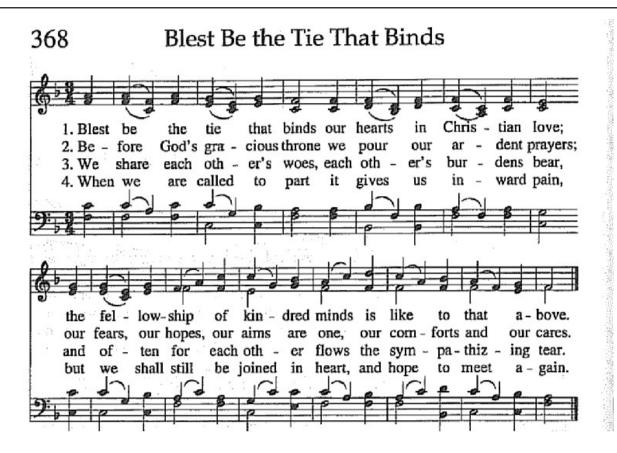


ENTERING INTO HOLY WEEK



⁻Hymn Insert 3-

CLOSING HYMN



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Peggy Stevens's husband Mike as he recovers from back surgery last week.
- We pray for Karen Korn's husband Charles as he recovers from a recent heart attack. We pray for Karen, Giselle, Allison and Christina as they support him through his recovery.
- We pray for Alexander Hanna, age 7, who broke his tibia and is in a full leg cast, limiting his mobility. We pray for his parents Erika and Matt, as well as his brother Zachary, as they support him through his recovery.
- We pray for safety, strength, and courage for Moana Bentin's daughter Kalo Daley, who is joining the crews of the *Hikianalia* and the *Hokulea*, to sail in a canoe from Oahu to Hilo, and on the open waters of the Pacific from Tahiti to Hawaii, with the Polynesian Voyaging Society.
- We pray for Devin Hansen as she awaits medical testing and results.
- We pray for the Funck Hendren family as they mourn the loss of Sara Hendren's uncle Bill Hays.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Keith Peterson, brother of Friday Café volunteer Neil Peterson.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine as they face a full-scale Russian assault, and in light of this week's horrific reports of war crimes against civilians. We pray for people in war-torn areas around the world. We pray for all troops and civilians, and for bordering countries receiving refugees. We pray for peacemakers in Russia and around the world. We pray that diplomatic measures, sanctions, and peace prevail in Ukraine and all places experiencing war.
- We pray for all those impacted by the mass shooting in Sacramento last weekend; we pray for the political courage and moral will of legislators to enact common-sense gun laws to help prevent such tragedies.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19—those experiencing symptoms, those grieving the loss of loved ones, and those awaiting vaccines and boosters. We pray with and for anxious hearts, especially for educators, healthcare personnel, and other essential workers.
- We pray for food security for island peoples whose homelands are threatened by climateinduced storms and rising sea level, and for all sea animals and plants stressed by warming ocean temperatures. God, give us the fortitude to work with intention for climate justice.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Palm Sunday Gathering and Processional on the Lawn Today at 10:15 a.m. (in MJH, if weather dictates)

Join us for a time of connection with friends old and new, as we pick up the threads of the Holy Week story and of our own stories of what First Church has meant to us through this long season apart. We will ask God to bless all the ties that bind us together, near and far! Coffee, tea, cocoa and hot cross buns will

be served, and we'll share in our traditional Palm Sunday processional from the lawn into the Sanctuary. For those joining remotely, this part of the service will be shared via Facebook Live.

Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour Today at 12:00 p.m.

Our Palm Sunday worship will be followed by a time for coffee, tea, cocoa, and conversations on the lawn (or in Margaret Jewett Hall, weather depending). For those joining online, <u>Zoom Coffee Hour</u> will start right after the service.





Our Whole Lives (OWL) Today, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room 8th and 9th graders from First Church, Old South Church, and the community meet for our denomination's sexuality education curriculum.

Memorial Flowers for Easter - Requests Due TODAY

If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to <u>Kirsten Manville</u> in the First Church office by the end of today. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made <u>online</u> (check off the Easter Flowers category) or can be included in the offering baskets found at the front and back of the Sanctuary (checks payable to First Church in Cambridge,



with a memo line of "Easter Flowers"). On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.



Sarah's Sabbatical

Director of Creative Worship & Arts Sarah Higginbotham will be on a two-month sabbatical from Monday, April 18, until Tuesday, June 21. She's looking forward to a bit of travel and lots of time for self care! Her responsibilities for children & family

programming and communications will be taken up by others on staff during her absence. We will offer Sarah a blessing for her time away during worship today.

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH



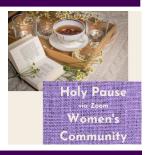
Our 40-day journey with Jesus, Our Center, culminates as we turn toward Jerusalem and to the powerful, somber, mysterious, yet ultimately joy-filled events of Holy Week. This year, we pay special attention to blessing the ties that bind us together and weave us into one community in Christ! Each of the stories we read—from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter—include powerful references to fabric and thread. We plan to "weave" this symbol into our Holy Week liturgies and rituals, and we look forward to offering everyone a simple hemp bracelet to be worn throughout the week. We hope the bracelet can be a symbol of your connection to First Church and your Holy Week intentions.

Due to an expected increase in the number of people worshiping in person, as well as our plan for robust singing, we will continue masking in the Sanctuary through Easter.

Find details at Holy Week and Easter at First Church.

Women's Community: A Holy Pause During Holy Week Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Please join us, the women of First Church in Cambridge, for a time of fellowship, reflection, and prayer. Prepare a beverage of your choice (a hot cup of tea, a glass of wine, ice water with lemon, etc.); get comfortable in your favorite space; and ready your heart to pause, express, and reflect among friends... <u>Read more</u>



Maundy Thursday, April 14

After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.—John 13:5



6:15 p.m. Multigenerational Foot Washing Ritual Sanctuary and via livestream

Join us as we hear the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet and then participate in this sacred ritual, embodying the love of Christ by washing one another's feet, with basin and towel. Families with young kids are most welcome!

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Tenebrae Sanctuary and via livestream

We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples "to love one another as I have loved you." We remember his last meal with his friends by celebrating Holy Communion. And in a candle-lit, then darkened, sanctuary, we call to mind Jesus' anguish and arrest in the Garden

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

of Gethsemane. We depart in silence. *This service is likely most suitable for children older than 10; families with younger children are welcome to depart after the foot washing.*

Good Friday, April 15

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. —Matthew 27:51-52

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, via Zoom

We gather to lament the world's pain and injustice and to remember Jesus' death on the cross. Join us via Zoom for this solemn service of ritual, reverence, and remembrance, where we meditate on the stations of the

cross, pairing Jesus' story with stories and images from our current lives and recent past. Please bring your bracelet or any strip of fabric/thread to our worship. Even without this element, you are welcome. The images and their accompanying stories are difficult to witness, highlighting pain and suffering. Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; the Good Friday service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.



Easter Sunday, April 17

Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. —Luke 24:10-12

10:00 a.m. Easter Proclamation, Breakfast Potluck, and Egg Hunt Church Lawn

Come proclaim "Alleluia" that "Christ is Risen" with us! We'll eat together and celebrate the joy of the morning with an Easter Egg hunt for our youngest First Church friends. The congregation is invited to bring a quiche, fruit, baked goods, or another brunch side (the ovens

will be available to warm dishes brought from home). Fellowship will be providing some offerings as well, so know that you are welcome with or without a dish to contribute. If you have a half hour to help out before or after the meal, we invite you to pick up a job card from Caitlin Anderson when you arrive and pitch in with a set-up or clean-up task, or email: fellowship@firstchurchcambridge.org

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

Christ is Risen! We celebrate and rejoice in God's gift of new life through the resurrection of Jesus, as we proclaim that not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Join us in the sanctuary or online for this Easter Festival worship.





UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



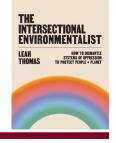
Bounty: Film Screening and Conversation Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Old South Meeting House, Boston and online In early October 2021, First Church hosted a special preview of the

9-minute documentary *Bounty*, released soon after by the award win-

ning <u>Upstander Project</u>. We engaged in a difficult and meaningful conversation about this history; we hope to continue this discussion later this spring. On Tuesday, April 12, you are invited to watch *Bounty* and then join a conversation... <u>Read more and find the link to register here.</u>

EcoFaith Book Group, Thursday, April 21, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., via Zoom (with a second meeting in early June TBD)

All are welcome to join First Church's EcoFaith Book Group for the reading and discussion of <u>The Intersectional Environmentalist</u> by Leah Thomas. Thomas explores the link between environmentalism, racism, and privilege, and promotes awareness of the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people. Questions? Please contact <u>Jim Brown</u>.





Earth Sunday Hybrid Morning Worship April 24 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Next Sunday, we are dedicating our Hybrid Morning Worship to Earth Day! Come join us in person or via livestream, as together, we lean into the wisdom of interconnection that God teaches us through animals, birds, fish, and the very earth herself. What can our scripture teach us about our relationship to all God's creation? What does it mean to be created in God's image? As we move into Eastertide and remember the

resurrected Jesus welcoming his disciples with the words "receive the Holy Spirit," we might ask ourselves: What kind of divine responsibility are we holding amidst a climate crisis and various environmental injustices? All questions, doubts, fears, joys, and hope are welcome.

Newcomers Meet and Greet

Sunday, April 24, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m., Hastings Common

Those feeling new to First Church, or interested in meeting (in person!) someone new to our community, are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship in Hastings Common (the open space between the Sanctuary side door and the Kitchen). Some of what you can expect: friendly faces,



new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation. Directly following the Meet and Greet, those interested in exploring membership at First Church are invited to meet in The Landing for *New Member Session I: Our Stories*.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Harvard and Legacy of Slavery Conference Knafel Center, 10 Garden Street Friday, April 29, 9:15 a.m - 6:00 p.m.

Register by April 15 to attend <u>"Telling the Truth about All This:</u> <u>Reckoning with Slavery and Its Legacies at Harvard and Beyond,"</u> a free conference sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study and by the Harvard and Legacy of Slavery Initiative. The day will include panels and presentations by renowned scholars including Tracy K. Smith, Ruth Simmons, Henry Louis Gates, Ibram X. Kendi, and more. Dan Smith has been a member of the



Harvard and Legacy of Slavery Committee faculty committee guiding the initiative which will be releasing a robust report with recommendations in late April. Dan will lead several sessions on this work at First Church starting on May 1 at 9:30 a.m., where we will view a 25-minute film about Harvard's legacy, and continuing with an after-worship discussion about the committee's report and recommendations.



Service of Ordination for Katie Omberg Sunday, May 1 at 3:30 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge cordially invites you to the Service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament for First Church member Katie Omberg. Katie was called by Melrose Highlands Congregational Church to be their Interim Minister. Let us celebrate together with Katie as she becomes an ordained clergyperson in the United Church of Christ! There will be a cake reception outside after the service, weather-permitting.

First Church Shelter News

We celebrate good news from the First Church Shelter: a Shelter guest has moved out of the Shelter into a shared living situation, and the City has committed funds to the First Church Shelter through 2023. These funds will be used for showers, additional hours to operate the Shelter, and for staff to help First Church Shelter guests access state and city resources. We celebrate this good news alongside Shelter Director Jim Stewart.





Monday, April 11

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom

Tuesday, April 12

7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom

Wednesday, April 13

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:30 p.m. Investments Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Community: A Holy Pause in Holy Week, via Zoom

Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Hastings Common
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 6:15 p.m. Multigenerational Foot Washing Ritual, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary and via livestream

Friday, April 15 - Good Friday

- 9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall and the church lawn
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, via Zoom

Sunday, April 17 - Easter Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Easter Proclamation, Breakfast, and Egg Hunt, Church Lawn
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:00 p.m. Refreshments on the Lawn and Zoom Coffee Hour
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

See our <u>Events Calendar</u> for Zoom links and details.

Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

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