



*Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn.  
I will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
I will sing praises to you among the nations,  
for your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;  
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.*

- Psalm 57:8-10

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Eastertide  
April 23, 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

**April 23, 2023**

<b>Preaching Today</b>	Lexi Boudreaux, <i>Transitional Minister</i>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Ginny Harlan
<b>Assisting in Worship</b>	Carla Carbajal, <i>Ministerial Intern</i> Deb Cunningham, <i>offering Land Acknowledgment</i> Ahmaad Edmund, <i>Ministerial Intern</i> Casey Marsh, <i>offering Ministry Moment for GBIO</i> Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i> Dan Smith, <i>Senior Minister</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Psalm 57 collage by Audrey Bellinger <i>This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in <a href="#">a digital gallery</a>.</i>

### Today's Programs and Events

10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour, Hastings Common
12:15 p.m.	Remembering and Honoring: Embroidery Project, MJH
1:30 p.m.	Cambridge Common Youth Group Event, Kitchen & Hastings Common
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a visitor card found on the small clipboards or this "[virtual visitor card](#)" so that we might connect with you about our community.

### Give to First Church

You can give online: [www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give](http://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](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

### Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 857-331-7136 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

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

Concerto in G Major

Bach/Ernst

### \*HYMN 521

God in Great Love for Us

### \*GREETING

Ginny Harlan

- L: Siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!  
**C: From God the Merciful, peace to you!**  
L: And together, let us praise God in the presence of Love —  
**C: Love divine, stronger than injustice and death!**  
L: Together, let us praise God in the companionship of the Risen Christ —  
**C: the Risen Christ, source of truth, who abides with us now!**  
L: Together, let us praise God in this time of worship!

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Deb Cunningham

### ANTHEM

From All the Earth Send Up the Song

Robert J. Weaver

*From all the earth send up the song, shout glad hosannas loud and long!  
Serve joyfully! Our God adore. Acclaim God's honor evermore!*

*Great God, Creator, Source of all, both keeps and guards us when we fall.  
One flock in our Good Shepherd's fold, we feast on bounties yet untold.*

*The gates of glory beckon here. Come, bless God's name. Give thanks. Draw near.  
God's mercies last through all our days. New psalms, spring forth in grateful praise!*

*Our God is true from age to age. Our God is good beyond our gauge.  
Our God is faithful, ever sure. God's kindness, love, and grace endure!*

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace:  
**All: God of earth and heaven,  
we confess to you the harm we have done  
to this earth, one another, and to all of your sacred creation.**

*(cont'd on next page)*

*\*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.*

**When we seek domination, humble us with your grace.**

**Breathe in us your wisdom.**

**For the threads that bind us surely extend beyond our church,  
to every seed growing, to every bird singing,  
to the water flowing through us and around us.**

**Help us when we forget to see with our hearts and souls  
the blessed woven relationships among all life.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and grant us your mercy and peace.**

**Amen.**

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

### **\*GREETING OF PEACE**

*Please turn to your neighbors and offer a handshake, or a hug! Or if you prefer to maintain social distance, fold your hands or arms in a sign of peace. We want everyone to be comfortable; today let there be no spiritual distance between us.*

### **\*HYMN 426**

**I've Got Peace Like a River**

*Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) and Bible 101 (5/6th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find the children in the Chapel after worship.*

## **OPENING THE WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

Carla Carbajal

### **READING**

Psalm 23

## **A TIME FOR HEALING**

### **REFLECTION AND INVITATION**

Lexi Boudreaux

### **BLESSING OF OIL AND HANDS**

Dan Smith

### **HYMNS**

**380** We Are Not Our Own

**427** My Life Flows On in Endless Song

**393** Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

**400** There Is a Balm in Gilead

### **CONCLUDING 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.**

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ahmaad Edmund

### MINISTRY MOMENT

Casey Marsh

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Psalm 24 Bay Psalm Book/Denise Karuth/Hymn C-4

### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess;  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

### \*HYMN 352

Go Forth for God

### \*BENEDICTION

### VOLUNTARY

Concerto in G Major

Bach/Ernst



SCAN ME

### 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.

God in Great Love for Us

521

1. God in great love for us lent us this plan- et, gave it a  
 2. Thanks be to God for its boun-ty and beau- ty, life that sus -  
 3. Long have our hu - man wars ru - ined its har- vest; long has earth  
 4. God owns the earth: it is ours to en - joy it, ours, as God's

pur - pose in time and in space: small as a spark from the  
 tains us in bod - y and mind: plen - ty for all, if we  
 bowed to the ter - ror of force; long have we wast - ed what  
 stew - ards, to farm and de - fend. From its pol - lu - tion, mis -

fire of cre - a - tion, cra - dle of life and the home of our race.  
 learn how to share it, rich - es un-dreamed of to fath - om and find.  
 oth - ers have need of, poi - soned the foun - tain of life at its source.  
 use and de - struc - tion, our God, de - liv - er us, world with - out end!

PEACE HYMN

426

I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a  
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a  
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an  
 4. I've got faith like an an- chor, I've got faith like an

1.  
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my  
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my  
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my  
 an- chor, I've got faith like an an- chor, in - a my

2.  
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got an- chor in - a my soul.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river'

PEACE LIKE A RIVER  
 77.10 D

# HEALING HYMN

380

## We Are Not Our Own

*Unison*

1. We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu - man  
 2. We are not a - lone. Earth names us: past and  
 3. Through a hu - man life God finds us; dy - ing,  
 4. There - fore let us make thanks - giv - ing, and with  
 5. And if love's en - coun - ters lead us on a  
 6. Let us be a house of wel - come, liv - ing

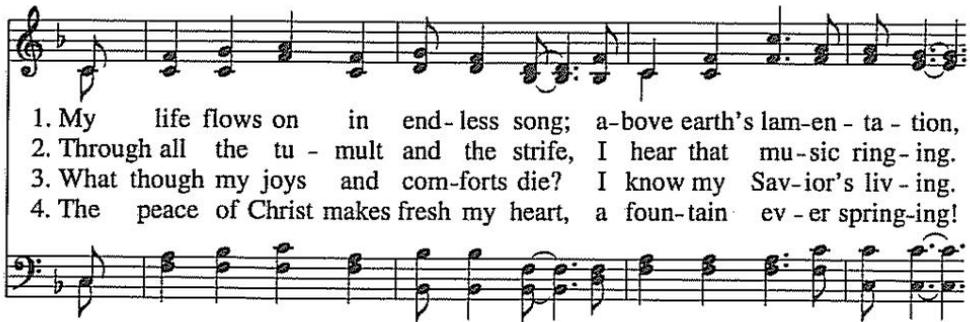
leaves on na - ture's grow - ing vine, fruit of man - y  
 2. pre - sent, peo - ples near and far, fam - i - ly and  
 liv - ing, love is ful - ly known, and in bread and  
 4. jus - tice, will - ing and a - ware, give to earth, and  
 way un - cer - tain and un - known, all the saints with  
 6. stone up - hold - ing liv - ing stone, glad - ly show - ing

gen - er - a - tions, seeds of life di - vine.  
 2. friends and stran - gers show us who we are.  
 wine re - minds us: we are not our own.  
 4. all things liv - ing, lit - ur - gies of care.  
 prayer sur - round us: we are not a - lone.  
 6. all our neigh - bors we are not our own!

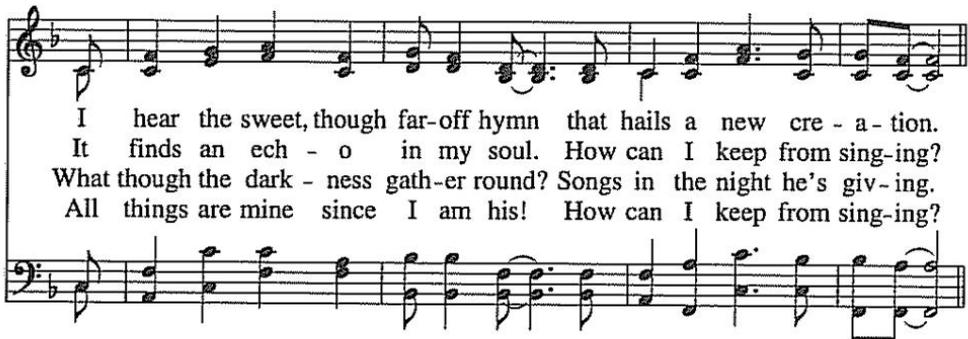
WORDS: Brian Wren, 1987  
 MUSIC: Brian Wren, 1987; harm. Fred Graham, 1987

YARNTON  
 89.85

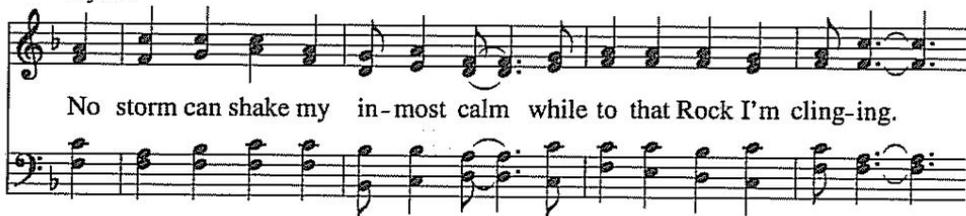
## My Life Flows On in Endless Song 427



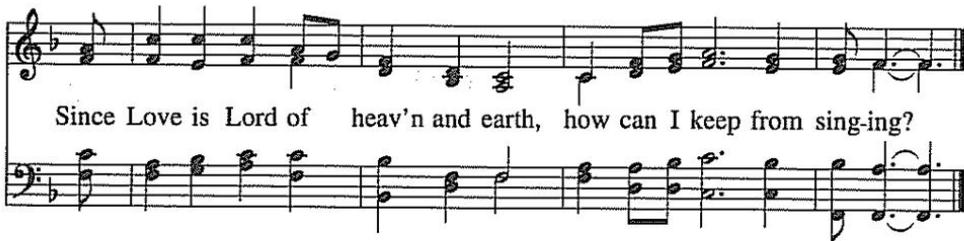
1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.  
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior's liv-ing.  
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he's giv-ing.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*


No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Baptist minister and educator Lowry was editor of Sunday School

87.87 w. refrain

393

## Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

*Unison*

1. Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.  
 2. Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.  
 3. God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.

\*Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.  
 Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the scar - ing truth we seek.  
 Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.

Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so much.  
 Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we share.  
 Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar face.

Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, heal us by your touch.  
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, hold us in your care.  
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, \_\_\_\_\_ meet us with your grace.

# HEALING HYMN

400

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*    §

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.    *Fine*

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and  
 2. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for  
 3. If you can't preach like Pe - ter, if

think my work's in vain. But then the Ho - ly  
 Je - sus is your friend, and if you look for  
 you can't pray like Paul, just tell the love of

Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.    *D.S.*  
 knowl-edge he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.    There is a  
 Je - sus, and say he died for all.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

BALM IN GILEAD

CLOSING HYMN

Go Forth for God

352

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good  
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the  
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the  
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heaven-ly grace, in God's good Spir - it  
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;  
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one  
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we be - hold God's  
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we  
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his  
 ev - 'ry gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

WORDS: John Raphael Peacey, 1975  
 MUSIC: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

OLD 124th  
 10 10.10 10.10

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Faith Lutheran Church after its building was destroyed in a fire on Easter Sunday evening. We pray for their pastor, Rev. Robin Lutjohann, as well as the staff and community impacted by this devastating loss.
- We pray for Art Anger, who was hospitalized last week for a hemorrhagic stroke and is beginning a long road of rehabilitation and recovery.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she deals with a slow-progressing motor neuron disorder.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Joanne Paul; 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 whose lives are touched by our nation's raging epidemic of gun violence. We pray especially this week for Ralph Yarl and his family in Kansas City, MO, who was shot when he rang the wrong doorbell; and we pray for the family and friends of Kaylin Gillis, who was killed in Hebron, NY, after driving up the wrong driveway. We pray for ongoing efforts to create lasting change in our country's gun safety laws.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans siblings as they face the impact of dozens of bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access and gender expression that have been introduced—and, in some cases, have passed into law—in state houses across the country.
- On this Earth Sunday, we pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- 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 affects persons and communities of color.
- 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 our country and for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are now unable to give and receive care in their own states.
- 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, and surrounding areas, as well as all global regions impacted by the violence of war.
- We pray for the 14 men finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter; and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding resources and listening ears.

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

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Remembering and Honoring: First Church Embroidery Project Learning Session and Workshop

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

Join local textile artists Sarah Fuijwara and Gail Willett, along with other project leaders for a session in which we take the next steps in our community project to embroider names of enslaved persons connected with First Church into a large-scale piece of fabric art. We'll begin by sharing an overview about enslaved persons whose names we will eventually embroider. Sarah and Gail will guide us through an exercise of sewing and practicing our embroidery skills on muslin sacks. This activity is inspired by Tiya Miles's National Book Award Winner *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*, which was one of our First Church Summer Reads last year. Please be thinking in advance about three family keepsakes you would put in your sack to pass along to future generations.



### Neighborhood Youth Group Service Project

Today, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., First Church Kitchen

Teens from 7th to 12th grade are invited to join youth from other churches bordering the Cambridge Common for an afternoon of cooking lasagnas for the Friday Café and First Church Shelter. We will meet in the First Church kitchen to cook together.

### Installation of Rev. Jonathan Page at Hills Church

Today at 3:00 p.m., Wellesley Hills Congregational Church

207 Washington St., Wellesley

The Wellesley Hills Congregational Church and the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ cordially invite you to celebrate the Installation of former First Church member Reverend Jonathan Page as Senior Minister of the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church.



### Night Song

Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset.

[Read more about Night Song.](#)

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH



### **GBIO: Campaign for a Housing Justice Budget**

First Church and the 60 other member organizations of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization are calling on elected officials to remember public housing in the state budget! We have a call script linked [here](#), and we'll have paper copies available at Coffee Hour. We are asking everyone who can to reach their state representative on **Monday morning, April 24**, when the House begins their budget debate. We can make a difference in the lives of tenants statewide, but we will need to continue telling electeds that public housing can't be ignored any longer!

### **Friday Cafe's Fundraiser Event**

**is this Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p .m.**

Get your tickets now for this conversation with New York Times critic Michael Kimmelman. Learn more, purchase tickets, or make a donation at: [firstchurchcambridge.org/tackling-homelessness](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/tackling-homelessness)

First Church in Cambridge presents:

**TACKLING HOMELESSNESS:**  
**HOPE** AMID  
**THE CHALLENGE**

**April 25, 7:00 pm**  
in the Sanctuary

with guest speaker  
**Michael Kimmelman**  
of the New York Times

author of "How Houston Moved 25,000 People  
From the Streets Into Homes of Their Own"

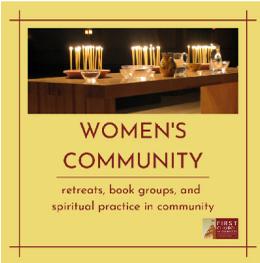
Ticket sales support the work of the **Friday Café**

**Buy tickets:**  
[www.firstchurchcambridge.org/tackling-homelessness/](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/tackling-homelessness/)

This event will be both in-person and livestreamed.

SCAN ME

## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



### Women's Community Eastertide Retreat Saturday, April 29, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The women of First Church are invited to gather for a time of worship, spiritual practice, reflection, and fellowship to observe Eastertide. Everyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to join! Come as you are to take time out of our busy weeks for rest, renewal, and spiritual practice in the midst of a supportive community. To let us know that you plan to attend, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/h4Lm3cRhsOXdubig9>

### Celebrations on April 30

We have much to celebrate on Sunday, April 30!

**Good news!** First Church is being recognized for our efforts in reaching Level One of the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNEUCC) [Green Congregation Challenge](#).

Paul Dale from the SNEUCC Environmental Team will join us in Morning Worship to present us with an award as we lift up our shared journey toward addressing the climate crisis and environmental injustice.

**More good news!** Former Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan will be joining us for the Green Challenge celebration, along with her new baby! We are so grateful to Jaz and to Jim Brown for their recent efforts to mobilize our First Church Earth Stewardship Team.

**Even more good news!** Former longtime members Dick and Gay Harter will also be with us, and they will receive a Cockerel tile acknowledging their 50+ years of involvement at First Church. It will be a rich and joyful Sunday that you won't want to miss!



### Recycling, Compost, and Trash at First Church: A Quick Primer

It has been wonderful to be able to gather in person again for fellowship, formation, and meetings, while also partaking in refreshments, snacks, treats, and even full meals. Because gatherings with food are back in full swing, we thought it would be a good idea to remind everyone of the proper ways to dispose of waste here at First Church.

#### Recycling (blue containers)

metal cans and foil  
glass bottles and jars  
plastic containers  
paper and cardboard

#### Compost (green containers)

food waste  
used tea bags, coffee grounds & filters  
paper towels, napkins & muffin papers  
certified compostable plates, cups, utensils

#### Trash (black containers)

After you have recycled and composted what you can, what's left can go in the trash.

Thank you very much for disposing of your refuse in the proper containers. Not only is it in line with our Earth Stewardship goals, but both the City of Cambridge and our compost company will fine the church if trash is mixed in with the recycling or compost. Questions? Want to learn more about refuse disposal at First Church? Contact [Director of Operations Kirsten Manville](#).

## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

### **First Church Treasures from the Past** **Sundays, April 30 and May 7, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.** **Harter Room and via Zoom**

Come and learn the fascinating story of the Cockerel weathervane that tops our church tower. The great gilded rooster was made in 1721 by famous Boston coppersmith Shem Drowne and was already 150 years old when it landed in Cambridge in 1873. Lindsay Miller tells the cockerel's story in a hybrid program at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 30. The following Sunday, May 7, at 9:30, Kate Judd, Chris Reynolds, and other members of the First Church Archives team reveal the once-forgotten history of the Archives and how some remarkable 17th and 18th century documents ended up in the collection. Join us to hear history come alive!



### **Ongoing Crisis in Israel/Palestine: Challenges and Opportunities** **on the 75th Anniversary of the Nakba** **Sunday, April 30, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.** **Harter Room and via Zoom**

May 2023 will mark the 75th anniversary of what Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe: the founding of the modern State of Israel and the accompanying mass displacement and violence experienced by Palestinians. Grounded in its just peace commitment, First Church members are invited to hear from special guest Hilary Rantisi, Associate Director of the Religion, Conflict, and Peace Initiative at Harvard Divinity School. A Palestinian-American, Hilary formerly served as Director of the Middle East Initiative at Harvard's Kennedy School and as a grassroots activist in Jerusalem. Hilary will share her family's experience of the Nakba and offer an update on the current challenges to, and opportunities for, advancing just peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

### **Newcomers Meet and Greet** **Sunday, May 7, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Hastings Common**

Are you feeling new to First Church? Or are you a member interested in meeting someone new to our community? All are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship in Hastings Common, just through the Sanctuary door by the Children's Book Corner. Some of what you can expect: friendly faces, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation.



## LOOKING AHEAD

### Staffing Transitions

We have sad news and glad news about our staffing plans!

First, the sad part. As was announced at our recent Congregational Meetings, our fabulous Transitional Minister's 2-year term is coming to an end in the coming months. Lexi Boudreaux will be leaving us on August 31, but not before we celebrate the remarkable gifts she has brought these last five years, beginning with her time as a Ministerial Intern and a Pastoral Associate from Harvard Divinity School. We will have a congregational celebration of her ministry after church on June 18 while we are still gathered, leaving time throughout the summer for further goodbyes.



The glad news is that both Carla Carbjal and Ahmaad Edmund have agreed to stay with us for the 2023-24 program year as half-time Pastoral Associates to share their extraordinary gifts and to help us cover Lexi's myriad responsibilities. We are grateful that this plan will afford us the time and resources needed to set First Church on a more sustainable financial path as we pursue our goal of calling a full-time minister of color.

We are grateful beyond words to Lexi, Ahmaad, and Carla, and to the rest of our staff and community ministers for their dedication and agility, to our lay leaders, and to our entire faith community for joining us in this ongoing discernment of our still evolving staffing model.



### Faith Lutheran Church Fire Recovery Fund

On Easter Sunday evening, Faith Lutheran Church at 311 Broadway in Cambridge suffered a devastating fire. We give thanks for the efforts of the many firefighters who worked to extinguish the fire and protect the surrounding neighborhood, even as we mourn with the congregation at the loss of their church home.

If you would like to donate toward their recovery, they have set up a [Faith Lutheran Church Fire Recovery Fund](#) GoFundMe page.

**Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?** Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, April 24

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, April 25

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Tackling Homelessness: An Evening with *New York Times* Critic Michael Kimmelman, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

## Wednesday, April 26

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

## Thursday, April 27

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

## Friday, April 28

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

## Saturday, April 29

- 12:30 p.m. Women's Community Eastertide Retreat, MJH, Library, and Chapel

## Sunday, April 30

- 9:30 a.m. First Church Treasures from the Past, 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: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common
- 12:30 p.m. Ongoing Crisis in Israel/Palestine, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Library and MJH
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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