



*Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.*

Psalm 30:5

Lent
February 26, 2023

**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

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
387 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 3

February 26, 2023

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*
Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*
Laurie Williams, *liturgist*
Issa Bibbins, Marcia Bibbins, Steven M. Key, *guest musicians*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image

Psalm 30 collage by Audrey Bellinger
This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in a [digital gallery](#).

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: *This Here Flesh* Lenten Series, Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing, Hastings Common
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:30 p.m. *Americans Who Tell The Truth* Exhibit Opening & Portrait Unveiling, MJH
- 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 a visitor card found on the small clipboard in the pews or this "[virtual visitor card](#)" so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

Give to First Church

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

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) 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 [First Church Communications Request](#) form.

Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*GREETING

Laurie Williams

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, you who thirst for contemplation and courage.

C Come, you who long for justice and joy!

L: Beloved, come: you who yearn for a deeper life and a fairer world.

**C: Come and find rest and healing,
find grace and grounding, in the Spirit's truth and love:**

L: in a truth that sets us free, in a love as wide as the sea!

C: Come now, draw near to God with thanks and praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Holy Spirit, Come to Me
Steven M. Key, soloist

Julie Hoy

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you!

(sing twice through)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

We invite you to greet each other with a hug or handshake. If you prefer to maintain social distance, please put your hands together or fold your arms to share the peace.

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded 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.*

***HYMN**

If It Had Not Been For The Lord On My Side

Helen Baylor

Laurie Williams, soloist

Congregational Chorus:

**If it had not been for the Lord on my side,
Tell me, where would I be? Where would I be?
If it had not been for the Lord on my side,
Tell me, where would I be? Where would I be?**

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ahmaad Edmund

READING

Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Carla Carbajal

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray...

During the season of Lent, our prayers will be offered as a litany in the form below and with each response preceded by a brief time of silence.

L:God, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayers...

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

OFFERTORY

Nearer Than Before
Steven M. Key, soloist

Jim Cowan

***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**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 471**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Open the Eyes of My Heart
Marcia Bibbins, soloist

Michael W. Smith



First Church Land Acknowledgment

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

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the left.

OPENING HYMN

407 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
 87.87D

CLOSING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

471

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 4. When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
 When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in an - guish,
 when I'm on my bed of sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990

SOJOURNER
 88.89

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the family and loved ones of one-time First Church member Rebecca Blank, recent Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who died last Friday at the age 67 after a seven-month struggle with cancer.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she experiences ongoing health issues.
- We pray for the family of beloved First Church member and leader Hilary Hopkins, who died recently of complications following a cardiac procedure. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at First Church.
- We give thanks that Anita Anger's cancer treatments have been successful and that her recent PET scan showed no signs of lymphoma.
- We pray for Poppy & Brent Coffin as they continue loving & living with Alzheimer's and as Poppy transitions this week to the Bridges Memory Care Community in Lexington.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; 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 friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O'Donovan.
- We pray for all impacted by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and surrounding regions that killed tens of thousands of people, left over one million homeless, and caused widespread destruction. We pray for rescue and medical and relief crews. We pray for a swift and well-coordinated international response.
- We pray for all those affected by police violence. We pray for all those protesting and working at the local, state, and federal level to end police brutality, which disproportionately impacts persons and communities of color.
- We pray for all affected by gun violence and by mass shootings that occur with too much frequency in our country. We pray especially for all those impacted by the recent mass shooting at Michigan State University.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression continues to appear with alarming frequency in our communities and around our nation.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans siblings as they face the material effects of more than two dozen bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access that have been introduced in current legislative sessions across 11 states.
- We pray for people around the world facing natural disasters and intense weather due to the climate crisis.
- We pray for our country and for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling through the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for the integrity of our legal and judicial institutions at a time of extreme political polarization.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and stand in hope and solidarity as they continue to resist unjust and unlawful Russian invasions. We pray for all soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, Russia,

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

and surrounding areas, as well as all global regions impacted by the violence of war.

- We continue to pray for all who are affected by COVID-19, and we pray for healthcare professionals as they navigate caring for children and the elderly through a winter season with heavy rates of RSV and the flu, in addition to COVID-19.
- 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.

[Join the First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

Aid for Turkey and Syria

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. You can read about our denomination's early response here:

[Deadly earthquake strikes Turkey/Syria border, UCC delegation in Europe connects with partners to respond](#) by [Connie Larkman](#)



image: ABC News



The United Church of Christ (UCC) has issued an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event. Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need.

[Click here to give generously.](#) You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.

All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response”. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. You can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note “Turkey and Syria” on your check in the memo section.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

First Church Community Read & Lenten Formation Series
Today and Sundays, March 5, 12, and 19, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

*To be human in an aching world is to know our dignity
and become people who safeguard the dignity of
everything around us.*

- Cole Arthur Riley

Join a Lenten season all-church community read of [This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories that Make Us](#) by Cole Arthur Riley. Written as stories about the author's childhood and coming to self, *This Here Flesh* "boldly explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith: How can spirituality not silence the body, but instead allow it to come alive? How do we honor, lament, and heal from the stories we inherit? How can we find peace in a world overtaken with dislocation, noise, and unrest? In this work of contemplative storytelling, Arthur Riley invites us to descend into our own stories, examine our capacity to rest, wonder, joy, rage, and repair, and find that our humanity is not an enemy to faith but evidence of it." We'll discuss the book in four hybrid Sunday morning sessions and in a Faith & Life Group that will meet on Thursdays mornings at 7:30 a.m., beginning March 9. Even if you can't attend the conversation, all are encouraged to join in reading this work of truth telling, memory, and embodied contemplative spirituality. Books are available for a donation of \$10.



Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing **Sundays in Lent at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.** **Hastings Common**

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join the Missions & Social Justice Committee as we engage in a simple action that we know can make a big difference! Our Lenten letter writing will support at least two efforts. We will write to our state legislators in support of the 2023-2024 MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda, which includes five priorities: Remove

Racist Mascots, Honor Indigenous People's Day, Celebrate and Teach Native American Cultures & History, Protect Native American Heritage, and Support the Education and Futures of Native Youth. We will also offer the opportunity to become a penpal with someone who is currently incarcerated.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Americans Who

Tell The Truth

February 26 - April 11, 2023

Documentary Screenings:

Sunday, February 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Exhibit Opening and

New Harriet Jacobs Portrait Unveiling:

Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 p.m.

firstchurchcambridge.org/AWTT



Americans Who Tell The Truth **Exhibit Opening and Portrait Unveiling**

Today at 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

First Church in Cambridge is excited to partner with portrait artist Robert Shetterly and his organization [Americans Who Tell The Truth](#) to host 11 of Robert's remarkable works depicting courageous truth-tellers, both historic and contemporary. Some were chosen for their local connections to our city and region. Others have directly inspired our congregation's antiracist journey and wider social justice work. Today, Robert will introduce the

exhibit and unveil his latest work, a portrait of the writer and abolitionist Harriet Jacobs. We will also hear remarks from Harvard Divinity School Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Dr. Melissa Wood Bartholomew, who teaches a course on Harriet Jacobs. We've invited several of the living truth-tellers whose portraits will be featured to join us for this celebration! [Read more about the exhibit here.](#)

Register Now for Lenten Faith & Life Groups

Questions may be directed to Lexi Boudreaux or to the individual group leaders. [You are invited to register here.](#)

Deadline for registration is TODAY, Sunday, February 26.

The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs

Day/Time: Mondays, February 20 and 27, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Leaders: Ahmaad Edmund and Carla Arevalo Carbejal

An Introductory Conversation about Reparations

Day/Time: Wednesdays, March 8, 15, and (perhaps) 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

Leaders: Abby Shuman and Lexi Boudreaux

Community Bereavement Group

Day/Time: TBD

Leader: Krysia Burnham

Intergenerational Cooking for First Church Homeless Ministries

Day/Time: TBD based on group availability; most likely Saturday afternoons

Leader: Caitlin Anderson

Spring Tune-Up and Care of our Temples (Bodies) with Tai Chi Chih

Day/Time: Thursdays, March 2 and 9, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., in person at First Church

Leader: Gail Breeze

This Here Flesh Extended Discussion Group

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m., March 9, 16, and 23, via Zoom

Leader: Dan Smith or Lexi Boudreaux and Sue Reynolds



LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

The Truth That Sets Us Free

Lent 2023



Contemplation and Courage
for the Common Good



Lent is a season of special depth and intentional observance at First Church in Cambridge. Each year we reflect on the forty days leading up to Easter with opportunities to gather for study and spiritual practice. Join us as we spend our time together with an exhibit of 11 portraits from the project “Americans Who Tell the Truth” by Robert Shetterly, a documentary about his work, and with an all-church community book read that engages the topic of embodied contemplative spirituality. This Lent, we are all invited to reflect on and illuminate our need for unity, as we continue to reckon with our past and reimagine embodied hope for the future of our lives and our world.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 4, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person on Saturday morning for our monthly gathering, a time to reflect and rejoice. If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: p.byerly@comcast.net



MEN'S BREAKFAST

a monthly gathering
for sharing our stories and reflections



Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays

Let us continue to bring food pantry contributions to First Church EVERY first Sunday of each month, which is **next Sunday!** The need is great and getting greater. Always welcome are: cereal, hearty soups, canned meats including Spam, canned fruits and veggies, cooking oil, condiments, baking supplies, diapers and feminine products. No fresh, frozen, opened or expired items, please! Be in Communion with needy neighbors who call at the St. James food pantry. Special thanks to Steve Weller and Stefanie Haug for stepping up to be the new First Church Coordinators of our food pantry donations.

Honoring Longtime Members Panel

Sunday, March 5, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join us to hear stories from three of our longtime members about what it's been like to have been in covenant with us for 50, 60, and even 70-plus years. Newcomers and those considering joining First Church are especially welcome at this event. Following the panel, newcomers and longtime members are invited to stay for a Newcomers Meet & Greet.



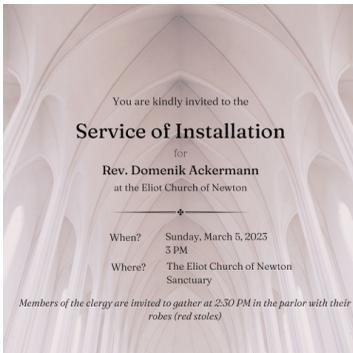
LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

Visit a Truth Teller

Sundays, March 5 - April 2, 12:15 p.m.

Each Lenten Sunday, we invite you to gather around one or two of our Truth Telling portraits for a brief ritual after worship. After listening to a short description of the truth-teller's life and work, we will pause to look at the faces—the eyes—and to read the quote. We will sing a verse or two of a song and then send each other forth, inspired to go speak the truth in our lives and in our world! You will also be invited to linger in casual conversation and to engage each other in response to some 'truth-telling prompts' that will be available on tables in Margaret Jewett Hall and Hastings Common.

These portraits are the opposite of "hot takes" or quick opinions. They invite you to ponder a person, their words, and the issues that inspire their life's journey, work, activism, and imagination. They welcome you into a vital conversation, across time and space, about what it means to be an American.



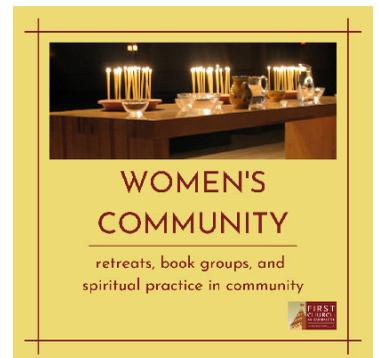
Service of Installation for Rev. Domenik Ackermann Sunday, March 5, 3:00 p.m., Eliot Church of Newton

First Church folks are warmly invited to the installation of former First Church member Dom Ackermann at Eliot Church of Newton. Clergy are invited to robe with red stoles and gather at 2:30 p.m.

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

The Women's Community is looking forward to their next gathering to discuss [The Personal Librarian](#) by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray. "The Personal Librarian is a fictionalized telling of the lifework of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J. P. Morgan, as well as the first director of the Morgan Library & Museum." Next month's book will be Lauren Groff's [Matrix](#). Please join us, we'd love to have you!



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, February 27

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

Tuesday, February 28

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 1:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom

Wednesday, March 1

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, March 2

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom

Friday, March 3

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Saturday, March 4

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

Sunday, March 5 - Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Series - *This Here Flesh*, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Visit a Truth Teller, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Honoring our Longtime Members Panel, MJH
- 1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Sage Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

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