



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, May 9, 2021

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*
Jaz Buchanan, *Pastoral Associate*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Lisa DiNardo, *liturgist*
Kryisia Burnham, Lisa DiNardo, Taj Smith, *offering reflections*
Sally O'Brien, *offering Ministry Moment for Missions & Social Justice*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Meeting God in Our Bodies, via Zoom
9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Children's Book Corner, via YouTube Premiere
11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)
12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Newcomers' Gathering

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

11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Tocatta in C Major

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 6

Bring Many Names (verses 1, 2 & 6)

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Lisa DiNardo

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

Lisa DiNardo and Dan Smith

ANTHEM

Psalm 23 (in memory of his mother)

Bobby McFerrin

First Church Choir, 2017

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

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Luke 1:46-55

REFLECTIONS

Kryisia Burnham, Lisa DiNardo, and Taj Smith

*HYMN 124

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Sally O'Brien

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Jaz Buchanan

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 and address God 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

*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 84**

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

(see page 6)

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

Bring Many Names

Unison

verses 1, 2, and 6

→ 1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
 → 2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
 3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
 4. Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing
 5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move, say - ing no to
 → 6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known, joy - ful dark - ness

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
 2. won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
 4. e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:
 false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for jus - tice, giv - ing all you have:
 6. far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names!
 2. Hail and Ho - san - na! strong moth - er God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na! warm fa - ther God!
 4. Hail and Ho - san - na! old, ach - ing God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na! young, grow - ing God!
 6. Hail and Ho - san - na! _____ great, liv - ing God!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1989
 MUSIC: Carlton Young, 1989

WESTCHASE
 9 10. 11 9

SERMON HYMN

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise (Song of Mary)

1. My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
2. The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
3. The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
for God has come in pow'r to save, to set all peo - ple free.

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
Re - mem - b'ring those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

to those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - 'ry time and place.
The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1981, 1985, 1992
MUSIC: Traditional English melody; coll. Lucy Broadwood;
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

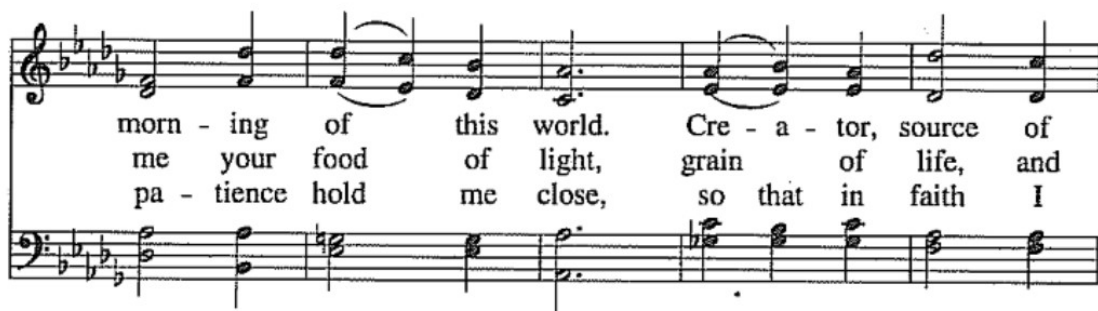
KINGSFOLD
CMD

CLOSING HYMN


Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



1. Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2. Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3. Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of
me your food of light, grain of life, and
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I



ev - 'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

WORDS: Julian of Norwich (1342-1419); adapt. Jean Janzen, 1991
MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874

MARYTON
LM

Dame Julian was a recluse in Norwich, England, who wrote *Revelations of Divine Love*, telling of God's love for all people. Janzen is a published poet who also teaches poetry writing at a California Mennonite college.

Words © 1991 Jean Wiebe Janzen

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray with gratitude for all mothers on this Mothers' Day, and for those who long to be parents but are unable to do so. May God bless everyone who has been like a loving parent to us in our lives.
- We pray with grateful hearts for First Church Moderator Julie Pridham as she prepares to move to Flagstaff, Arizona, in June. We will be offering a leavetaking blessing for Julie in worship next Sunday.
- We joyfully celebrate with Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux, who was unanimously approved for ordination in the United Church of Christ at her Ecclesiastical Council on April 22.
- We pray for solace and grace for Linda and Ken Ziebell as Ken transitions from their shared home and settles into a care facility in Bedford.
- We pray for Connie Gagnebin and her family as they mourn the loss of Connie's mother Nancy Clark, who died recently at the age of 100.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Carol Wilson-Braun; 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 Lexi's grandmother Elsie Pitre Smith and Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode.
- We pray for the people of India in the midst of a terrifying pandemic surge, that they may receive all possible assistance to treat the sick and bring infections under control; and for the global community, that they may offer prompt and effective support.
- 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 lament and decry the ongoing impact of police brutality and killings and pray for all persons of color who continue to live in daily fear of police and racial violence. We also 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 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 the friends and family of the 17 (known and reported) transgender people who have been murdered in the US in 2021, a rate of almost one death per week. We pray for lawmakers to make compassionate, equitable, and just decisions as they are faced with bills that seek to discriminate against transgender people.
- 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 experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- 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.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



Let us know your thoughts about reopening.

A Congregational Survey on Reopening in the Fall As we joyfully look ahead to reopening, we are imagining how to welcome everyone safely back to the sanctuary (and maybe the balcony, too!). Our current thinking is that we will re-open to all on Regathering Sunday, September 12, 2021. To help in our preparation, we are reaching out to hear how the congregation feels about returning to in-person gatherings. **Please complete [this brief survey](#)**

before this Tuesday, May 11, and stay tuned for more information about our planning process. We value your input as we make our way toward a new way of being together.

Upcoming Adult Formation Series

Meeting God in Our Bodies: An Exploration of Queer & Womanist/Feminist Theologies

Today & Sunday, May 16, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom

Join Jaz Buchanan, Taj Smith, Lexi Boudreaux, and Karlene Griffiths Sekou for a two-part Adult Formation series on how our theology meets us in our bodies. We are exploring how our theology affects our perception and understanding of our bodies and what that has to do with our collective liberation. At our first session today, Jaz, Lexi, and Taj lead a discussion based in feminist and queer theologies. At our second session on May 16, Lexi and Karlene will approach the topic through the lens of womanist theology.



Young Adults' Gathering

Young Adults' Walk to Spy Pond Today 2:30-4:30 p.m., meet at entrance to Minuteman Bikeway at Alewife Station

Join the Young Adults for a walk to a beautiful pond-side park in Arlington. We'll walk, catch up, and maybe toss a frisbee around, too. This is a great chance for newcomers to meet other 20- and 30-somethings. And mark your calendars for our next **Gentle**

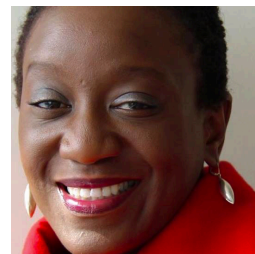
Blasphemy Zoom Call on May 19 and our next **Walk on Sunday, May 30**. Questions? Want to get on the email list? Contact Phil (youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org).

FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Guest Preacher Next Sunday

Karlene Griffiths Sekou to Preach Next Sunday, May 16, 11:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Next Sunday, we will welcome Karlene Griffiths Sekou as our guest preacher. Karlene is an international human rights advocate, public health professional, grassroots organizer, and culture worker. We celebrate that Karlene was recently approved for ordination by an Ecclesiastical Council of the Metropolitan Boston Association, UCC. She is the first person of African descent to be sponsored by First Church in Cambridge for such an honor. Karlene is currently pursuing a PhD in Religion; her research interests intersect ritual practices, performance aesthetics, gender, and political anthropology within social movements and public spaces.

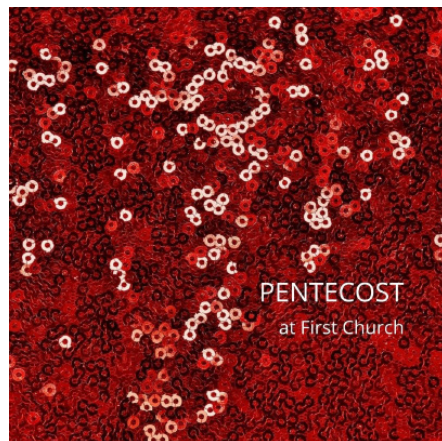


GBIO Listening Campaign is underway!

Sign Up for a GBIO Listening Session Now Join with First Church and the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization as we begin our journey towards a new platform by listening deeply to what's on all of our hearts. First Church is hosting a series of Listening Sessions for small groups throughout the month of May. Choose an after-worship listening session at 12:30 p.m. on May 16, 23, or 30. Sign up [here](#).

Pentecost is May 23

Pentecost Worship Join us for livestream worship on Pentecost Sunday—we invite you to wear red/bold colors/sparkly/gender-bending flare! Fun hats, polka-dotted bow ties, sequin dresses, funky pajamas... the Holy Spirit is celebrating you and speaking through you—your truth—with style. You are sacred, just as you are. We'll share our flare together during Zoom Coffee Hour after worship. And that's not all: many thanks, in advance, to Issa Bibbins and his daughter Marcia Bibbins for their powerful music, as well as to Wyatt Jackson for blessing us with sacred movement. This will be Jaz Buchanan's last Sunday of the program year with us; she will be participating in a Clinical Pastoral Education program at Beverly Hospital this summer. We look forward to having Jaz return to her Pastoral Associate role with us in the fall.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 10

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Tuesday, May 11 — Congregational Survey due

- 7:45 a.m. Praying the Psalms Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, May 12

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Back to Basics Bible Study: Luke and Acts, via Zoom

Thursday, May 13

- 4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Regathering Group for Inclusion and Belonging, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, May 14

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

Saturday, May 15

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

Sunday, May 16

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Meeting God in Our Bodies, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School Classes, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Karlene Griffiths Sekou, preaching, via livestream
- 12:30 p.m. Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Listening Sessions, via Zoom

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

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

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

Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.

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