



Martin Luther King Sunday A Service of Testimony

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an Open and Affirming, Just Peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at:
www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use Hastings Common, through the same door.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

WORSHIP LEADERS

January 19, 2020

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Audrey Bellinger
Chris Blanc
Ann McCann
Dave McCann
Peggy Stevens
Carter West

Liturgist

Gandhi Solanki

Reading the Call to Annual Meeting

Dave Kidder

Playing the Organ and Directing the Choir

Yoo-Kyung Kim

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

*GREETING

Gandhi Solanki

L: Come, hoppers and seekers, builders and dreamers,
come to the dawning of God's light:

C: the light of healing; the light of mercy and grace.

L: Gather from north and south, from east and west.

C: Come, be at peace in this place where all belong.

L: Come, children of light:

the world needs what we have come to find.

**C: We will sing the light together, pray the light together,
do the works of light together for the world God loves.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Ain't-a That Good News

Spiritual

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for wisdom, courage and strength:

**C: God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.**

**Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision,
increase our trust in you.**

**Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,
show us what your love requires.**

**Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming,
restore our hope.**

(cont'd. on next page)

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded 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.*

**This is our hope for becoming a better people.
This is our hope for making a better world.
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Dave Kidder

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Peggy Stevens

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

OFFERTORY

Steal Away

Spiritual, arr. J.D. Riding

***DOXOLOGY**

To God, all glorious heav'nly light,

To Christ revealed in earthly night,

To God, the Spirit, now we raise

Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 467

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Benediction Response

Peter Sykes

VOLUNTARY

Wayfarin' Stranger

Spiritual, arr. Calvin Taylor

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. As the weather becomes more severe, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For our nation and our world amid ongoing hostilities between the US and Iran, that the international community may intervene to shape a just peace for all; and for the resilience of the people of Iran, Iraq, and Syria amid constant threats and violence.
- For guidance for our nation and our political leaders at this time of political upheaval and through historic impeachment proceedings. We pray for a spirit of transparency, collaboration and civility.
- 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 also for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- For all impacted by the deadly wildfires in Australia, flooding in Indonesia, and the earthquake in Puerto Rico. We offer up our sadness, fears, and grief, and pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis, including sea-level rise, coral reef destruction, storms, wildfires, and climate migration. May God awaken and empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and for the poor around the world who are most immediately affected by our inaction.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED portion of the Sunday section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith by Tuesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

RECLAIMING JESUS: Why? How? And Why Now? Today and Sunday, January 26, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room It often feels difficult in this day and age to speak of our faith when we are outside of the religious place we might attend. This can be especially true for Christians, when it seems that Christianity with a capital C has been co-opted/defined by a more conservative or even radicalized evangelical right. Jim Wallis's new book, *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*, and his podcast, "Reclaiming Jesus Now" examine our current political crisis, which Wallis calls a "deeply spiritual and dangerously moral one." He believes that we have become disconnected from Jesus, and suggests that "it is time to return to him, to come home." With Wallis as our guide, together we will consider some ways to find our way back and "reclaim Jesus." Led by Rev. Alex Steinert Evoy and others.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY WORSHIP TODAY In today's special service of worship celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King, participants from our recent Road to Freedom Pilgrimage to Washington, DC, share testimonies about the transformative experience of visiting the MLK Jr. Memorial, the Frederick Douglass House, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

TRACES OF THE TRADE: A Story from the Deep North, Film Screening, Today, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Join us for a special screening of "Traces of the Trade." In this feature documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.

NIGHT SONG Today, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary Cap your Sunday and start your week with this beautiful, contemplative, candle-lit musical service that includes choral music, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

PRAYING THE PSALMS: DAILY PRACTICE & WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Most Thursdays, ongoing, 7:15 - 8:45 a.m., Library We invite you to read, pray, and reflect on one Psalm each day (we began with Psalm 1 on Dec. 1, and continued with Psalm 32 on Jan. 2, Psalm 33 on Jan. 3, etc.). For the weekly Bible study, we gather for coffee or tea at 7:15 a.m. most Thursdays, beginning with a time of soulful check-in promptly at 7:30. We then dive into some reflection about the Psalms of the week, sharing what we are learning about maintaining a daily spiritual practice, alone and together. Feel free to drop in when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. Our weekly study will continue this week on **Thursday, January 23**, in the Library. Questions? E-mail Dan or Brent (brentbcoffin@gmail.com).

THURSDAY EVENING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION GROUP Thursday evenings, ongoing, 6:30 p.m., The Well (Room 22) Meet for a time of quiet centering meditation. Absolutely no experience is needed or expected. Chairs and a bit of guidance are provided. Come experience a respite in the midst of busyness. Questions? Contact Hilary Hopkins: hopkinsjh@verizon.net

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: FAITH ON TAP AND FRESH BREWED FAITH The Young Adults' group has several upcoming Faith on Tap nights: **January 27**, 7:30 p.m. at Regina Pizzeria in Allston/Brighton; **February 12**, 7:30 p.m. at Warren Tavern in Charlestown; and **February 24**, 7:30 p.m., at The Burren in Somerville. Plus, with a new "Fresh Brewed Faith" series, the group will try a few breakfast gatherings for a little change of pace: **January 24**, 8:00 a.m. at Andy's Diner in Porter Square; **February 4**, 8:00 a.m. at Zaftig's in Brookline; and **February 27**, 8:00 a.m., at S&S Deli in Inman Square. Questions? Contact Phil Jones: p.robbennolt.jones@gmail.com.

2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON Next Sunday, January 26, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Come one and all to the 385th Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge on Sunday, January 26, following Morning Worship! A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting. We will celebrate another very full year of ministry. We will thank one another for gifts shared and celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders. We will also do some looking ahead as we seek to discern where God is leading us next! Join us for this centuries-old tradition of meeting, prayer, and song!

MIDDLER BOOK & BIBLE STUDY Sunday, February 2, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room Join First Church's 5th graders to hear about their learning over the first semester of Church School this year. Prepare by reading *Harbor Me*, a middle reader novel that the students have explored side-by-side with Biblical stories about seeking refuge, finding shelter, and offering hospitality. Copies of the novel are available for a donation of \$10; set aside some time to read the engaging story before February 2.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON Sunday, February 2, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Common If you're new (or feeling new) to First Church, looking for ways to get involved, seeking information about our church or our denomination (The United Church of Christ), interested in meeting others who are new to the church, or in connecting with some folks who already know their way around, this luncheon is for you! Join us for a Newcomers Luncheon and meet our ministers and members, learn about our history, explore membership, learn about opportunities for service and action in the community, and hear about our faith formation and educational programs. A light lunch will be served, and childcare will be provided. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Carlyle Stewart, cstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursdays, beginning February 6, 6:30 p.m. Weekly Bible study sessions every Thursday led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will begin February 6. In this season of Epiphany we will start with the Gospels, while also exploring the epistles of the New Testament. We will prayerfully engage with Scripture to experience directly God's word, hoping to uncover its wisdom, teachings, and guidance for us as Christians in the world. We will not study merely as an academic discipline, but with the desire to know God more intimately. We will also learn how prayerfully to read, reflect, meditate, and contemplate the Word with the intention of making devotional reading a daily practice.

SAVE THE DATE: ALL-CONGREGATION FUN NIGHT / MOVIE NIGHT Friday, February 7, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Join us for a potluck supper followed by a screening of "Wonder," the well-received movie adaptation of an award-winning middle-reader novel about a boy with an extreme facial deformity who faces the challenges of entering a new school community. Rated PG, the movie makes an impact with its inspiring message to #ChooseKind. All are welcome to end the week with "dinner and a movie" and a bit of wonder at church! Any and all potluck dishes are encouraged.

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 384th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday the 26th of January, 2020, in the Margaret Jewett Hall of its Parish House at 11 Garden Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the following purposes:

1. To approve the minutes of the January 27, 2019, Annual Meeting and the minutes of the November 24, 2019, Special Meeting.
2. To receive and act upon the 2019 reports of the Staff, Officers, Executive Council, Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups of the Church.
3. To vote to revise the bylaws as recommended by the Executive Council, presented to the Special Meeting, and posted on the church website.
4. To vote upon the slate of Officers and the membership of Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups for 2020 as prescribed in the By-Laws or otherwise recognized by the Executive Council.
5. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council,

James Greaney, Clerk *pro tempore*
Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 7, 2020

*First Church Homeless Ministries
Proudly Presents...*



The Village Well Gala

Join us for an evening of music, dessert, and wine to support the Friday Café and First Church Shelter, two vital community ministries that welcome and support our homeless neighbors.

**Saturday, January 25 from 7-9pm
11 Garden St., Cambridge**

**Special guest speaker Dr. Sandro Galea,
Dean of Boston University's School of Public Health**

With your help, we can strengthen our community and help ALL our neighbors thrive!

Tickets are \$35 each. Visit www.vancoevents.com/424 to reserve your seats or make a donation.

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS MLK CONCERT Tomorrow, January 20, 7:00 p.m., **Symphony Hall, Boston** "Still I Rise: 17th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert" is BCC's flagship performance, featuring all thirteen of their choirs. The young artists have been working hard to present works by Duke Ellington, Melanie DeMore, and Stephen Sondheim. For more information: <http://bostonchildrenschorus.org>.

REVOLUTION OF THE HEARTH: THE DOROTHY DAY STORY Film Screening and Discussion, **Wednesday, January 22, 5:00 p.m., Boston College** This event is sponsored by Boston College's Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life. Speakers include Martin Doblmeier, filmmaker and president, Journey Films; Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Fordham University; and Brianne Jacobs, Emmanuel College. Please RSVP at <https://www.bc.edu/centers/boisi.html>

CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBIT The Harvard Museum of Natural History is presenting an ongoing exhibit entitled "Exploring the Impact of the Warming Climate on the Planet." Drawing on the latest scientific information about our warming climate, including both its local and global effects, this multimedia exhibit includes engaging video and storm simulations, a "check your knowledge" interactive station, and a dramatic inside look at a high-tech Argo float from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution—one of more than 4,000 deployed worldwide to monitor global oceans and climate. The museum is located at 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge.

FUNDRAISER FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING Saturday, March 21, 7:00 p.m., **Hibernian Hall, Watertown** Dance all night to provide affordable housing! Clergy and Laity for Affordable Housing (CLAH) invites you to their spring dance, with the Magic of Motown performing. All proceeds will purchase construction materials, and fund the work of CLAH as they create new units and rebuild neighborhoods. Please see Alice Kidder for tickets, or email Phil Jones: p.robennolt.jones@gmail.com

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN? You may submit notices of church-sponsored or community events to Sarah Higginbotham via email by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday in order to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.



City Mission Boston and Old South Church in Boston will lead a pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama.

The purpose of this journey is to acknowledge the living legacy of white supremacy in our country, learn the history of white racial violence from Reconstruction to Jim Crow, and begin to appreciate the importance of resisting modern day racism and system injustice in our lives and community.

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

The Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice

Tour of historical sites in Montgomery such as the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, the Dexter Avenue Church Parsonage, Freedom Rides Museum, Rosa Park Library and Museum, National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture, and the Civil Rights Memorial.

Daily Reflections and conversations with local historians and storytellers along the way.

TRAVEL DATES:
April 16-19, 2020

REGISTRATION FEE:
\$250 per person (this is non-refundable)

Please fill out the online form at:
<https://citymissionboston.org/pilgrimage>

or mail the registration fee to:
City Mission, Inc.
185 Columbia Road, Suite 317
Boston, MA 02121

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Tickets to the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice • Local tours • 2 meals

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FEBRUARY 16, 2020:

The Pilgrimage is limited to 55 participants.

TRAVEL/HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

You will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements. We have reserved a block of rooms at the SpringHill Suites Montgomery Downtown hotel at a rate of \$139 per night.

Last day to book at this rate is Thursday, March 26, 2020.

To make a reservation, use the link at: <https://citymissionboston.org/pilgrimage>

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 19

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: "Reclaiming Jesus," Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Road to Freedom Participants offering Testimonies
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: All Church School MLK Project
- 12:30 p.m. "Traces of the Trade" Film Screening, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, January 20 - Church Office & Building Closed for MLK Holiday

Tuesday, January 21

- 3:30 p.m. Discernment & Formation Committee with Katie Omberg, Second Church in Newton
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, The Well (Rm. 22)

Wednesday, January 22

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, Harter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, The Landing (Sarah Higginbotham's office)

Thursday, January 23

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation Group, The Well (Rm. 22)
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

Friday, January 24

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Saturday, January 25

- 7:00 p.m. The Village Well Gala, MJH

Sunday, January 26

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: "Reclaiming Jesus," Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Lexi Boudreaux, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preK - 7th grade)
- 12:30 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon, MJH
- 1:15 p.m. Youth Group, Annual Meeting Clean-up Help, then Ice Skating at Frog Pond
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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



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



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