



---

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

March 7, 2021

#### Preaching Today

Carlyle Stewart, Community Minister for Racial Justice

#### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Sunessa Schettler, 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**

Adoration

Florence Price

**\*HYMN 250**

Here in This Place (verses 1 and 3)

(see pages 5-6)

**\*GREETING**

Sunessa Schettler

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,  
for God's love surrounds and enfolds us even now.

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Sunessa Schettler and Dan Smith

**CANDLELIGHTING**

**ANTHEM**

Bread of the World  
*First Church Choir, 2019*

John Abdenour

## 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*



**DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**\*GREETING OF PEACE**

**A TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Sarah Higginbotham

**A TIME FOR GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

**READING**

Mark 4: 1-12

**SERMON**

Carlyle Stewart

**\*HYMN 236**

Fruitful Trees, The Spirit's Sowing

*(see page 6)*

**A TIME FOR GOD IN COMMUNITY**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A TIME FOR GIVING**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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.

**A TIME FOR GOD'S FEAST**

**INVITATION**

Jaz Buchanan

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

## REMEMBERING JESUS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,  
his daring love, his open table.  
*(silence)*
- L: Setting aside our wisdom, our will, and our words,  
emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands,
- C: We come at his invitation, yearning for the healing,  
the holding, the accepting, the forgiving,  
which Christ alone can offer.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lexi Boudreaux

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- L: Come Holy Spirit. By this bread connect us more closely with you  
and with our neighbors near and far.
- All: Bless this bread, we pray.**
- L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness  
of people around the world.
- All: Bless this cup, we pray.**
- L: May this simple meal enlighten the eyes of our hearts  
and bring us into union with you, your people and your world  
united in the One Body of Christ.  
We do this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion,  
who taught us to pray:

## 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.**

## SHARING BREAD AND CUP

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion and love are invited to partake of this feast wherever you are. May there be no barriers to participation in this meal, in this holy communion!*

## **\*THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks!

**C: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus –  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die,  
for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends,  
for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion –  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,  
forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day,  
and risen life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## **A TIME FOR BLESSING AND SENDING**

**\*HYMN 488**

Nearer My God to Thee (verses 1,3, and 5)

*(see page 7)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

A Pleasant Thought

Florence Price

# OPENING HYMN

## Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

verses 1 and 3

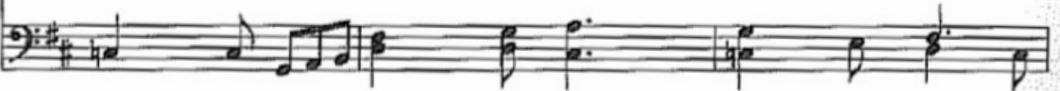
*Unison*



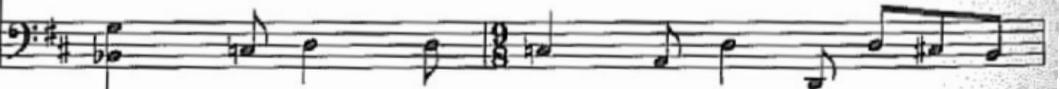
- 1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, now the dark night has
- 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
- 3. Here we re-ceive new life in your wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
- 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



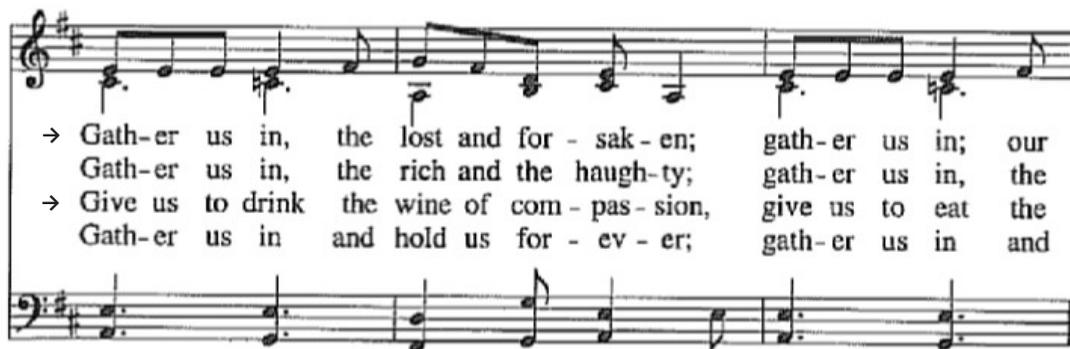
van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



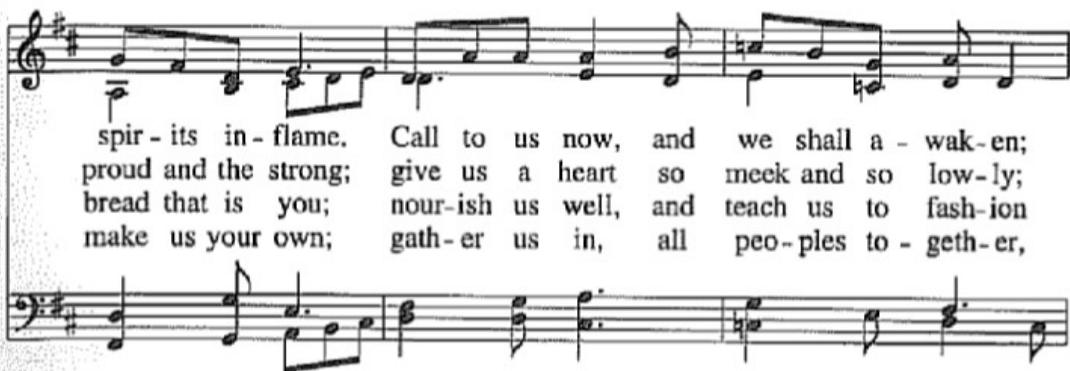
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.



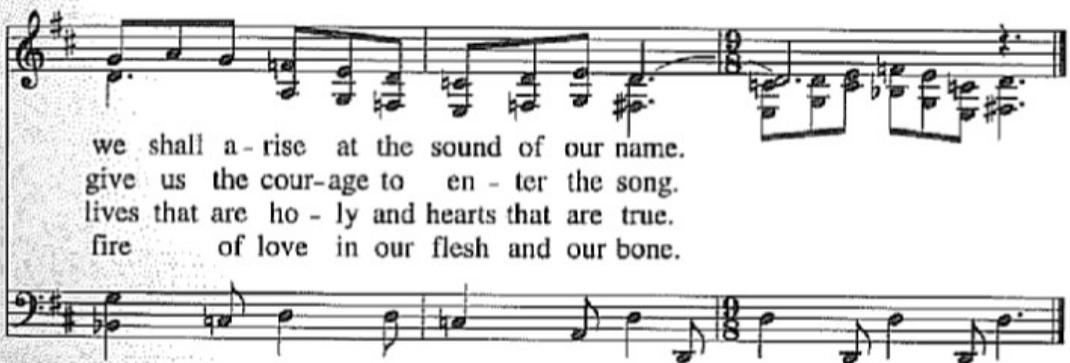
OPENING HYMN, cont'd.



→ Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 → Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

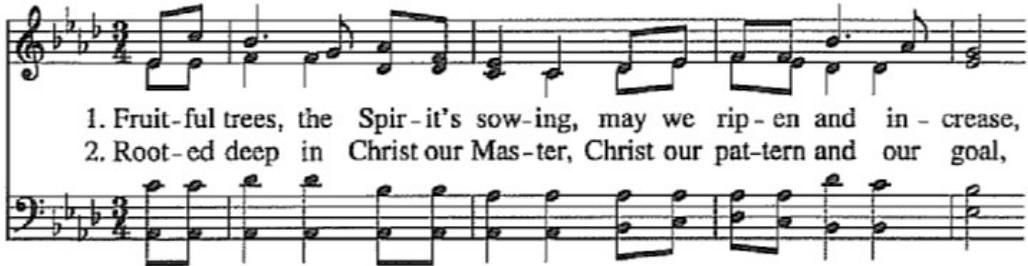


spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

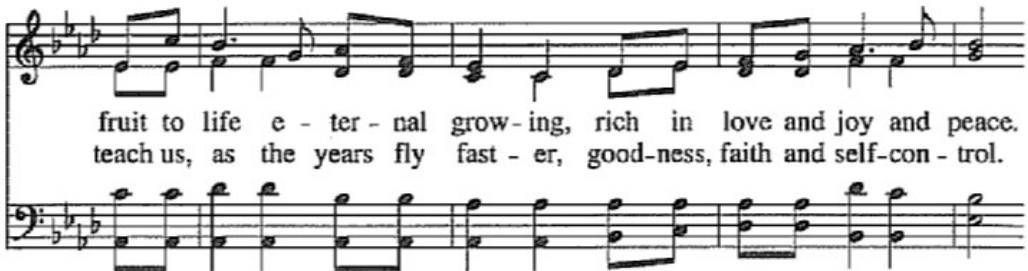


we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

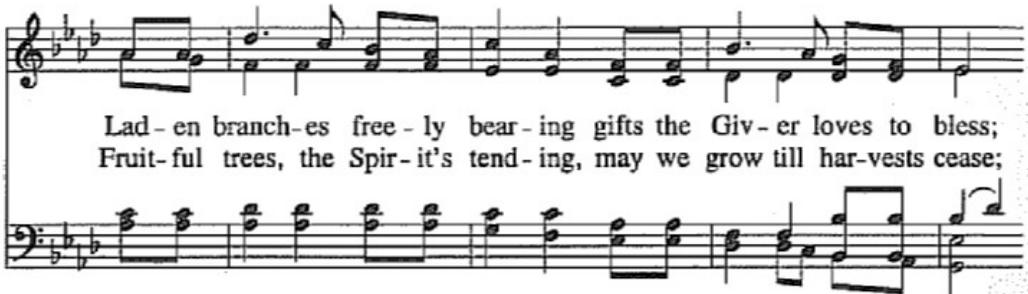
## Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



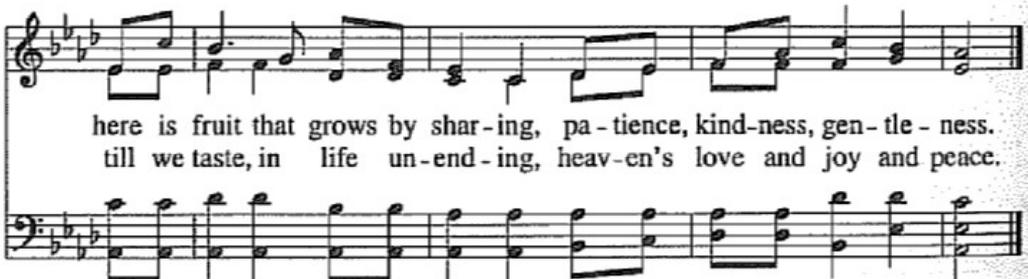
1. Fruit-ful trees, the Spir-it's sow-ing, may we rip-en and in-crease,  
2. Root-ed deep in Christ our Mas-ter, Christ our pat-tern and our goal,



fruit to life e - ter - nal grow-ing, rich in love and joy and peace.  
teach us, as the years fly fast - er, good-ness, faith and self-con - trol.



Lad-en branch-es free-ly bear-ing gifts the Giv-er loves to bless;  
Fruit-ful trees, the Spir-it's tend-ing, may we grow till har-vests cease;



here is fruit that grows by shar-ing, pa-tience, kind-ness, gen-tle-ness.  
till we taste, in life un-end-ing, heav-en's love and joy and peace.

# CLOSING HYMN

## Nearer, My God, to Thee

verses 1, 3, and 5

→ 1. Near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee,  
→ 3. There let the way ap - pear, steps un - to heaven;  
→ 5. Or if on joy - ful wing cleav - ing the sky,

e'en though it be a cross that rais - eth me;  
dark - ness be o - ver me, my rest a stone,  
all that thou send - est me in mer - cy given;  
out of my ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise;  
sun, moon, and stars for - got, up - ward I fly,

still all my song would be, near - er, my God, to thee,  
yet in my dreams I'd be near - er, my God, to thee,  
an - gels to beck - on me near - er, my God, to thee,  
so by my woes to be near - er, my God, to thee,  
still all my song shall be, near - er, my God, to thee,

near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Linda Ziebell, who was recently diagnosed with sarcoma in her leg and is pursuing treatment.
- We pray in celebration for the new life of Franklin Brigham Cyr Kolash, born on February 21 to Abbie Cyr and Josh Kolash. We also pray for grandmother Nancy Cyr, who is recovering from surgery related to diverticulitis.
- We pray for Shelter Staff Steve Brown and the Yorston/Brown families as they mourn the loss of Steve’s uncle Richard Yorston, who died recently due to COVID-19 complications.
- We pray for the loved ones of a Shelter guest, who was hospitalized this past week and died of alcoholic cardiomyopathy at the age of 49.
- We pray for Ingeborg Haug’s brother, who was recently diagnosed with advanced stomach cancer.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Joanne Paul; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Ron Paquette, Caroline Newton’s father; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn’s mother; Katie Bentin-Aimaasu, Moana Bentin’s sister; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New’s sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee’s daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann’s sisters.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode’s mother Donna Goode, Chris Reynolds’ cousin Pamela Perkins Wilcox, and Connie Gagnebin’s mother Nancy Clark.
- 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 the residents of Texas, Mississippi, and other parts of the Southern United States, who are continuing to recover from severe weather and to mourn those lives lost. We pray that God may grant us the strength to confront and combat the many realities of the climate crisis, and we pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- 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 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: LENTEN SERIES SESSION 3: ASHES AND MORTALITY** Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom “There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh.” Join Lexi Boudreaux and Dan Smith as we reflect together on the realities of our own mortality through stories of grief and gratitude. Our conversation will be grounded in the words found in Ecclesiastes 3: “...for there is a time to die and a time to be born, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.” You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

**MULTIGENERATIONAL FORMATION: LENTEN CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP** Today, 9:30 p.m., via Zoom “For everything there is a season...” Audrey Bellinger leads an exploration of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What images come to mind when we read this passage? After brainstorming, we will use charcoal pencils from the Lenten Church at Home Kit to create a drawing inspired by the text. You can find the [Zoom invitation](#) on our website calendar.

**PUBLIC REMEMBRANCE PROJECT FOCUS GROUP REPORT** Today, 12:15 p.m. via Zoom In 2019, as part of our ongoing efforts to reckon with our slaveholding past, the Beloved Community group contracted with First Church member Karlene Griffiths Sekou to conduct focus groups with small segments of some impacted communities to gain insight about the living legacies of white supremacy and racism. Karlene conducted seven community focus groups to gather feedback on our initial ideas for a public remembrance project, and she facilitated wider community conversations about repair. Karlene has now completed this process and is ready to report on her findings. Please join us for [a Zoom conversation](#) with Karlene about what we have learned. Our hope is to invite impacted communities to help share how we move forward towards accountability, repair, and reparations.

**VOLUNTARIES BY FLORENCE PRICE** As First Church moves towards becoming an antiracist church, we highlight cultural contributions of BIPOC people. This morning’s organ music was written by an African-American woman composer; more about her can be found [here](#).

**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.

***Have an event or announcement you’d like to share with First Church?***

Complete the [FCC Request for Promo](#) form.

***Have an edit or update for our website?***

Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form.

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

**GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION REFOUNDING Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., via Zoom** The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization has been in a “refounding” process that’s coming to a close. This means that we are inviting in new members and will officially ‘refund’ as an organization, better representing Greater Boston. Then, as our new collective we will listen and decide on our issue platform campaigns for 2021 and beyond. The refounding assembly takes place in a few short weeks on Zoom, and we look forward to welcoming more than a dozen new member organizations. As First Church is one of the longest active member organizations, we want to make a great showing for the celebration. [Register for the G BIO Refounding!](#) Stay tuned for details on how you can play a role in determining our 2021 platform; and reach out to Will Erickson (wericks2002@gmail.com) or Phil Jones (p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com) with questions.

**HEALING SERVICE WITH GUEST MUSICIAN ISSA BIBBINS Sunday, March 14, 11:00 a.m., via Livestream** On the one-year anniversary of our shift to remote worship and given the depth of grief and loss we’ve been holding for so long, please join us for a special service of healing music and a time of healing prayer. Issa Bibbins, Laurie Williams, and Sarah Higginbotham will offer Spirit-filled songs to ground us in God’s solace, comfort, and presence. The Deacons will host our Zoom Coffee Hour for a time of sharing and receiving healing prayer. Though we are still online, surely “there is a balm in Gilead,” still.

**COFFEE HOUR CONVERSATION ABOUT NEW COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES Sunday, March 21, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom** As we continue to live into the increased capacity of our website, First Church is developing new strategies for communications, both within the congregation and with the wider world. Join Sarah, Lexi, and Dan at Zoom Coffee Hour on March 21 to hear about an upcoming refresh of our bulletin, a new email listserv for members and friends for connection and information, and new ways to request promotion of your group’s events and activities. Bring your questions, as well as an open mind for exploring new opportunities for sharing our stories, our ministries, and our lives with each other and the wider community.

**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

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

### **FOLLOW NIGHTSONG ON FACEBOOK TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANT WORKS**

While NightSong is on hiatus during the pandemic, Artistic Director Daryl Bichel posts recommendations for chant works on [the ensemble's Facebook page](#). You can also find NightSong recordings on [their website](#).

## 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



**MIDWEEK LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES** Wednesday evenings through March 31, 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, March 7, 14 & 21, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom**

*Read the full descriptions of each session on our [website](#).*

### **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.

---

## LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

### **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28**

*Palm Procession at First Church and Cambridge Common, 8:30 a.m.*

*Livestream Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.*

We will gather in the early morning to march around Cambridge Common waving our palms, remembering Jesus’s final entry into Jerusalem. There will be Facebook Live footage for those who cannot join in person, and we’ll make sure there is time to return home to watch Morning Worship via our livestream.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1**

*Evening Worship via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.*

Join us on Zoom as we remember Jesus’s last meal with friends and the events that led to his sentencing. We invite you to participate from your home with us in a feet/hand washing ritual and in Holy Communion.

### **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2**

*Livestream Evening Worship, 7:30 p.m.*

We gather to lament the world’s pain and injustice and to remember Jesus’ death on the cross. Join us via livestream for this solemn service of ritual, reverence, and remembrance.

### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4**

*Livestream Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.*

Christ is Risen! We celebrate and rejoice in God’s gift of new life through the resurrection of Jesus, as we proclaim that not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

## LENT WITH FIRST CHURCH



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.

## WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

### LIMITED RELEASE OF DOCUMENTARY AND TOWN HALL MEETING WITH JENNY PEACE

**Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m** Join Emmy-winning filmmakers Kirsten Kelly and Katie Taber and First Church's own Dr. Jennifer Howe Peace, Senior Advisor at Harvard's Pluralism Project, who will be panelists at a *Stranger/Sister* Town Hall meeting this Wednesday. Reserve your seat [here](#). The live Town Hall will explore the questions such as:

How can we move beyond distrust and divisions towards understanding and solidarity?

How do we really work to eliminate hate in our communities?

Learn from experts on how to get involved with the campaign and the calls to action to stop hate. Tickets to watch the documentary are available [here](#); the trailer can be viewed [here](#).

[Read about the acclaimed documentary Stranger/Sister on our website](#), and get tickets to watch the film prior to the Town Hall meeting.

**ODYSSEYIMPACT!**  
**PRESENTS**  
**STRANGER / SISTER**  
HATE CAN'T STOP A SISTERHOOD.  
JOIN US FOR A LIVE TOWN HALL!  
ODYSSEY IMPACT'S FILM CAMPAIGN AND CALL TO ACTION LAUNCH  
MARCH 10TH - 7:00-8:15PM EST  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SISTERHOOD OF SALAAM SHALOM

**RSVP**

The Live Town Hall will explore the questions of: How can we move beyond distrust and divisions towards understanding and solidarity? How do we really work to eliminate hate in our communities? Learn from experts on how to get involved with the campaign and the calls to action to stop hate.

**PANELISTS**

 <b>ATIYA AFTAB</b> Co-Founder Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom	 <b>SHERYL OLITZKY</b> Co-Founder Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom
 <b>REV. MARK FOWLER</b> CEO, Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding	 <b>DR. JENNIFER HOWE PEACE</b> Senior Advisor The Pluralism Project at Harvard University
 <b>KIRSTEN KELLY</b> Filmmaker Stranger/Sister	 <b>KATIE TABER</b> Filmmaker Stranger/Sister

**HOST**

  
**RIAZ PATEL**  
Executive Producer  
Axial Entertainment

**SEE THE FILM! PURCHASE TICKETS**

ODYSSEY-IMPACT.ORG | WWW.STRANGERSISTER.COM

## WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

**MALE SURVIVORS UNITED** You are invited to join together with an anonymous community of like-minded adult men affected by unwanted or abusive sexual experiences. Leave isolation behind and join our monthly phone calls for free peer support, by male survivors for male survivors. Our group is nonprofessional. We are peers, not therapists. Together we help each other reclaim our voices and our lives. The calls are at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the 2nd Sunday of each month. For more information see [malesurvivorsunited.org](http://malesurvivorsunited.org) or contact First Church Deacon Bruce Hoppe confidentially at [bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org](mailto:bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org)

**WATCH DAN SMITH'S RECENT SERMON AT PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH** Dan Smith was recently invited to preach at the Pentecostal Tabernacle Church (PTC) in Central Square to share about our journey towards becoming an anti-racist church. [A video of PTC's worship service with Dan's sermon on February 21](#) is now available, with over 600 views and counting. The preaching starts at about 45 minutes, but don't miss the music and Bishop Brian Green's comments before and after the sermon that speak to our deepening relationship with PTC. Also, be sure to read the congregation's "real time" response to the sermon that is recorded in the chat next to the video. In recent months, Dan, Bishop Greene, and members of the two congregations have been meeting and praying together. Please continue to pray for this Spirit-led and growing relationship!

**UCC NATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES** The United Church of Christ provides twice-weekly webinars called *Tuesdays for Nurture* and *Thursdays for the Soul*. These offerings unite, uplift, and equip the Church for such a time as this. Recent webinar topics include: *Church-Based Reparations*, *The State of Creation*, and *The State of the Poor*, with Rev. William Barber and Rev. Traci Blackmon, in partnership with Poor People's Campaign. These videos are streamed live and are available to rewatch and share on the UCC's YouTube channel on a playlist entitled "[Worship and Care for the Entire Church.](#)"

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS** are welcome at any time, especially those with high nutritive value like cereal, proteins including beans and canned chicken, canned fruit and veggies, hearty soups. Please do not donate anything already open or expired, and regular sizes are best. Feminine products also welcome. Drop off continues on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, 1/4 mile from FCC up Garden St., just past where Sherman and Garden diverge at the firehouse. It's the first right off Sherman and then the first house on the right. Leave items in the cooler and ring the Hopkins bell on the silver mailboxes to let us know there's a delivery; no need to wait. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Sunday, March 7 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: "Ashes and Mortality"  
with Lexi Boudreaux and Dan Smith, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Lenten Creative Arts Workshop  
with Audrey Bellinger, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Livestream Worship, Carlyle Stewart, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Report on Public Remembrance Project Focus Groups  
with Karlene Griffiths-Sekou
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, meet at church playground, weather permitting

### **Monday, March 8**

- 3:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Tuesday, March 9**

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Wednesday, March 10**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 4:00 p.m. Buildings and Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Back to Basics Bible Study" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 8:15 p.m. Midweek Lenten Prayer Service, via Zoom

### **Thursday, March 11**

- 10:00 a.m. "Supporting our Lenten Changes" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. "Raising an Anti-Racist Child" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. First Church Choir Call, via Zoom

### **Friday, March 12**

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

### **Saturday, March 13**

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Sunday, March 14 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: "Ashes and Repentance"  
with Poet-in-Residence Jean Dany Joachim, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Children's Book Corner,  
via YouTube premiere
- 11:00 a.m. Livestream Worship: Healing Service  
Dan Smith, leading, Issa Bibbins, guest musician
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Newcomers' Gathering and Healing breakout rooms

***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  
617-547-2724 ext.23  
dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Karen McArthur  
karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Minister of Street Outreach

Rev. Kate Layzer  
617-851-5074  
kate@thefriday.cafe

### Pastoral Associate

Lexi Boudreaux  
lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Pastoral Associate

Jaz Buchanan  
jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Director of Music

Peter Sykes  
617-645-0833  
psykes@aol.com

### Director, Creative Worship & Arts

Sarah Higginbotham  
617-547-2724, ext. 42  
shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Staff Composer

Patricia Van Ness  
www.patriciavanness.com

### Poet-in-Residence

Jean Dany Joachim  
jeandany@gmail.com

### Shelter Director

Jim Stewart  
617-661-1873  
jstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Director of Operations

Kirsten Manville  
617-547-2724, ext. 21  
parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Facilities Manager

Kris McQuage-Loukas  
617-547-2724, ext. 44  
facilities@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Office Assistant

Bruce Dillenbeck  
617-547-2724  
bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org

### Sextons

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

Would you like to give to  
First Church in Cambridge?  
Here are easy ways to do it:



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



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
www.firstchurchcambridge.org