

Palm Sunday April 13, 2025

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.

April 13, 2025

| Liturgist Leading Worship | Callum Pelton-Cairns Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Communications & Christian Formation</i> Emma Mitchell, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i> |
|------------------------------|---|
| Assisting in Worship | Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i> Phil Jones (flute), Callum Pelton-Cairns (trumpet), and Erik Stauffer (saxophone), <i>Palm Procession Band</i> Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> |

Today's Programs and Events

| 9:15 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
|------------|--|
| | , , |
| 9:50 a.m. | Family Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| 10:00 a.m. | All-Church Palm Sunday Breakfast, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) |
| 10:55 a.m. | Palm Procession, beginning on the church lawn |
| 11:00 a.m. | Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream |
| 11:20 a.m. | Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH |
| 12:15 p.m. | Refreshments in MJH |
| 12:30 p.m. | Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well |
| 7:00 p.m. | Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith as Adults Through |
| | the Confirmation Curriculum II, Harter Room |
| 7:30 p.m. | Night Song, Sanctuary and <u>via livestream</u> |
| | |

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a **welcome card** found on small clipboards in the pews or <u>online</u>, so that we might connect with you about our community.

Give to First Church

You can give electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: <u>www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give</u>

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

Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE congregational **389YEARS** ON THE WAY 1636-2025

GATHERING

You are invited to gather on the church lawn at 10:55 a.m. for the opening of the service. If you do not wish to process with palms, you may take a seat in the Sanctuary or tune in via livestream.

*GREETING ON THE LAWN

- L: May the God of Love be with you!
- C: And also with you!
- L: A reading from the Gospel of Luke... People of God, lift high your palms and lay down your cloaks!
- C: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven and glory in the highest places!"
- L: Lift your voices. Sing out the presence of wellsprings in the wilderness!
- C: Let us walk with Jesus to Jerusalem!
- L: Blessed is the one who comes to show us God's way of love and peace!
- C: Hosanna! Glory in the highest!

*HYMN (insert)

All Glory, Laud and Honor

see page 4

During the hymn, the congregation processes into the Sanctuary.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Callum Pelton-Cairns

FAMILY CHOIR ANTHEM I'm Gonna Walk It With You Brian Claflin & Ellie Grace Join us when we repeat the first verse at the end:

Well, it looks like it might be a hard road, but I'm gonna walk it with you.
And I know you might have a heavy load, but I can carry some, too.
I will lift you up when they push you down,
I will raise my voice and stand my ground.
Well, it looks like it might be a hard road, but I'm gonna walk it with you.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

*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.

Mike Solberg

SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

- L: The peace of Christ be with you!
- C: And also with you!



*HYMN (insert)

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

see page 5

A MUTUAL BLESSING

Emma Mitchell

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: And God be with you here.

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Adults can meet their children in MJH at Coffee Hour after worship.

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our offering supports the many ministries of our church, with 10% for missions in the community and beyond. Please use our new <u>all-in-one link</u> for gifts from your bank account or by credit/debit card:



OFFERTORY

Hosanna to the Son of David

Luc Jakobs

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed be He that comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed be the King of Israel! Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory! Hosanna in the highest heavens!

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

OPENING THE WORD

PALM / PASSION LITURGY

| L: | People | of God, | lift high | your pa | lms! |
|----|--------|---------|-----------|---------|------|
| | | | | | |

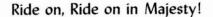
- C: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven and glory in the highest places!"
- L: May the praise shown through these palms be ever in our hearts.
- C: And may we always remember that these palms, in the end, turn to ash.
- L: God be with us, as we hear again how Love Supreme can ultimately find no home in this world.
- C: God of living water, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of your love. Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit, so that we may follow you this day and always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

| READING | Luke 22:1-23;53 | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | GOING FORTH | | |
| *HYMN 471 | I Want Jesus to Walk with Me | | |
| *BENEDICTION | | | |
| VOLUNTARY | All Glory, Laud and Honor | | |

OPENING HYMN



PEACE HYMN





CLOSING HYMN



-Hymn Insert 1-

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Mark Destler and his family as they mourn the loss of Mark's father Mac Destler, who died unexpectedly, yet peacefully, on Thursday, March 27.
- We pray for Lisa DiNardo as she mourns the loss of close family friend Loretta Les, who died peacefully on March 28 at the age of 99.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer's Disease; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; and Keith Manville, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for the hundreds of Venezuelan men who have been illegally removed from the US and transferred to a maximum security prison in El Salvador, where they face grave human rights violations. We pray for their families, and for all those who are living under the daily threat of detention, and especially for the immigrant communities in Chelsea, Fall River, and New Bedford, where ICE has increased their presence. We pray also for international students at universities across the US who have had their visas pulled and who are being detained or deported. We pray for the safety of Tufts graduate student Rumeysa Ozturk and other students facing detention for exercising their right to free speech. We pray for the future of our democracy, as we witness alarming abuses of power.
- We pray for those in the path of deadly storms that moved through several states in the middle of our country over the past week, killing over 20 people and causing catastrophic damage.
- We pray for all those impacted by the devastating earthquake in Myanmar that killed over 2,000 people.
- We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis, especially as the scientific research arm of EPA is decimated by staff firings and defunding.
- We continue to pray for peace in Eastern Congo, where millions are displaced due to the fighting between the Rwandan-backed M23 militia and the Congolese army. We pray that the children and staff of the Congo Peace School will be safe, and that God's presence may be with them and all the loved ones of Amani and Amini Matabaro Tom.
- We pray for Gaza, especially as calls for investigation grow in response to the killing of paramedics and civilian emergency responders. We pray for all who are grieving, as we continue to bear witness to the terrible impact of ongoing war, in Gaza and in other regions of the world trapped in cycles of violence.
- 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

Discovery Team Conversation with Our Livestream Community Today, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., via Zoom

We have a robust number of folks who livestream our worship from afar each Sunday. The Discovery Team invites you to a special conversation to learn how we can improve your engagement with the Church, as well as your thoughts on what skills, experience, and focus you might like to see in our new Pastor. Other questions and topics of concern/interest are most welcome!





Palm Sunday Breakfast Today, 10:00 - 10:50 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Join us as we participate in one of the most ancient, common, and sustaining of Christian practices—sharing a meal together, in an atmosphere where strangers are guests, guests are friends, and friends are family. This meal will be a partial potluck: Fellowship will provide hot cross buns, granola, yogurt, and coffee, and the congregation is invited to contribute fruit, juice, or a breakfast side such as quiche or sausage. Breakfast at 10:00 a.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall will nourish us in body and spirit for our 10:55 a.m. Palm Sunday procession into the Sanctuary.

Join Our New Worship Livestream Chat

We are thrilled to offer a new way for those worshiping online to connect with First Church! We now have a chat feature enabled through Vanco, our electronic giving program. When you click on the livestream, you are



invited to log in with the same email and password that you use for giving, or set up your access directly on the livestream site. If you need assistance with your login information, reach out to Karen McArthur via email: karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org.



Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., The Well

7th and 8th graders from First Church and Old South Church meet for a session of their year-long sexuality education curriculum.

Young Adults: Discovery Brunch Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Grafton Street Pub, Harvard Square

Anyone 20-35 (or thereabouts) is invited to a special Discovery Team conversation for Young Adults after the Palm Sunday service. We'll gather at

the back of the Sanctuary and head to brunch at Grafton Street Pub to share our insights on life at First Church. Newcomers welcome!

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Last Call for Easter Flower Donations!

If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Bruce Dillenbeck (bruce@ firstchurchcambridge.org) in the First Church office. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made <u>online</u> or by check in the offering basket (payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of "Easter Flowers"). *Please send an email to Bruce with the names,*

even if you pay by check through the offering basket or online; this way we can make sure no one is missed. On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

Meet Our New Members

Last Sunday, we welcomed two new members in covenant.

Mary Lightbody grew up east of Cleveland, Ohio and first came to Massachusetts for college at Harvard/Radcliffe. She moved back to Ohio



with her husband Richard Noss after 20 years with three children and two horses and stayed for 35 years. Mary taught science to 8th graders and then to pre-service education students at The Ohio State University. After her husband passed away, she ran for (and won) a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives as a member of the Democratic caucus. She served for five years and resigned to move back to Massachusetts to help her son with his growing family. Mary is happy to become a member of First Church in Cambridge in part due to a strong family connection; her great-uncle Raymond Calkins served as Senior Minister here from 1912-1940, and Emeritus until his death in 1967.

Olivia Olaffson is a proud Nashville native, graduated from Tufts University in 2023, and is now a new elementary school teacher in Boston. She is an avid reader, mandolin player, and major history buff. She is excited to join the First Church community and continue her faith journey in a joyful, loving, and inclusive community.



Night Song

Today, 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. *Learn more about Night Song.*

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Discovery Team Conversation with Newcomers Monday, April 14 at 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., via Zoom

Those who are feeling new to First Church are warmly invited to a Discovery Team conversation just for you. Andy Clark hosts an informal conversation to learn from your initial experiences with the church, how we can improve our welcoming of new folks, and your thoughts on



what skills, experience, and focus you might like to see in our new Pastor. Questions and topics of interest are also most welcome! Please email Andy (andrewgclark@mac.com) to receive the Zoom link. To learn more about our activities during this time of pastoral transition, please visit: <u>firstchurchcambridge.org/transition/</u>



Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom

Please join our conversation among Graceful Agers about the joys, growth opportunities, challenges and losses that accompany aging. If you would like to learn more (including our Zoom link), please reach out to Linda Ziebell (lindaziebell@comcast.net) or Martha Mueller Cook (marthamuellercook@gmail.com).

Youth Group Good Friday Lock-In Friday, April 18 - Saturday, April 19 8:30 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

The First Church Youth Group is planning an overnight in the church after the Good Friday service. There will be games, pizza, a screening of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and sleeping under the dome in the Sanctuary. If you have a high schooler



that wants to join, *please complete <u>this permission form</u> by Monday, April 14.* Questions? <u>Contact Sarah Higginbotham</u>.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Maundy Thursday Service Thursday, April 17, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples "to love one another as I have loved you." We remember this truth revealed to us during 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 of Gethsemane. We depart in silence. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Chapel and via livestream

We gather to grieve together, to lament injustice, and to remember Jesus' death on the cross. Join us for this solemn service of ritual, readings, and song that will help us hold the grief of our lives and world. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

Easter Worship

Sunday, April 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

Christ is Risen! We celebrate God's gift of new life and love stronger than death as we recall and sing out the story of the Risen One, who meets us on the way!

LOOKING AHEAD



Young Adults: Faith on Tap Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Rosebud Kitchen, Somerville First Church has an active group for Young Adults (20s and 30s) meeting for casual fellowship on a rotating schedule. Join us for our next Faith on Tap, just after Easter! All in that age group are welcome. Learn

more about the group and join the mailing list - email: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.

Understanding Human Trafficking Today

Sunday, April 27, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

We welcome Mark van de Fliert to lead a discussion about modern slavery, exploitation, and trafficking. What are the signs that a person might



be trafficked? How prevalent do we think trafficking and exploitation are in a metropolis like Greater Boston? And what might faith communities do to combat exploitation and support survivors? Mark has a background working on issues of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world. He currently works in our First Church Shelter while pursuing graduate studies at the Harvard Divinity and Kennedy Schools.



Newcomers Meet-and-Greet Sunday, April 27 at 12:30 p.m., Library

If you are new to First Church, here's a dedicated time to chat a bit with Pastor Mike, a few other leaders, and other new folks. "New" is self-defined, but surely includes those who have been

around one to a few times. Follow the crowd to our parish hall, get some coffee and a cookie, and come join us in the Library on the far side of the room.

Tuesday Family Night Reunion Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall

For many years in the 2010's, First Church families with young children would gather every other Tuesday evening in Sage Hall for a simple pasta potluck dinner, where kids could play as grown-ups lingered over



supper for conversation and connection. We are now at a point when a new generation of families with young children might be ready to consider choosing this type of community connection. To kick start the conversation, ALL families from the "old" Family Night are invited to join ANY "new" families with young ones for a chance to look back and look forward toward a possible renewal of this family ministry. We'll also make space for a Discovery Team conversation with parents of school-aged children, hosted by Meredith.

Sarah will provide the pasta and sauce (on the side!); please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Most importantly, bring your kids, no matter how young or old - the trikes are still here waiting for them!

LOOKING AHEAD



Discovery Team Conversations with Parents

The Discovery Team would like to hear from parents of school-aged children about your experiences at First Church, and your hopes for our next chapter. There are three ways to be heard:

- Come to Family Night on Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 7:00 p.m. Children are welcome, and dinner will be served!
- Join a Zoom gathering on **Wednesday, April 30, at 8:00 p.m.** Contact Meredith at: meredithMquinn@gmail.com to get the link.
- Tell Meredith when you have 10 minutes available, and she will call you! We know you are busy; we'll be grateful for any time you can spare.

Birding with Marianne Saturday, May 3, 7:00 - 8:30 a.m., Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Meet Marianne Jensen at the gates of Mt. Auburn Cemetery to search for and identify migratory birds. Women are invited to continue on to join the First Church Women's Retreat at 9:00 a.m.





First Church Women's Retreat: Register Now!

Saturday, May 3, 9:00 - 12:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Registration is now open for our annual Women's Retreat; all who identify as women in the First Church community are invited! <u>Please register here.</u> This year, the focus is on themes found in Robin Wall Kimmerer's new gem of a book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World.*

Contact Alex (alex@steinert-evoy.com) or Sue (susanreynolds235@gmail.com) to learn more and borrow a book.

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., via Zoom

Please join us for a moving (always!) discussion of our next book, Kathryn Schulz's <u>Lost and</u> <u>Found: Reflections on Grief, Gratitude, and Happiness</u>. Described as "part memoir, part guidebook to living in a world that is simultaneously full of wonder and joy and wretchedness and suffering--a world that always demands both our gratitude and our grief," this is a timely choice for many. We look forward to all who join us--bring a friend!

GBIO Organizing Trainings

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is holding trainings throughout April, May, and June on how to build power to fight injustice. GBIO believes that power comes from creating relationships within and across congregations. Come learn how, and join other people of faith to build collective power for common good. Register at: <u>bit.ly/m/gbiodates</u>



LOOKING AHEAD

Parsonage Conversations

Sunday, May 11, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom Thursday, May 15, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Sunday, May 18, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

In 2022, we set up an assets working group to help get a clear picture of some of our important historic assets which included archives material, the cockerel weathervane, and the Parsonage. As a congregation, we have made decisions on how to handle those first two items and we are now at a point where it is time to think about the future of the Parsonage, the house at 44 Garden Street that is owned by First Church to serve as a residence for the Senior Minister. This is an important aspect of our pastoral transition as we will need to have a clear plan for how to provide housing support when we call a new Senior Minister.

Executive Council appointed a small working group to explore options for the Parsonage as a property and related issues about pastoral housing. This working group has been engaged over the past few months in information gathering related to local real estate, current-day expectations for pastoral housing, and related issues. The group is now planning a series of listening sessions to get the insights and thoughts of the congregation to guide the development of some options for us to consider.

We encourage as many people as possible to participate in one of these sessions. In preparation, we hope you will take a few minutes to think about



the ways in which we use the current house on Garden Street, the principles or values that should guide how we provide housing support to our pastor, and how these questions figure into our long-term sustainability as a congregation.

If you are not able to attend a session or have other questions related to this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the working group members directly with your thoughts or concerns.

Thank you, The Parsonage Working Group Chris Baker, Audrey Bellinger, Laurie Burt, Jim Cairns, and David Torrey



Monday, April 14

| Tuesday, Ap | ril 15 | See |
|-------------|---|---------|
| 7:30 p.m. | Discovery Team Conversation with Newcomers, v | ia Zoom |
| 7:00 p.m. | Faith & Life Group: Cross Purposes, via Zoom | |
| 4:30 p.m. | Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom | 0 |
| | | |

- 3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Beloved Community Group, via Zoom
- Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom 7:00 p.m.
- Faith & Life Group: To Live in the World as Prayer, via Zoom 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal. Sanctuary
- Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary and via livestream 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

- Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) 12:00 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, Chapel and via livestream Youth Group: Good Friday Lock-In begins
- 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 19

8:00 a.m. Youth Group: Good Friday Lock -In ends

Sunday, April 20 - Easter

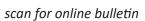
- Choir Rehearsal. Sanctuary 9:15 a.m.
- Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream 11:00 a.m.
- **Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall** 12:15 p.m.
- Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream 7:30 p.m.

SCAN

Have a church program

Communications Request form.

or event to promote? **Complete the First Church**



First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC 11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

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Sign up here to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

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