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ADVENT

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

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

December 13, 2020

#### Preaching Today

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

#### Assisting in Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts

Peter Sykes, Music Director

Andrea Seek, First Church member

Bappu Antony, Jodi Melichar, and Kiran Balummel, First Church members

Joe Welker, tech support

*The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.*

## GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Magnificat

Dieterich Buxtehude

INTROIT

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Dan Smith

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Antony-Melichar Family

L: God, we light this third candle of Advent.  
We kindle it with joy.

**C: May that joy sustain us in this time,  
and guide us in our work for compassion and justice.**

\*HYMN 127

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

*(see page 4)*

\*GREETING

Andrea Seek

L: Together, we gather in God's love from wherever we are,

**C: from sanctuaries near and far, yet still as one body of faith.**

L: We still our minds and hearts in this moment God has given us.

**C: Returning to the first day of creation  
when God created the heavens and earth,  
light and dark, and said that it was all good,**

L: gather now and find wisdom in the dark and in the light that God created.

**C: Find grace in the shadows and dimly lit corners of life.**

L: Find strength in the waiting and in all the sacred mysteries among us.

**C: Come now, and let us prepare the way for God's glory revealed!**

\*WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

## CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

## ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for justice, pardon, and peace:

**C: God, help us to remember that you are always present with us.  
You are present in the darkness: in the comfort and quiet amid the unrest,  
You are present in the light: in the hope and clarity amid the uncertainty,  
Be with us now, as we welcome both the light that shines  
and the darkness that gives it life, recentering ourselves within you.  
Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

### A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

### SONG

**Give me light in the darkness, light in the darkness,  
light in the darkness to sing my soul awake.**  
*(sing through twice)*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

### READING

Luke 1:45-56

### ANTHEM

Gloria  
*First Church Choir, 2018 and 2020*

Antonio Vivaldi

### SERMON

Dan Smith

### \*HYMN 124

My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise

*(see page 5)*

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYERS OF 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 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**

### **\*ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

**To God, all glorious heavenly 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 129**

Of Eternal Love Begotten

*(see page 6)*

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **VOLUNTARY**

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

# Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 4. So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

King of Glo - ry waits! The Prince of Peace is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 you; here, Lord, a - bide! Let me your in - ner  
 no - bler life be - gin; your Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.  
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.  
 MUSIC: 'Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO  
 LM

Georg Weissel, pastor of Altgrossgart Church in  
 Königsberg, Prussia, based this hymn on Psalm 24.

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

### Of Eternal Love Begotten

*Unison*

1. Of e - ter - nal love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2. O ye heights of heaven sing prais - es; an - gel hosts sweet  
 3. Christ, to thee with God Cre - a - tor, and O Ho - ly

gan to be, Christ is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the  
 an - thems sing! And on earth let all the faith - ful now their  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -

source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been,  
 joy - ous car - ols ring, ev - 'ry tongue Christ's name con - fess - ing,  
 wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 count - less voic - es an - swer - ing, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

WORDS: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (4th century); sts. 1,3, tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*  
 and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.; st. 2, tr. R. F. Davis, 1906, alt. 87.87.877  
 MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode V (13th century); harm. C. Winfred Douglas, *The Hymnal*, 1940

## PRAYERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

- We pray for Susie Neubauer, who underwent knee replacement surgery this past Wednesday.
- We pray for Marian Smith, whose 9-year-old grandson Ian has been hospitalized recently and diagnosed with CRMO (chronic osteomyelitis) and Crohn's disease. We pray for Ian and his parents, former members Barb and Adam Kroft, and his sisters Ada and Lily.
- We pray for Jean Dany Joachim, whose father Jean Roger Joachim died on November 24.
- We pray for Devin Hansen, who is recovering after an emergency appendectomy.
- We pray for Giselle Korn, who is recovering from COVID-19 at school in Utah.
- We pray for Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel, whose daughter Sarah is undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- We pray for Besty Opitz and Art Anger as they mourn the loss of Betsy's brother James Freeman, who died recently.
- We pray for former First Church member Stew Sanders and his family as they mourn the loss of his wife Nancy Sanders, also a longtime FCC member, who died recently.
- We pray for Caroline Newton's father Ron Paquette, who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: 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 all who are experiencing significant loneliness in isolation as we keep physical distance from each other during this holiday season. We pray for strength and God's peace as we continue to live in uncertain and scary times.
- We pray for all those impacted by police violence, including the family of Casey Goodson, Jr., who are mourning the death of Casey after he was shot by police in Columbus, Ohio last week.
- We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for health care professionals and essential workers, that they may feel supported and cared for.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and for the guests of the Friday Cafe, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.
- 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 solace and security for immigrants and all those who live in fear and anxiety over their status in this country. We also pray for all who work for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We pray that God may grant us the strength to confront and combat the many realities of the climate crisis, and that we and our leaders may be empowered to take bold steps to care for God's creation. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.

## ADVENT BANNERS

This Advent, thanks to a generous donation from Andrea Seek and Laurie Williams, we are featuring three new banners with images designed by Vermont artist Janet McKenzie. The Deacons are pleased to support this project as part of our ongoing efforts to lift up historically and biblically underrepresented images and voices of women and persons of color. A picture of each week's banner will appear in the bulletin, along with a meditative text or prayer.

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This week's banner is titled **Holy Mother of the East**. Our meditative text for the week is a paraphrasing of the Magnificat by John van de Laar.

Magnificat  
*A Prayer-Paraphrase of Luke 1: 46-55*

We praise you, Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in you – our Savior;

For you take notice of the unnoticeable,  
and transform them into the blessed;  
You are strong and true to yourself and all that is good  
in everything you are and do and say;  
and you do great things for us;

Through the ages you have shown compassion  
to those who trust you,  
And in your strength you have scattered  
those who are arrogant and abusive;

You have made the thrones of tyrants topple  
and you have made humble people into leaders of many;  
You have cared for and provided for those who have nothing,  
and you have left the over-satisfied with empty hands;

You have always been a help to your people,  
and have shown mercy when we have gone astray;  
You made this promise to our ancestors,  
and you continue to stay true to it even now.

We praise you, Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in you – our Savior.

Amen.

ADVENT BANNERS



HOLY MOTHER OF THE EAST

Copyright 2009 Janet McKenzie [www.janetmckenzie.com](http://www.janetmckenzie.com)

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**ADULT FORMATION: ADVENT *LECTIO DIVINA*—HOLY READING** Today and Sunday, December 20, 9:30 am, via Zoom Join Dan, Lexi, and Jaz in a short conversation about reimagining advent themes of light and darkness and a time for spiritual practice called *lectio divina*, “holy reading.” In this ancient contemplative practice, we’ll read Advent scripture passages together and be invited to meditate on how God’s word intersects with our lives. Together, through word and silence, we’ll listen for God’s movement in our hearts, as we prepare to receive the light of the Christ child. [Click here to join Adult Formation directly](#), or go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and “join a meeting” using the following information:

Meeting ID: 869 6902 6288 Passcode: 372484 Call-in Number: +1 929 205 6099

**CHILDREN’S FORMATION: READ-ALOUDS FROM THE BOOK CORNER** Today, 9:30 a.m., via YouTube Premiere Go to First Church’s YouTube channel at 9:30 to watch three FCC members read picture books chosen from our Book Corner in the Sanctuary. This month, the books are all Christmas-themed! [Click here for the YouTube Premiere link.](#)

**SPECIAL ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY** The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally a service in which the First Church Choir presents a special musical offering — and this year is no different! We are revisiting the 2018 service to hear the first movement of the *Gloria* of Antonio Vivaldi, with choir and orchestra — and members of the Choir today, adding their voices, and their faces, to that occasion for a virtual choir video for today’s worship.

**OUR ADVENT SONG** is based on “Give Me Birds at the Dawning,” written by Betsy Binstock and arranged by Peter & Mary Alice Amidon, from *Twenty-five Anthems for Interfaith and Community Choirs*, copyright 2016, Amidon Music Publishing. The words have been adapted to fit the Advent season.

**NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?** Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community. And then plan to join us for this month’s Newcomers’ Gathering at Zoom Coffee Hour!

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR** Today, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom Join us for a virtual time of connecting and sharing our joys and concerns with one another. We will have a breakout room for Newcomers to gather with one another and a few members of our Welcoming Team.

[Click here to join Zoom Coffee Hour directly](#), or go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and “join a meeting” with the following instructions:

Meeting ID: 876 6474 8993 Password: coffee

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**CANDLE-LIGHTING AND PRAYER TIME Today and Sunday, December 20, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Lindsay Chapel** This Advent we are offering some time on Sunday afternoons for folks to pray and to light a candle in the Chapel. The capacity is limited to four people at a time, and masks are required. In this time of reimagining what the symbols of light and dark mean to us, take some time to reconnect with the church building, spend some time in prayer, and give some light to the world.

**LAST CALL FOR HOLIDAY PHOTOS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES BY TOMORROW, DECEMBER 14** Since we won't be seeing each other in person this Christmas Eve, we are hoping to, at least, *view* as many of your faces as possible in a slideshow we'll play during our Christmas services. Please send a holiday photo by tomorrow, Monday, December 14. Feel free to get creative with whatever holiday cheer you can muster: show us your Christmas tree or plant or pets or decorations in the background; display your Advent wreath or homemade lantern from the Advent Workshop; dress up for the occasion, whether in your Christmas best, or holiday jammies, or in an ugly Christmas sweater! We'd love to have lots of participation from our First Church diaspora as a small way to bring us together while we are apart! Send photos via email to Office Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck: [bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org).

**LAST CALL FOR "PASSING THE LIGHT" VIDEOS BY TOMORROW, DECEMBER 14** We will be re-creating our tradition of passing candlelight in the sanctuary virtually this year for our online Christmas Eve service. Please sign up to get more information on how to submit a video of yourself for this part of our worship together. We will help you submit something, so don't let technology fears deter you from participating! For questions, contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate: [lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org). [Sign up on this google form.](#)

**HAVE YOU PLEDGED?** We are 80% of the way to our 2021 pledge goal. Many thanks to all who have responded so far. Is your piece of our puzzle not yet in place? The Stewardship Committee would love to send you your thank you gift this week! [Make your pledge online and then check out how we've pieced together our progress.](#)

**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](mailto:moana.bentin@gmail.com)) with questions or to receive a Zoom invitation to participate. This group is by BIPOC for BIPOC.

**ONLINE WORSHIP LITURGISTS** Assist in worship, either in-person or via video. [Sign up here](#), and you will receive an email with instructions on how to contribute! Questions? Contact Lexi Boudreaux: [lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org)

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST CHURCH

**THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS: Spiritual Practices for Advent 2020** John's Gospel reminds us that the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it! This is a good and needed word for this pandemic and post-election time—one to remember, ponder and pray. And yet, how does having only negative connotations of darkness relate to our current moment of racial reckoning? Can we find goodness and blessing in the shadows and the light, in the knowledge that God created the day and the night and called them both good? In darkness and in light, how can we wait, labor, and prepare for the light, joy, and new birth that come at Christmas?

### FIRST CHURCH UN-PAGEANT AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

**GO ONLINE! Next Sunday, December 20, 11:00 a.m., via Live-Stream Worship** You'll need to make your costumes at home, but the Un-Pageant will go on! Think shepherds in bathrobes, wise folks in fleece blanket robes, and angels in white t-shirts and halos of tinsel from your tree! If you want to be a lamb, don't forget the sheep ears! Join from wherever you are, with whatever costumes you can muster. This year, we'll start with our usual live-stream (with a much smaller cast than usual). But then we'll invite you to join us on Zoom for a festive Christmas gathering.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Thursday, December 24, 6:00 p.m., via YouTube Premiere** “Come all ye faithful” and celebrate with us from home by joining together online for a candlelit service of lessons and carols. Worship with us this silent and holy night as we give thanks for Emmanuel - God with us - and as we fill our sanctuary and our homes with the warmth, light, and joy of Christmas! We'll host a brief Zoom gathering after the service to share Christmas greetings in real time.

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Friday, December 25, 11:00 a.m., via YouTube Premiere** Join us for this First Church Christmas Morning tradition. Greet the new day and the Christ child with a short online prayer service and a special harpsichord offering by Peter Sykes of William Byrd's *The Bells*.

**OUR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 WILL BE HOSTED BY THE SNEUCC** The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ will offer a special online worship service that First Church and other congregations will be using on the Sunday after Christmas. You'll be able to access it from our website as usual. There will be no First Church-specific livestream or pre-recorded video on Youtube on December 27; instead, we will gather with our covenantal partners near and far.

## HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

**SUPPORTING LOCAL FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AS THEY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS** In the Advent season, we remember years past when our pulpit area was filled with coats or toys ready for donation to various organizations helping people from our community who don't have everything they need. This holiday season, our opportunities to give and support communities in need might look different, but the need is greater. The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled [a list of opportunities for donation](#) that you can find on our website. In the case that you and your family are in a position to support these organizations, we hope that you find this list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Molly Baker (mollybaker96@gmail.com) of the Missions and Social Justice Committee.

**REMEMBERING OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR FRIENDS: THEIR MISSIONS AND THEIR WARES** Out of sight in 2020, but not out of mind! The organizations that we support at Christmastime, by buying their products at our annual Alternative Christmas Fair, need our help this year as much as ever. Even though you will not be greeting them in person today at a merry hubbub in MJH, you can order some goods, or make donations, at their websites. [See the vendor list on our website](#), and look for the "Shop" or "Shop Now" and the "Give" or "Donate" tabs on each vendor's site. International orders probably won't arrive in time for Christmas gifting to others, but if you see something you like, why not gift yourself and your household? And donations are easy and always received with gratitude.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**EPIPHANY WORSHIP** This year we invite you to celebrate Epiphany with us remotely and take some time for prayer and reflection during a short pre-recorded service that will be available that week. **On Wednesday January 6**, we are planning a candlelight prayer walk, weather permitting. Stay tuned for more details!

**WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP** **Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom** All those who identify as women are welcome to join the Women's Community Book Group for their next read. They will be discussing *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* by Laidiya Hartman. Please send an email to Alex Steinert-Evoy (alex@steinert-eyov.org) to be added to the group's email list to receive the Zoom invitation.

## 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 second Sunday of each month; **this month's call is today, December 13**. For more information see [malesurvivorsunited.org](http://malesurvivorsunited.org) or contact First Church member Bruce Hoppe confidentially at [bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org](mailto:bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org)

**DONATE TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA** Hurricanes Eta and Iota have hit Central America with devastating consequences. Our Community Minister in Latin America Monica Maher invites our help through the Friends Peace Teams Peacebuilding *en las Américas* program, of which she is a part. Partners in Honduras and Guatemala have been particularly affected. The situation, already dire due to Covid, hunger and violence, is now much worse. Please consider supporting those impacted through fervent prayers for their safety and a donation to Peacebuilding *en las Américas*. [Donate today.](#)

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY** The following organizations welcome financial donations. They work providing food to people who are living with food insecurity.

[Food For Free](#) supports low-income Cambridge residents. It offers fresh produce as well as other kinds of food. In some cases it will also deliver food to people who are unable to come to their food pantry.

[Greater Boston Food Bank](#) provides food to over 500 partner agencies in Eastern Massachusetts. It will also help people locate and apply for other food resources.

**FREE COVID TESTING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, AND PRAY IN CAMBRIDGE**

The City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) are offering [free COVID-19 testing](#) for Cambridge residents and, we are told, for all who work and pray in Cambridge. The PCR tests are anterior nasal swab tests and not the nasopharyngeal swab test that go all the way back in the nasal passages. No identification or Social Security number is required. All sites are wheelchair accessible. Available testing appointments can book up quickly, but please keep checking back as new appointments will be added when they become available. When you sign up for an appointment, you will be asked for your address and to "Select all that apply: \*I am a Cambridge resident \*I am an employee in Cambridge \*I am a City of Cambridge employee \*None of the above." If you don't live or work in Cambridge, be sure to select \*None of the Above and then list in the address line that follows: "Member of First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA." To schedule an appointment, [sign up online](#) or call 617-349-9788.



Lindsay Chapel last Sunday afternoon, awaiting visitors for Candle-Lighting and Prayer Time.  
You are welcome to visit this afternoon between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m..

***Have an announcement for the bulletin?  
Please send information about church or wider community events to Sarah Higginbotham  
([shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org)) by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays  
to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.***

## MEDITATIVE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEK

**LINKS TO CHANT WORKS PROVIDED BY NIGHT SONG** Looking for meditative chant music during your time at home? Night Song Director Daryl Bichel offers the following suggestions:

### **St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle Compline, 29 November 2020**

<https://complinepodcast.org/?p=1888>

The compline choir is no longer creating live podcasts due to the pandemic; this is from their audio archives. There's a choral piece composed by the choir director Jason Anderson, a hymn, and a motet by William Mundy.

### **Introit for the Third Sunday of Advent Choir of the Vienna Hofburgkapelle**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5vityUNcHw>

*Gaudete in Domino* is the Introit for the Third Sunday of Advent from the Liber Usualis. We have sung this on the Third Sunday of Advent at Night Song since we started years ago.

### **A Virtual Advent Musical Calendar Wells Cathedral**

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/music/virtual-advent-calendar/>

Erik Bertrand, a tenor with Night Song, shared this link to a virtual musical Advent calendar. There's a daily short musical offering to help with the countdown to Christmas. I think you'll enjoy the beautiful singing of the choir and the cathedral organ. On Day 4 there is a short organ piece based on the Gregorian chant *Rorate caeli*, which I brought to your attention last week.

### **Virtual Advent Night Song First Church in Cambridge**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3492713517493569>

On December 13 from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m., you can watch our Advent offering live on Facebook using this link.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Advent *Lectio Divina*, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Read-Alouds from the Book Corner, via YouTube
- 11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour with Newcomers' Gathering
- 4:00 p.m. Candle-Lighting and Prayer Time, Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Virtual Advent Night Song, via Facebook Event

### **Monday, December 14**

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 8:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

### **Tuesday, December 15**

- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Shelter Committee, via Zoom

### **Wednesday, December 16**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Thursday, December 17**

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

### **Friday, December 18**

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

### **Saturday, December 19**

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

### **Sunday, December 20- Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Advent *Lectio Divina*, via Zoom
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Morning Worship, Multigenerational UnPageant
- 12:15 p.m. Festive Christmas Zoom Gathering
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

***Zoom invitations to our week's programs can be found on each event listed in [the calendar on our website](#). They may also be found in the all-church email that was sent this morning. To join our all-church email list, please [sign up here](#).***

***Committee Chairs and Faith & Life Group Leaders have sent Zoom invitations to registered participants.***

## THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

### Senior Minister

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### Pastoral Associate

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