



LENT

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636

United Church of Christ

Garden and Mason Streets

Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
385 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 1

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

These past months have brought home to all of us the vital importance of working together to slow and limit the spread of Coronavirus. We know we are called to be a community of faith, not fear. We also know we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst, to be good stewards of our staff and resources, and to be good citizens of the wider community.

Under normal circumstances, people of faith would care for each other by drawing close together. It's what we do. It's who we are. In times of loss or threat, we respond by coming together to pray and to sing, to hug and hold each other tight.

Pandemics are different. During an outbreak such as the one we are facing now, we are called to care for each other by moving farther apart, creating a holy buffer of social distance. We do this not only for our own safety and the safety of the people around us, but in loving stewardship to our wider world.

Even when apart, we are not alone. God is with us, in every heartbeat, every breath: strengthening, comforting, and upholding us. Christ is with us, walking beside us, sharing our trials, speaking peace to our fears. The Spirit is with us, uniting us one to another across the barrier of physical distance.

These are temporary measures only. They won't last forever. We will rejoice and celebrate all the more when we are able to come back together, to share stories of what it was like, to laugh, to cry, and to share hugs and handshakes again. Until then, day by day, let's hold one another in prayer.

WORSHIP LEADERS

February 21, 2021

Preaching Today

Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate

Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Winne Yip, First Church member

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Kevin Newell, tech support

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

A TIME FOR WELCOME

VOLUNTARY

Contrapunctus 1 (Art of Fugue)

J. S. Bach

***HYMN 100**

By Gracious Powers

(see page 4)

***GREETING**

Winne Yip

L: Friends, grace and peace to you, and welcome!
To everything there is a time and season:

C: a time to speak, and a time to listen;

L: a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

C: a time for hurt, and a time for healing;

L: a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.

**C: Friends, God's presence meets us here and wherever we are.
Let us open our hearts and listen for it now.**

(Silence)

L: Friends, come and worship! It's time to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CANDLELIGHTING

Winnie Yip and Kate Layzer

ANTHEM

Kyrie

Hans Leo Hassler

First Church Choir, 2019

A TIME FOR GOD'S MERCY

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG RESPONSE

Peter Sykes, 2021

The choir will sing it through once, after which the congregation is invited to join in.

To ev'-ry thing there ___ is a sea - son, ___ and a time to ev'-ry pur - pose,

9

___ to ev'-ry thing there ___ is a sea - son, ___ and a time to ev'-ry pur - pose,

17

con - der his - ven, con - der his - ven, con - der his - ven.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

A TIME FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

READING Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON Jaz Buchanan

*HYMN 410 Just as I Am *(see page 5)*

A TIME FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you**

L: Let us pray.... *(silence, intercessions, the Lord's Prayer)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

A TIME FOR GIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*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

A TIME FOR BLESSING AND SENDING

*HYMN 485

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

(see page 6)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Canon 1 (Art of Fugue)

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

By Gracious Powers

Unison

1. By gra-cious powers so won-der - ful - ly shel - tered,
 2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor-ment - ed,
 3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
 4. Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us

and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing, come what may,
 still e - vil days bring bur-dens hard to bear;
 with bit - ter suf - f'ring, hard to un - der - stand,
 the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,

we know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
 O give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion
 we take it thank - ful - ly and with-out trem - bling,
 we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through,

and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O God, you taught us to pre - pare.
 out of so good and so be-loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

WORDS: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944; tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1972
 MUSIC: Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976; harm. Jan Helmut Wubben, 1976

BONHOEFFER
 11.10.11.10

SERMON HYMN

Just as I Am

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3. Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4. Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in G major and 2/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.

blood was shed for me, and that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause your prom - ise
ev - 'ry bar - rier down; now to be yours, and


The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics describe the sacrifice of Christ and the promise of salvation. The musical notation includes various note values and rests, with the bass line providing harmonic support.

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

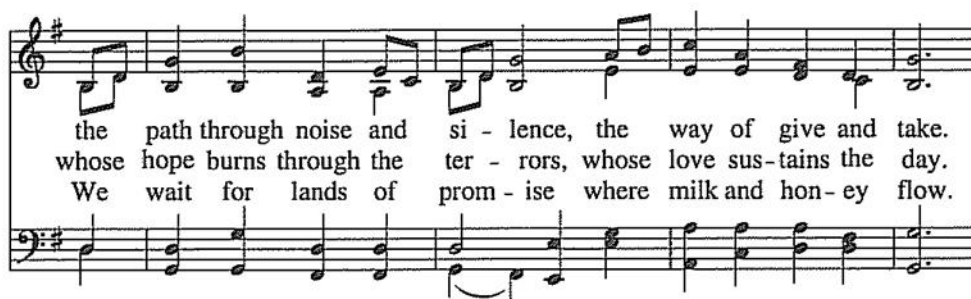
The third system concludes the hymn with a final chorus. The melody and bass line end with a double bar line. The lyrics express the singer's faith and devotion to Christ as the Lamb of God.

CLOSING HYMN

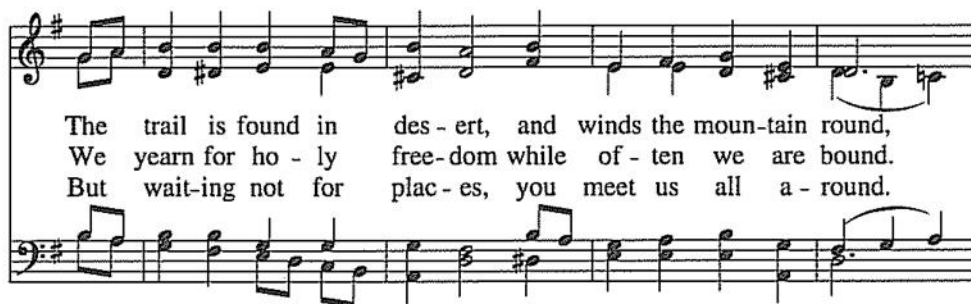
Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1. Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2. Bless all of us, your pil - grims, who share this wind - ing way,
3. Di - vine E - ter - nal Lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
whose hope burns through the ter - rors, whose love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.



The trail is found in des - ert, and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound.
But wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
To - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

WORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1989, alt.
MUSIC: Swedish folk tune; harm. Lahrae Knatterud, 1983, adapt.

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR
76.76D

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Joanne Paul and Wendy Vander Hart as Joanne undergoes further testing to learn more about cancer nodules that were recently found on her lung.
- We pray for John Stauffer and his family and they grieve the loss of John's mother Jean Stauffer, who died on February 1 on her 91st birthday.
- We pray for Hyun Kim and her family, who are grieving the recent loss of Hyun's father Byung Nam Kim in South Korea.
- We pray for Connie Gagnebin, whose mother Nancy Clark recently entered hospice care at the age of 100.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins and her sister-in-law Heather who are grieving the loss of Hilary's nephew and Heather's son, Jamie, who died last week at the age of 58.
- We pray for Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode, who has recently entered into hospice care in Ayer, Massachusetts.
- We pray for Devin Hansen, who had her thyroid removed this past Friday and is recovering while in the midst of a job transition at Starbucks.
- 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.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Ron Paquette, Caroline Newton's father; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Katie, Moana Bentin's sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and for her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for the residents of Texas, who are experiencing a power grid crisis as a result of a severe weather crisis. We pray that God may grant us the strength to confront and combat the many realities of the climate crisis.
- We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the "long-haulers"—those who continue to live with symptoms from the disease. We continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers, that they may feel supported and cared for.
- We pray for all who are caregivers—caring for elderly parents, for those with dementia, for young children, for older children, for those struggling with addiction, depression, anxiety—and for all those they care for.
- We pray for all who continue to to name, confront, and work toward the eradication of white supremacy and white privilege.
- We pray for those who seek sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including our partner University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. We pray for all who work for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

ADULT FORMATION: “ASHES TO ASHES” LENTEN THEME INTRODUCTION Today, 9:30 p.m., via Zoom “Ashes to ashes and dust to dust,” and yet life returns. After a general introduction to our Lenten theme, we will consider the life found in ashes and in dust, both of which appear to be dead. Breakout groups will be invited to discuss their own experiences of life arising from that which appeared lifeless, and what that experience has to teach us. Our conversation will be grounded in Ecclesiastes 3:13-14 & 19-20. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

CHILDREN’S FORMATION: REMOTE CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Children from preschool through 8th grade are invited to join the Church School Zoom for their Godly Play, Bible 101, and Faith & Social Justice classes. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom Join us for a time of conversation and connection, where we share our joys and concerns with each other. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

DAN SMITH PREACHING AT PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH TODAY Bishop Brian Greene of Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in Central Square has invited Dan Smith to preach and to share some of our recent First Church journey towards becoming an anti-racist church. In recent months, Dan, Bishop Greene, and members of the two congregations have been meeting and praying together. Dan is honored by this invitation and will bring greetings on behalf of First Church. Please pray for Dan and for God’s guidance in this already Spirit-led and growing relationship between Pentecostal Tabernacle and First Church.

THANK YOU FROM HOMELESS MINISTRIES The staff, guests, and volunteers of the First Church Shelter and Friday Café extend their heartfelt gratitude for your financial support of yesterday’s First Church Homeless Ministries Virtual Gala! We hope you enjoyed watching; we were so pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the contributions of so many. The gala premiere and Tony Maws cooking demonstration will both be available on our YouTube channel soon. If you’d like to make a donation, you can do so at the [First Church Homeless Ministries webpage](#). Thank you so much for your support!

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

YOUNG ADULTS' WINTER GATHERING **Thursday, February 25, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom** First Church 20- and 30-somethings will gather this Thursday via Zoom for a “Gentle Blasphemy” get-together at 7:00 p.m. To join the Young Adults’ email list, send a message to: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org

PRAYING THE PSALMS GROUP **Tuesday mornings, 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., via Zoom** Our Praying the Psalms group is set up to accompany individual reading of one Psalm per day, starting with Psalm 1 on January 1. Each Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., we gather online for a time of soulful check-in and shared reflection about the Psalms of the week. Feel free to drop in virtually when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. See the calendar on our website for the [Zoom information](#).

BI-WEEKLY FCC PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS' CALL **First and Third Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom** Hospital workers, homecare workers, therapists, chaplains, doctors, nurses, caregivers and essential workers of all kinds — would it help to talk and share your experience with others at First Church? If you’ve been flat out and barely able to come up for air, please drop-in when you can for a time to listen, share, pray, and process. You can find the [Zoom information](#) for this event on our website calendar.

BIPOC SPACE, TIME, AND COMMUNITY If you are a Black, Indigenous or Person of Color (BIPOC) member of First Church, please consider joining our periodic Zoom meetings designed as active listening sessions to reflect, heal, support one another, and build community. Please contact Moana Bentin (moana.bentin@gmail.com) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

ATTENTION FOOD PANTRY DONORS! Although all donations are appreciated, our contact at the Food Pantry told us that more families can be served if **ordinary-sized containers** of foods are donated instead of restaurant-sized ones. Also, please be sure that your donations are reasonably nutritious - **breakfast cereals, canned chicken, canned fruit, beans are much more helpful than crackers and cookies**. If you have larger, restaurant-size containers, please consider donating them to a shelter program. Thank you for your continued generosity.

PBS SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK CHURCH **Running on WGBH Channel 2 and available online** “This is Our Story, This is Our Song” is a 4-hour, 2-night series exploring the 400-year-old history of the Black church in America. This promises to be enlightening and thought-provoking viewing which can expand our understanding of a vital aspect of many Black lives. Find all the viewing opportunities at wgbh.org.

LENT WITH FIRST CHURCH

ASHES TO ASHES: A TIME FOR TURNING (AND RETURNING)

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return!*
Genesis 3: 19

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven...*
Ecclesiastes 3:1

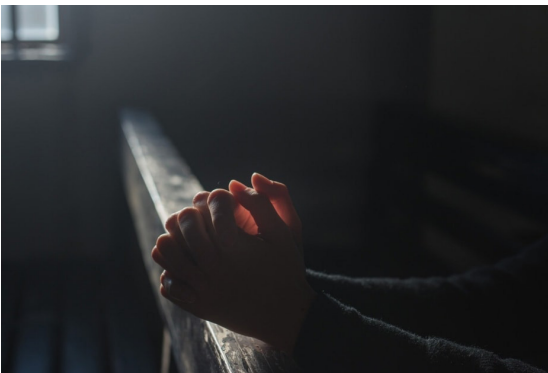


Each year at Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten observance with a liturgy that invites us to reflect on ashes in four ways:

- Ashes as a sign of **creation**.
- Ashes as a sign of **mortality**.
- Ashes as a sign of **repentance**.
- Ashes as a sign of **the Cross**.

There is a time for every matter under heaven, especially in this season when we are daily reminded of the mounting toll of Covid, of ongoing racial inequality and terror, and of ongoing degradation of our planet. We invite you to join us through the 40 days of Lent, as we draw from the rich symbolism of ashes and turn (and return) to scripture, holding time for creation, mourning, repentance, and healing.

[Read more](#) about Lent at First Church.



MIDWEEK LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES Wednesdays,
beginning this Wednesday, February 24,
8:15 - 8:45 p.m. via Zoom

During Lent, join us on Zoom for 30 minutes of contemplative and embodied prayer on Wednesday evenings. This is a time for holy silence, candlelight, prayers, music and gentle movement. We invite you to bring a candle and communion elements (bread or crackers & water, juice or wine). Music provided by cellist, Jackie Buchanan. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

LENT WITH FIRST CHURCH

“ASHES TO ASHES” LENTEN STUDY Sundays, February 21, 28 and March 7, 14 & 21, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom *Read the full descriptions of each session on our [website](#).*

Feb 21: Introduction: Ashes to Ashes: A Time for Turning (and Returning)

Adult Formation

“Ashes to ashes and dust to dust,” and yet life returns. A general introduction.

Feb 28: Ashes and Creation

Multigenerational Formation

“There is a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.” Wonder about “The Sower” and respond with a planting project.

Mar 7: Ashes and Mortality

Adult Formation

“There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh.” Reflect on the realities of our own mortality through stories of grief and gratitude.

Multigenerational Creative Arts Workshop

“For everything there is a season...” Explore Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 with charcoal.

Mar 14: Ashes and Repentance

Adult Formation

“There is a time to heal; to throw and gather stones.” A poetry workshop on repentance.

Mar 21: Ashes and the Cross

Adult Formation

“There is a time to die and to be born anew.” Reflect on connections between ashes and the cross with finger labyrinths.

LENTEN FAITH & LIFE GROUPS UNDERWAY

Over 60 First Church members and friends are enrolled in our Lenten Faith & Life Groups —wow! It’s such a joy to see how the First Church community continues to gather and connect with one another, even as we slog through this time of physical separation.





This Lent we are once again honored to feature a banner by Vermont artist Janet McKenzie. Entitled *Jesus of the People*, this banner was the winning entry in a 1999 competition by the National Catholic Reporter to create a new image of Jesus. In response to the image, poet Kaeley J. McEvoy wrote in 2013: “This time, I will paint your face the color of water, Your skin the hue of a night sky, Your body reflective of each person who has ever seen beauty in the moon.” The Deacons and Staff are pleased to support this banner project as part of our ongoing efforts to lift up historically and biblically underrepresented images and voices of women and persons of color.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, February 21 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Introduction to Lenten Series, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School Classes, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. LiveStream Worship, Jaz Buchanan, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour led by Deacons
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet at church playground, weather permitting

Monday, February 22

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

Tuesday, February 23

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Intro to Feminist Readings of the Bible" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, February 24

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom
- 8:15 p.m. Midweek Lenten Prayer Service, via Zoom

Thursday, February 25

- 10:00 a.m. "Supporting Our Lenten Changes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. First Church Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, February 26

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, February 27

- 10:00 a.m. Leadership Retreat for Executive Council and Deacons, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, February 28 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: "Ashes and Creation" Lenten Study, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. LiveStream Worship, Ordination of New Deacons
Dan Smith, preaching,
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour, farewell to Facilities Manager Kris McQuage-Loukas

***Zoom invitations to our week's programs can be found
on each event listed in [the calendar on our website](#).
Faith & Life Group leaders have sent Zoom invitations to registered participants.***

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Senior Minister

Rev. Dan Smith
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Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Karen McArthur
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Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer
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Pastoral Associate

Jaz Buchanan
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Sextons

Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,
George Williams, Kimel Williams
617-642-3980

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



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