

EASTERTIDE

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

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Preaching Today Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Assisting in Worship Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Ariel Ackermann, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*
Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: A Practice of Compassionate Listening, [via Zoom](#)
9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School Classes, [via Zoom](#)
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
12:15 p.m. Public Remembrance Project Focus Groups Report, [via Zoom](#)

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.

GIVE TO FIRST CHURCH

You can give online at www.firstchurchcambridge/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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

 /firstchurchcambridge  /FirstChurchInCambridge  /c/FirstChurchInCambridge

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Christ ist erstanden

J. S. Bach

***HYMN 420**

In the Morning When I Rise (Give Me Jesus)

(see page 4)

***GREETING**

Ariel Ackermann

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 death!

L: Together, let us praise God in the companionship of the Risen Christ —

C: The Risen Christ, source of gentleness, who abides with us now!

L: Together, let us praise God in this time of worship!

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CANDLELIGHTING

Ariel Ackermann and Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Prayer of St. Patrick
First Church Choir, 2019

Mark Schweizer

CONFESSING

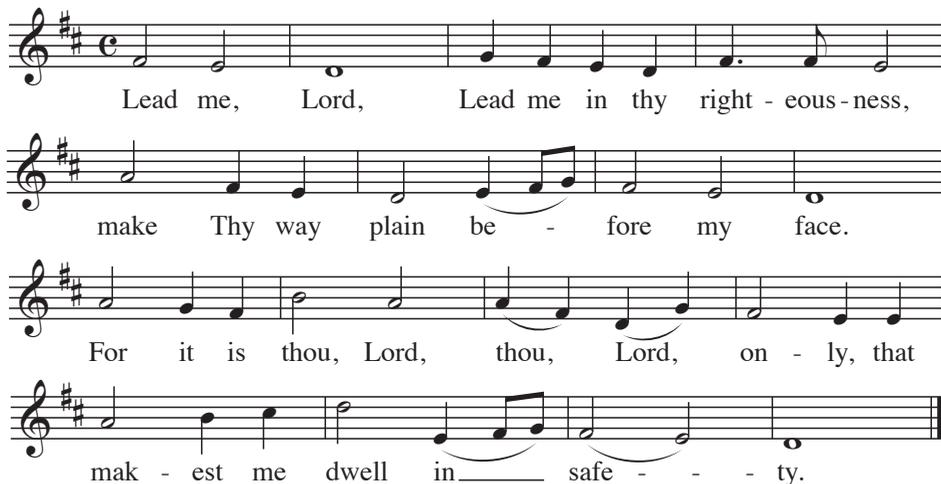
INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lead Me, Lord

Wesley, Hymn 271



Lead me, Lord, Lead me in thy right - eous - ness,
make Thy way plain be - fore my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, on - ly, that
mak - est me dwell in safe - - - ty.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Dan Smith

READING

John 20:19-31

SERMON

Jaz Buchanan

*HYMN 421

Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*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 363**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

(see page 6)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens

OPENING HYMN

In the Morning When I Rise
(Give Me Jesus)

Unison

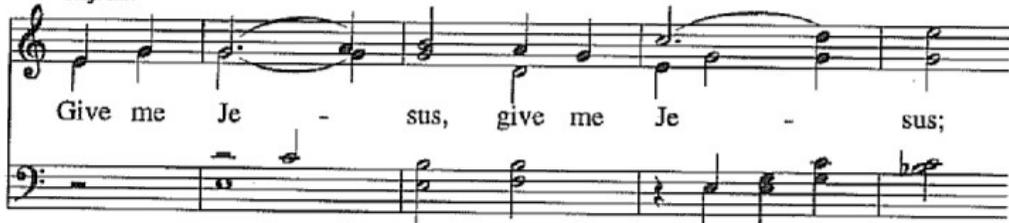


1. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I
2. At mid-night when I cry, at mid-night when I
3. Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to
4. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I



rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
cry, at mid-night when I cry, give me Je - sus.
die, oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus;

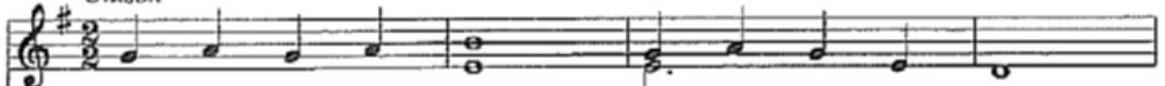


you can have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

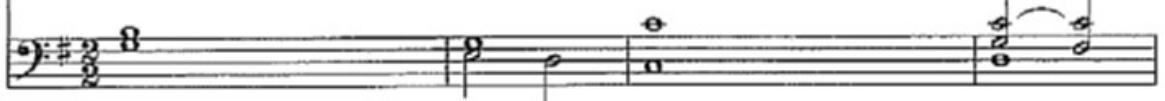
SERMON HYMN

Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense

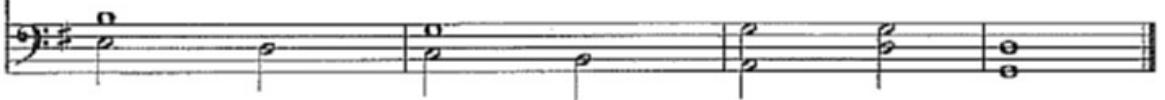
Unison



1. Not with na - ked eye, not with hu - man sense:
2. God is al - ways near, but is nev - er seen:
3. Chil - dren learn of God trust - ing what they feel;
4. Thom - as saw the Christ break - ing earth's rou - tine;
5. Not with craft - ed scope, not with crys - tal lens:



through the eye of faith ob - serve om - ni - po - tence.
Source of heaven and earth and all that lies be - tween.
touch - ing, tast - ing, seek - ing, find - ing what is real.
blessed are those who trust the Ho - ly One un - seen.
vi - sion of the Christ be - gins where see - ing ends.



CLOSING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions



1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ples, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
3. Though we reach the high-est heav-ens, hold-ing worlds at our com-mand,
4. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,



who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-d'ring in their sep'-rate ways?
who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
we are yet a des-ert peo-ple search-ing for the prom-ised land.
may your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



God of rain-bow, fier - y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for solace and grace for Linda and Ken Ziebell as Ken transitions from their shared home to a care facility this week.
- We pray for longtime member and former First Church minister Cynthia Shoemaker, who was in the hospital this past weekend due to her ongoing struggle with Parkinson's disease.
- We celebrate with First Church Nursery Coordinator Lily Worth, her husband Jim, and daughter Annie upon the arrival of Sullivan Stewart Worth, born on April 1.
- We celebrate with Caroline Newton and her family as they share the news that her father Ron Paquette's lymphoma has been treated successfully, and he is now cancer free.
- We pray for Lexi Boudreaux's grandmother Elsie, who is in the ICU in critical condition.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Joanne Paul; Linda Ziebell; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; 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; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and Hans Gert, Ingeborg Haug's brother.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode 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 city of Minneapolis and our nation as we await the verdict of the Derek Chauvin trial, and we pray for justice for George Floyd's murder. We pray for all who mourn the death of Daunte Wright in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, and all who decry the loss of life by police violence.
- We pray for all those mourning and all those impacted by mass shootings. We pray for those impacted by gun violence and those lobbying for gun control legislation. We pray especially for the family of 19-year-old Xavier Louis-Jacques, who was shot and killed recently in Cambridge.
- We pray for all those impacted by hate crimes and by misogyny. We lift up all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in this time of increased threat and discrimination.
- We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines—may there be a swift, hassle-free, and equitable distribution for all. We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the “long-haulers,” and we continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers.
- We pray for our nation and our world as we continue to experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- We pray for all caregivers and for those they care for.
- We pray for immigrants and asylum seekers at our southern border, as well as undocumented people throughout the country, who continue to live in fear as our nation struggles to develop just and compassionate policies.



THE FIRST CHURCH LIST: JOIN NOW

We've launched a new virtual hub for community conversation, and you're invited!

The First Church List is a listserv hosted by groups.io. It is a virtual hub for the First Church community to communicate directly with each other through email messages or online posts on topics of interest. Sign up for the List [here](#), and join us for a "how-to" session at Zoom Coffee Hour next Sunday, April 25. We hope that you will use the First Church List to:

- **Share** personal announcements and prayer requests.
- **Publicize** events sponsored by outside organizations.
- **Ask** questions or ask for help from your church community.
- **Remind** each other of church events or volunteer opportunities

A PRACTICE OF COMPASSIONATE LISTENING: THE STONE HAS BEEN ROLLED AWAY, NOW WHAT?

Today at 9:30 a.m., [via Zoom](#)

Covid has been an unpredicted challenge for everyone. While living through a pandemic has affected each of us differently, one thing we share is a need to listen to ourselves and others in new ways. For many of us, Covid has changed the idea and experience of church and our role in it. Join us for an exploration into developing the skills of compassionate listening as we prepare ourselves for the next stage of our life together as First Church in Cambridge.



PUBLIC REMEMBRANCE PROJECT FOCUS GROUPS REPORT: JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Today at 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. On March 7, Karlene shared a report on her findings at an after-worship Zoom session. [Find the report](#) on our website and join us for this next conversation.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR PASTORAL ASSOCIATE LEXI BOUDREAUX

Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.

First Church's Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux has reached a milestone on her journey toward ordination, and we invite you to bear witness to her accomplishments. An Ecclesiastical Council (EC) for Lexi is called to "examine her fitness to be ordained to the Christian Ministry," and we look forward to hearing Lexi present her theological reflections and take questions from member churches in our geographic association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. Come celebrate Lexi's gifts for ministry! Learn more about Lexi's EC [here](#), and register [here](#).

EARTH STEWARDSHIP WORSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Sunday, April 25

Plan to mark Earth Day with us in a worship service celebrating God's creation. There will be a 2:00 p.m. in-person Prayer Walk from the First Church lawn to the Charles River. Please join us for this informal gathering, where we will share readings and prayers for Creation.

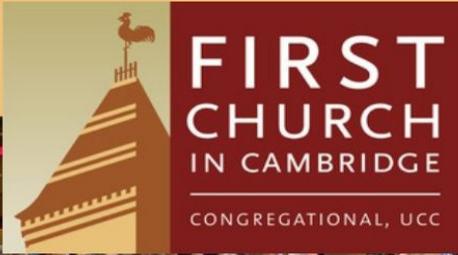


GBIO LISTENING CAMPAIGN AT FIRST CHURCH: SIGN UP NOW

Join the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) as we begin our journey towards a new platform by listening deeply to what's on all of our hearts. First Church will host a series of Listening Sessions for small groups throughout the month of May. We'll host a large gathering with breakout rooms at the 9:30 Formation Hour on May 2, with additional small groups convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 16, 23, and 30. Sign up for a listening session [here](#).

Have a church program or event to promote? Complete the [FCC Request for Promo](#) form.

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



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, April 19

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, April 20

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Professional Caregivers' Call, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, April 21

- 5:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment/Nominating Committee, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics Bible Study: Luke and Acts, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Seeing White" Podcast Discussion Group, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, April 22

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Ecclesiastical Council for Lexi Boudreaux, via Zoom
(*see page 9 for registration link*)
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, April 23

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

Saturday, April 24

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, April 25

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: Godly Play for All Ages, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Middle School Formation: Bible 101 and Faith & Social Justice Classes, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with time for Sexton appreciation and listserv orientation
- 2:00 p.m. Prayer Walk to Charles River

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

Committee meeting links
are provided to committee
members via email.